

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **BROCAS, James**

Dublin 1754–.IX.1780

Irish portraitist. The son of Robert Brocas of Dublin (who does not appear to have been immediately related to the Very Rev. Dr Theophilus Brocas, a patron of the arts) and Bridget Taylor of Wexford, he studied at the Dublin Society's drawing school, obtaining prizes in 1772 and 1773, and practised from his house at 64 Dame Street. He advertised in *Freeman's journal* (28.II.1778) his willingness to paint "likenesses in the most natural and striking manner in oils, crayons and miniatures. He will also take off likenesses in profile at an English half-crown each and whole lengths (which mode was never attempted before) at a crown each." The death of "James Brocas, limner, aged 25" in Exchequer Street was noted in *Saunders's news-letter*, 4.X.1780. His brother Henry (c.1764–1837) was a landscape artist and engraved several plates after pastels by Hamilton and Stoker. The next generation included a number of artists.

### **Bibliography**

Figgis 2014; McGuire 1939, p. 14; Nevill Jackson 1938; P. J. Raftery, "The Brocas family, notable Dublin artists", *Dublin historical record*, XVII/1, .XII.1961, pp. 25–34; Saur