

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DURANT, Mlle

fl. France 1763–83

Also Durand or Dunant. The author of the pastel of Choiseul noted by Ratouis de Limay may well be the Mlle Durant who exhibited pastel portraits “qui ont le mérite de la ressemblance et du dessin” at the place Dauphine in 1767 according to the *Avant-Coureur*. The date of the earlier of the Compiègne pastels (1763), and the unchanged signature on the later, preclude their being by Mme Gros (q.v.). The pastellist cannot be identified with Flavie Durand, daughter of the history painter Jean-Baptiste (or Giambattista) Durand, and wife of Felippo Giannetti, since the latter died in 1701. Stylistically these pastels could be by the Durand working in Nancy in 1783, although the inscription on the back of the pastel of the wife of a lieutenant criminel at Bar-le-Duc includes nothing to indicate that that artist is female. A religious pastel signed and dated 1766, but in a completely different style than any of the surviving portraits, confounds the confusion, particularly as it was acquired in Nancy.

Subject matter, location and dating suggest that the artist may have been the daughter of Jacques Durand (1696–1778), a pupil of Nattier and a student in Rome before his return to Nancy where he married in 1729 and made a number of religious paintings. Two sons are recorded, both it seems called Jean-François: the elder (c.1730–p.1785) left a religious painting signed simply Durand, as well as a portrait signed Jean-François Durand; this could alternatively be the work of his brother (1731–1813; on 9.IX.1766 he married Barbe, daughter of Claude-François Nicole, graveur du roi), but, as a copy of a portrait by Bernardino Nocchi, it is difficult to identify a personal style.

The same possibilities arise for the unknown M. Durand or Durant responsible for miniature mythological and genre pastels which of course may not be by the same hand.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Jacquot 1899, p. 437; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur, s.v. Gianetti; Siret 1866; Tokyo 2011; Voreaux 1998; Zani 1817–24

Salon critiques

Anon., Exposition, Place Dauphine, *L'Avant-Coureur*, 29.VI.1767, p. 403:

Mesdemoiselles Durand, Médard & Linot ont fait voir des Portraits au pastel qui ont le mérite de la ressemblance & du dessin.

Junius, Exposition, Place Dauphine, 1767, *Neue Bibliothek der schönen Wissenschaften und der freyen Künste*, v/1, 1767, p. 166:

Die Demoiselles Dürand, Medard und Linot, haben Pastellbildnisse ausgesetzt, die das Verdienst des Aehnlichkeit und einer guten Zeichnung haben. Der Demois. Dore Köpfe haben viel Geist und Character: nicht weniger haben der Mdlle Sprote sowohl Pastells Miniaturgemälde gefallen.

Pastels

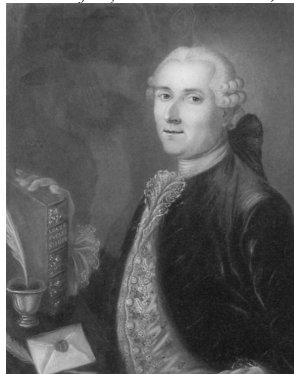
J.2926.101 Le duc de CHOISEUL [Étienne-François, duc de Choiseul-Stainville (1719–1785)] en habit rouge, bordé d'une bande de velours noir à fleurs blanches, pstl, ov., sd “Mlle Durant

pinx. 1768” (PC a.1946). Lit.: Ratouis de Limay 1946, p. 175 n.r.

J.2926.102 Mme Nicolas GUERIN (∞ 1771 conseiller du roi, lieutenant particulier civil & criminel au bailliage royale de Bar-le-duc), née Marie-Françoise Montardier (1751–1806), en robe bleue, pstl, 50x40, inscr. verso “par Durand Peintre à Nancy”, 1783 (Lille, Mercier, 11.X.2009, Lot 269 repr., inconnue, est. €400–600) φ



J.2926.104 ?Charles HEYNAUD, ?président au parlement, avec un livre de Locke, pstl, 72x58, sd ← 1777; & pendant: J.2926.105 jeune femme, ?Mme Heynaud, pstl, 72x58, sd ← “Mlle Durant/pinxit 1763” (Compiègne, musée Antoine Vivenel, inv. Let.4014.03/02; dep.: hôtel de ville, salle de mariages, antichambre. Oreste Auguste Vaillant, Compiègne; legs 1934). Lit.: Éric Blanchegorge, *Musée Vivenel. Dessins français antérieurs à 1862*, 2006, p. 53 φδ



Photos courtesy musée Antoine Vivenel

J.2926.109 ?[?][?] Jean-Jacques ROUSSEAU (1712–1778), écrivain, en habit noir, pstl/ppr, 58x48.5, sd ∨ “M^{lle} Dunant pinxit 1764”

(Versailles Enchères, 28.III.2004, Lot 26 n.r., est. €600–800, €1000. Vendôme, Chevigny, 1.II.2010, Lot 384 repr., Éc. fr., est. €300) φ?δν



J.2926.111 ?Mme de STAËL, née Germaine Necker (1766–1817), pstl, s “Durant” (Mlle Floriet; don: vente au profit des tuberculeux de la guerre, Paris, Galerie Georges Petit, 4–12.XII.1916, Lot 67 repr., as of Mme de Staal)

J.2926.112 Gentilhomme en habit gris, pstl, ov., sd “Mr Durand pinxit”, 1767 (Nogent-le-Rotrou, Eckle, 25.VI.2011, Lot 22 repr.) φ



J.2926.114 Vierge à l'Enfant endormi, pstl/ppr, 60x49, sd “Mlle Durant/pinxit 1766” (vente aux enchères, Nancy; Paris PC 2011). Exh.: Tokyo 2011, no. 38 repr. φ



J.2926.116 Erigone assise et pressant une grappe de raisin; près d'elle un jeune satyre tenant une tîrse, pstl, Ø24.3 (Baudouin; Paris, Brusley, Regnault Delalande, Julliot, 11–21.III.1786, Lot 76)

J.2926.117 La marchande de marrons; & pendant: J.2926.118 la marchande de plaisirs, pstl, 31.7x23.8 (Baudouin; Paris, Brusley, Regnault Delalande, Julliot, 11–21.III.1786, Lot 77)