

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FORREST, Theodosius

London 1728–1784

Lawyer, enthusiast for music and the theatre, and amateur artist; friend of artists including Francis Cotes and Hogarth. He was the son of Ebenezer Forrest, author of an opera and friend of Hogarth and John Rich. Theodosius initially studied art under George Lambert before becoming a lawyer. He exhibited topographical paintings and watercolours as an amateur at the Royal Academy from 1769 to 1781; he also wrote music. He was appointed trustee of Cotes's estate, with Joseph Wilton. He committed suicide by cutting his throat "being a Lunatick" according to the Westminster coroner's inquest held the next day, 6.XI.1784.

The subject of his only known pastel, the unmarried lady known as Mrs Lewis, was the companion and heir of Hogarth's widow, and daughter of David Lewes, harper in ordinary to George I.

Bibliography

Oxford DNB

Pastels

J.3202.101 Mary LEWIS (1720–1808), pstl/ppr, 46.5x32, c.1775 (Hounslow and Chiswick Libraries; dep.: Hogarth's House, Chiswick, 2016). Lit.: Einberg 2016, fig. 218.1 φ

