

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CANAVAS, Joseph-François

Paris c.1742–p.1780

François Canavas exhibited a painting of *La Volupté* at the Salon de la Correspondance in 1780. He is the subject of a caricature by Vincent made in Rome in 1774, where he was recorded as taking third prize among the new intake at the Académie de Saint-Luc in 1773. He is no doubt the artist who advertised in the *Annonces, affiches, nouvelles et avis divers de l'Orléanais* of 12.IX.1766–

Le sieur *Canavas*, Peintre, nouvellement arrivé en cette Ville, donne avis qu'il peint l'Histoire, & le Portrait en pastel: Il demeure chez le sieur Chevalier, Maître Perruquier, Place du Martroi.

His family background is revealed in a document in the Archives nationales, recording on 20.VI.1777 the renunciation by Joseph-François Canavas, peintre, rue des Fossés-Monsieur-le-Prince, paroisse Saint-Sulpice of the estate of his father, Joseph-Gabriel Canavas (1714–1776), musicien du roi and a noted violinist (originally Canavasso, he was music master to the prince de Carignan in 1739). His mother, Jeanne-Marie-Henriette Bertolio (they were married in Paris in 1740), was buried in Saint-Sulpice, 25.XII.1757, aged c.36 years; an entry appears in the registres de clôtures d'inventaires (AN Y5327, 1758), listing three minor children, Charles-Augustin (later an officier de la maison du roi), Joseph-François and Paule-Louise Canavas. The following year, 1758, “Canavas peintre” appeared in the list of élèves protégés at the Académie royale, under Charles Van Loo, “demeurant chés M. son pere ché Me la princesse de Carignan.” Joseph-Gabriel’s brother was Jean-Baptiste Canavas (–1784), a celebrated cellist, friend of Rousseau and subject of a médaillon by Cochin. His three sons included François-Toussaint Canavas de La Saulsaye (1743–p.1792), secrétaire to the duc d’Aiguillon, and the actor Jean-Baptiste-Charles Canavas, dit d’Alainval (–1807), Le Kain’s brother-in-law.

Bibliography

Cucuël 1913, pp. 341ff; Cuzin 2014, p. 398; Lionel de La Laurencie, *L'École française du violon...*, Paris, 1923, II, pp. 101f; Sanchez