

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## VANDER GUCHT, Benjamin

London 1753–1794

Benjamin Vander Gucht (Van der Gucht, Vandergucht), painter and art dealer, was the 32<sup>nd</sup> child of the engraver Gerard Vander Gucht (*q.v.*) and his wife, née Mary Liney, whom he married in 1725, and who lived until 1790 (Although it has also been suggested that he was the son of Gerard Jr, the latter was only 14 at the time of Benjamin's birth; Gerard Sr's will names Benjamin as his own son.) He was admitted as a student at the Royal Academy Schools on 14.II.1769; according to the register, he was then aged 19, which does not agree with the year of birth usually cited. He received a silver medal in 1774. He exhibited numerous portraits (apparently oils) at the Royal Academy between 1771 and 1786 from the Golden Head in Lower Brook Street, and in 1787 from 59 Pall Mall. On 20.X.1779 he married a Sophia Egles.

Gerard Vander Gucht Jr advertised painted portraits of "great and eminent persons". It may be that this series suggested the attribution to Benjamin of pastels of two historical literary figures (although the 1806 Nuneham Courtenay guide specifies "old Vandergucht"), but it does seem from his own posthumous sale that he made pastel copies after Rosalba.

### Bibliography

Bénézit; British artists' suppliers at [npg.org.uk](http://npg.org.uk); Oxford DNB, *s.v.* Gerard Vandergucht; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 130; Wright 2006

### Pastels

CHAUCER (*Oxford, Bodleian Library*), *v. English sch.*

[J.7418.101](#) Two of the Seasons, crayons, a/r  
Rosalba Carriera (Benjamin van der Gucht; London, Christie's, 11–12.III.1796, Lot 2, £2/12/-; Ammignon [?])

[J.7418.102](#) St Peter, & pendant: [J.7418.103](#) the Virgin, 2 heads in crayons (Benjamin van der Gucht; London, Christie's, 11–12.III.1796, Lot 1, £2/15/-; Price)