

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ARCHINARD, Anne-Marie-Joseph, dite Nancy, comtesse de Gouvion

Crest, Drôme 8.II.1777 – Paris 4.VI.1811

Amateur artist (erroneously confused in the 2024 auction catalogue with another Nancy Archinard, Mme Gignan, born in 1798, until corrected here, 16.III.2024). The pastellist was the daughter of a négociant in Crest, sent to the Assemblée législative in Paris in 1791 as député de la Drôme. She was educated with her sister in Lyon, where she met Mlle I. de Saussure (perhaps Isabelle-Pauline, Mme Couvreur de Deckersberg 1774–1853) with whom she conducted a lengthy correspondence about her experiences during the Revolution. On 12.X.1806 in Crest, she married Louis-Jean-Baptiste, comte de Gouvion (1752–1823), a général de division, sénateur, grand officier de la Légion d'honneur, pair de France and politician. She appeared in the imperial court with the title of comtesse. Her husband lent a substantial sum to her brother Pierre-Lucrétius Archinard, a debt which led to protracted litigation after her death, and her brother's eventual conviction in a celebrated legal case for forging documents purporting to cancel the debt.

The self-portrait, dated illegibly but perhaps to 1795, is evidently derived from the 1784 oil self-portrait of Gabrielle Capet (Doria 1934, no. 7), substituting a porte-crayon and portfolio for the brush and palette in the older artist's work; it is not clear where Archinard might have seen the work.

A portrait of Mlle Archinard (not reproduced) by Danloux was exhibited in Paris 1909b, no. 45 (with Wildenstein); “a small whole-length ... in white dress trimmed with brilliant scarlet, and a sash of the same aggressive tone”, according to the critic William Roberts in the *Athenaeum* (3.VII.1909, p. 20).

Bibliography

Justin Brun-Durand, *Dictionnaire biographique de la Drôme*, 1900; Jules Chavannes, “Impressions d'une jeune patriote sous la Révolution”, *Bibliothèque universelle et revue suisse*, Lausanne, 1873, XLVI, pp. 193–212

Pastels

[J.1094.101](#) AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl, 57x42.6, sd ← “Nancy Archinard/ Nancy Archinard/Peint [Paris] ...L'an [?]3 de la R. F.”, inscr. *verso* “Portrait de fantaisie fait par Madame de gouvion Archinard” (Nazareth, Belgium, Coronari, 27.III.2024, Lot 264 repr., as XIX^e, est. €300–600, €1500) øv

