

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MÉRELLE, Rosalie-Théodore

Paris 6.x.1759–8.xi.1788

Rosalie Mérelle was the eldest daughter of Pierre Mérelle (*q.v.*). That she was a pastellist only emerged with a clearly signed example of her work from 1780, the male portrait [J.5322.201](#); it seems very probable that she studied under her father, and may well have produced similar work such as the unsigned *jeune femme au bonnet* [J.5322.301](#), a genre piece in the manner of Boucher of which a number of other anonymous versions are known (inverted, however, suggesting there may have been a print). A drawing in coloured chalk [J.5322.301](#), copied after a Demarteau print, bears a signature only fully deciphered in 2025. She died unmarried in the rue des Vieux-Augustins (AN Y14483, index des sceaux). She made a will on 23.x.1788 (AN MC étude CX), in which she bequeathed various items of jewellery or clothing to her sisters, brothers and her gouvernante, as well as to a Mlle Bélaïr de Peters l'aîné (identified in the inventaire après décès carried out 18.xi.1788 as Marie-Louise De Peters de Beller (1762–1837), daughter of the painter Jean-Antoine de Peters (*q.v.*; thus niece of Marianne de Villebrune), later marquise de Permangle and the friend of Mme Tallien and Joséphine de Beauharnais), a Mlle Lise de Peters (her sister Elisabeth-Philippine, 1769–1809) and a Mlle Agathe Retz. There was no mention of any pictures or artists' materials. The inventaire après décès mentioned “sept tableaux en pastel et huile representant des portraits de famille”, without valuation or attribution.



GENEALOGIES [Mérelle](#)

Pastels

[J.5322.201](#) Homme en habit bleu, pstl, 47x38 ov., sd √ “Rosalie Merelle/pinxit juin/?paris 1780” (PC 2023) φv

[J.5322.301](#) Jeune femme au bonnet, pstl, 57x47 ov. (PC 2023) [?attr.] φav

[J.5322.301](#) [*olim* [J.7504.051](#)=[J.6274.051](#)] Le maraudeur: un petit garçon avec oiseaux et panier, cr. clr, 27x19, sd “Rosalie merelle/f^{ct} juin 1780” (Galerie Portalis Aix, Aix-en-Provence 2019). A/r Demarteau a/r Boucher (Jean-Richard 703) [new attr. 2025] φv