GIRARD, Mlle

fl. Bordeaux 1782; Toulouse 1785–91

Mlle Girard, whose état civil remains elusive, can be identified as a daughter of Gabriel-Joseph Girard (1740–1805), a member of the Académie de Saint-Luc from 1763 (rue Phélipeaux, Paris), described in some documents as a "peintre en bâtimens", and probably a son of the painter Marc-Antoine Girard. The item in the livret of the 1785 salon de Toulouse preceding her submissions was Gabriel-Joseph Girard's self-portrait. An earlier notice, in the *Annonces, affiches et avis divers … de Bordeaux* (11.VII.1782), concerned "Le sieur Girard, Peintre de l'Académie de Paris" who had opened a cabinet devoted to the canal de Picardie, with representations also of the canal du Languedoc and of the ville de Bordeaux. It added "sa fille peint le portrait au pastel." A note in the salon de Saint-Luc de 1774 indicates that the artist had painted 70 topographical picutres representing "les endroits les plus remarquables de la France."

In Paris, Saint-Nicolas-des-Champs, on 22.II.1762, Girard had married a Denise Michau or Michaud. Another Gabriel-Joseph Girard of the same address, presumably a son, was 55 in 1813 when he witnessed a marriage (*Annales de l'Académie de Mâcon*, 1909, p. 365), while another brother, Louis-Joseph, was born in Paris 6.IV.1773. Documents from the registres de tutelles (AN Y4947A, 1771; Y5191B, 1790) demonstrate that Girard was connected with the Simon family of printers (his sister Louise married Michel-Gabriel Simon, batteur d'or in Paris). Another brother, Jean-Baptiste Girard, maître épinglier, was born in Orleans c.1756.

Guiffrey erroneously identified the 1774 exhibitor as Étienne-Martin Girard, listed as a peintre des fruits in the Almanach of 1776. He died in Paris 23.X.1782, leaving several children by his wife Catherine-Simone-Elisabeth Dugué (they married in 1768), of whom the eldest, Catherine-Isabelle, was born in Paris 26.XI.1769, too young to have exhibited in 1785). She married Jean-Pierre de Bellocq, musicien, in Paris, 4.III.1817, and she died, 9.IV.1836 in Paris, 11 rue Gracieuse, aged 66.

Bibliography

Guiffrey 1915; Mesuret 1972, no. 5024; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.3494.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, Salon de Toulouse 1791, no. 85

J.3494.102 La reine des Français [MARIE-ANTOINETTE (1755–1793)], pstl, peint d'idée par Mlle Girard, Salon de Toulouse 1785, no. 62; Salon de Toulouse 1791, no. 86