

**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, Jean-Pierre Archinard (1742–1836), a member of a distinguished Protestant family. His business took him frequently to Paris, where he was associated with Camille Desmoulins. He was appointed administrateur du district de Crest, and was sent to the Assemblée législative in Paris in 1791 as député de la Drôme.

Nancy was educated with her sisters in Lyon, where she met Mlle I. de Saussure (perhaps Isabelle-Pauline, Mme Couvreau 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 died without issue five years later. Her husband lent a substantial sum to her brother Pierre-Lucrétius Archinard (who added his mother's name, Rigaud, a descendant of David Rigaud, a poet of some repute in Crest); the debt 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 (he was sentenced in 1826 to the pillory and branding, commuted to ten years' imprisonment).

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; André Mailhet, *Histoire de Saillans*, 1898, p. 286

Pastels

J.1094.101 AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl, 61x50, sd ← “Nancy Archinard/ Nancy Archinard/Peint [P]aris] ...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; Colnaghi Elliott, adv. *Financial times*, 22.VI.2024; Newbury, Dreweatts 1759, 4.XI.2025, Lot 36 repr., est. £3–5000; PC) φv



J.1094.121 Pierre-Lucrétius ARCHINARD dit Rigaud (1778–1850), pstl/carton, 55x45, c.1795 (Bruges, Carlo Bonte, 16.X.2025, Lot 2067 repr., as anon., inconnu, est. €300–500, €190) [new attr., new identification] φv

