

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **BALSA DE FIRMY, Marie-Catherine-Claudine**

Toulouse 18.IX.1766–4.XII.1835

Mlle Balza, Balsa, Balsac or Balzac de Firmi, or Firmy, was a pupil of Sabère, Suau and Roques, recorded between 1784 and 1788. A member of the family of magistrates at the parlement de Toulouse, she was the daughter of Jean-Jacques de Balza, baron de Firmy, who inherited the hôtel de Burta (56 rue Pharaon) in 1779, and his wife, née Jeanne-Anne de Berdolle de Goudouville. He was guillotined in 1794 for opposing the decrees of the Assemblée constituante. Only two daughters are recorded: Anne-Jacquette-Jeanne-Marie-Colombe-Honorée, baptised at Saint-Étienne, Toulouse 21.I.1765, died 24.X.1845, married, in the same church, 17.VII.1783, Joseph-Marie-Louis de Puymirol, seigneur de Sirac (1744–1815): she cannot be the Mlle de Firmy in 1788, who must be her younger sister, Marie-Catherine-Claudine, born the following year. She seems to have abandoned art soon after, and died unmarried in Toulouse, place d'Orléans.

### **Bibliography**

Chaix d'Est-Ange, *s.n.* Balsac-Firmy; Mesuret 1972, no. 4945; Sanchez 2004

### **Pastels**

J.1226.101 Saint Joseph, pstl, Salon de Toulouse 1788, no. 106 (Mlle de Firmy 1788)