

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LACROIX, Mme Théodore de, née Anne-Marie Allotte de Chancelay

Loudun 1732 – Paris 1820

Mme de Lacroix or Delacroix was the daughter of Isaac Allotte de Chancelé or Chancelay and Anne-Élisabeth Boisseau; she may have been born in 1732 (Michaud gives her age at death as 88) rather than 1736 as cited in art historical sources. In 1757, at Bonneuil, she married Théodore Lacroix (1707–1777), directeur de la correspondance des domaines des fermiers générales. She was also an author, publishing anonymously in 1802 a three-volume novel *Constantine, ou le danger des préventions maternelles*. Her elder son François-Théodore Lacroix (1760–1784) was a lawyer, while the second son Jean-Louis Lacroix de Niré (1766–1813) was an author, chef adjoint à l'administration générale des domaines and father of the playwright Jules Lacroix and of the bibliophile known as Jacob.

The pastel of her by Valade (*q.v.*) shows her apparently drawing a portrait of her daughter, Suzanne-Félicité (1760–), twin sister of François-Théodore; although she holds only a porte-crayon, the portrait itself is evidently in pastel. There is no other evidence of her being a pastellist.

Bibliography

Michaud; Valade 1993, p. 103