

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MÉANCE, Pierre-Julien

fl. USA 1793–1809

Peter J. Meance advertised in New York journals (*Daily advertiser*, 1.III.1793, 7.V.1793, 12.V.1796, 10.VI.1797; *French and American gazette*, 16.XII.1795) initially as a miniaturist, “pupil of the academy of Paintings of Paris”, from which it is inferred that he was French. He was evidently the Pierre-Julien Méance who married a Marie-Françoise Chapeau in Paris, 18.VIII.1786 (AN MC/RE/XLVII/6); on 26.I.1794, at St Peter’s Church, New York, an Anthony Theodore Meance was born to “Peter Julian and Mary Frances Chapeau, Catholics”.

He established a drawing academy in Maiden Lane. He spent several months in Albany in the summer of 1796. On his return to New York, he moved to 62 Broadway, where he now added crayon painting and “painting upon silk in the neatest manner” to his skills. He was recorded in Philadelphia in 1808–09. His portrait of the Franco-American bookseller Nicolas Gouin Dufief was engraved by David Edwin. Some miniatures survive in US museums but no pastel is known.

In 1829 a Pierre-Julien Méance was recorded as a caféyère in Grand-Goâve; it is not certain that he is the same individual.

Bibliography

Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Schidlof 1964