

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LAFITTE, Louis

Paris 1770–1828

Peintre d'histoire, rue de Tournon, no. 1139, près le café des arts, faubourg Saint-Germain, Paris, according to the lengthy inscription on these two pendants of dismal quality. Louis Lafitte was the son of a perruquier. Simon-Mathurin Lantara (*q.v.*), lodging with the family, spotted Lafitte's talent and sent him to study with Demarteau and Regnault. He then trained at the Académie royale, and in 1791 won the prix de Rome. A superb black chalk drawing in the MMA, New York dates from 1793. He married Jeanne-Adélaïde Pugin in 1796. Financial pressures made him then turn to decoration and illustration – and it seems occasionally to pastel portraiture. The rue de Tournon address is confirmed in early nineteenth century Salons livrets. In 1812 Lafitte submitted plans for paintings at the Arc de triomphe. In 1816 he was in London; after several applications he was awarded Menageot's studio at the École des Beaux-Arts in 1821. He received the Légion d'honneur in 1823, and by 1825 he was premier dessinateur du Cabinet du roi. A posthumous sale included a large number of his drawings, including over a dozen portrait drawings in black chalk or ink, but nothing in pastel.

Pastels

J.4414.151 Jean-Louis-Alexandre POTIER, propriétaire à Senlis, maire de Neuilly-en-Thelle; & pendant: épouse (∞ 1794), née Marie-Geneviève Martin, pstl, sd 25.X.1801 (Épernay, Enchères Champagne, 20.VII.2019) φ