

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COSWAY, Mrs Richard, née Maria Cecilia Louisa Catherine Hadfield

Florence 17.VII.1760 – Lodi 5.I.1838

The talented child of an Anglo-Italian family that hosted many British travellers in Florence, Maria was inspired by Angelica Kauffman (*q.v.*) to take up painting rather than music. She was taught by both Zoffany and Joseph Wright of Derby who were in Florence at the time. Admitted to the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze on 27.IX.1778, she soon travelled to London, where she married Richard Cosway in 1781 and exhibited history paintings at the Royal Academy. She spent much time in France, and even founded (with the support of cardinal Fesch) a religious teaching establishment, which subsequently moved to Lodi, where she travelled after her husband's death. She was a prolific artist in oil, but the many miniatures and some pastels attributed to her must be treated with caution.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Goodden 2005; Grove; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Oxford DNB; Saur; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Williamson 1905; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.2422.101 Lady Cooper [Countess COWPER, née Hannah Anne Gore (1758–1826)], pstl (Lodi 1845). Lit.: Williamson 1905, p. 62, citing letter by Francesca Colnaghi, .v.1845, reporting pastel “probably by the baroness” [cf. Hamilton]

J.2422.102 Angelina FAWCETT, pstl, 72x60 (comm. Lord Sandys. A.G.F. 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 13. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 131 Φαδ



J.2422.104 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 66x51 (Elgin, Illinois, Bunte Auctions, 27.XI.2011, Lot 1557 repr., anon., unknown sitter, est. \$1000–1500) φκν

