

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RICHARDSON, Alice, Mrs Benjamin Roberts

fl. London 1769–77

Exhibited pastels at the Society of Artists from 1769 to 1775; various London addresses were given (11 Salisbury Court, 1769; Mr Wells's, Piccadilly 1770; Mr Trentham's, 52 Strand, 1770; Mr Turner's, Masham Street, 1772–74; 21 Tottenham Street, 1775). In 1776 she sent three pastels to the Royal Academy from 4 College Street, Westminster, the same address as is given by a "Miss Alice Roberts" in a submission to the Society of Artists in 1777. Despite the logic of the honorific titles given, these were one and the same person: on 30.XII.1776 at St John's Smith Square, Alice Richardson, widow, was married to a Benjamin Roberts, bachelor (Faculty Office marriage licence granted 28.XII.1776). One of the witnesses, Charles Thomas Carter, was probably the Irish composer; a week later, on 6.I.1777, he married a Susan Williamson Giles (from Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire) at St Margaret's Westminster, with Alice and Benjamin Roberts reciprocating as witnesses). Perhaps she had theatrical connections, but Alice Richardson's maiden name and dates remain to be discovered— unless (a suggestion based only on the similarities of the signature) she is the Alice Williams who married a Charles Richardson at St Mary Bothaw, St Swithin's Lane, 29.VIII.1768: among the witnesses was Peter Lewis de La Rive, a broker at Angel Court from an important family in Geneva, naturalised by act of parliament.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981

Critiques

Anon., *Morning post & daily advertiser*, 1.V.1773:

Mrs RICHARDSON.

This lady has considerable merit in crayons. No. 270, her own portrait, well executed; we discern a harshness of colouring, which the female artist will in time surmount.—The pieces are placed much too near; they would have a more pleasing effect if elevated another yard.

Anon., *Middlesex journal & evening advertiser*, 30.IV.1774

Mrs RICHARDSON

226. A portrait of a Gentleman in crayons. — A good likeness, and well performed.

Pastels

J.6184.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, crayons, Society of Artists 1773, no. 270

J.6184.102 Oteronganente [?THAYENDANEKEN, *alias* Thayendanegen, Thayendanegea, Joseph Thayendanegea, Joseph Brant (1742–1807), Mohawk chief, or John Hill, brother of Karonghyontye], one of the American chiefs now in London, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 249. Lit.: Leslie Reinhardt, "British and Indian identities in a picture by Benjamin West", *Eighteenth-century studies*, XXXI/3, 1998, pp. 283–305 ~?grav., from an original drawing in the possession of James Boswell, *London magazine*, .VII.1776

J.6184.104 Young lady, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 250

J.6184.105 Boy's head, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 251

J.6184.106 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1769, no. 150

J.6184.107 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1770, no. 110

J.6184.108 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, no. 226

J.6184.109 Lady, m/u, Society of Artists 1769, no. 151, 152

J.6184.111 Lady [Cap and Taresa], crayons, Society of Artists 1772, no. 276*

J.6184.111 A portrait in the character of Rubens' wife, crayons, Society of Artists 1777, no. 344, as by Miss Alice Roberts

J.6184.112 Child, crayons, Society of Artists 1770, no. 111

J.6184.113 Portrait, crayons, Society of Artists 1773, nos. 271–72

J.6184.114 Fancy head, m/u, Society of Artists 1773, no. 273

J.6184.115 Fancy head, crayons, Society of Artists 1774, nos. 227–28 (2)

J.6184.116 Child, crayons, Society of Artists 1775, no. 220