

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CANAVAS, Joseph-François

Paris c.1740–p.1780

François Canavas exhibited a painting of *La Volupté* at the Salon de la Correspondance in 1780. He is the subject of a caricature by Vincent made in Rome in 1774, where he was recorded as taking third prize among the new intake at the académie de Saint-Luc in 1773. He is no doubt the artist who advertised in the *Annonces, affiches, nouvelles et avis divers de l'Orléanais* of 12.IX.1766–

Le sieur *Canavas*, Peintre, nouvellement arrivé en cette Ville, donne avis qu'il peint l'Histoire, & le Portrait en pastel: Il demeure chez le sieur Chevalier, Maître Perruquier, Place du Martroi.

His family background is revealed in a document in the Archives nationales, recording on 20.VI.1777 the renunciation by Joseph-François Canavas, peintre, rue des Fossés-Monsieur-le-Prince, paroisse Saint-Sulpice of the estate of his father, Joseph-Gabriel Canavas, musicien du roi and a noted violinist (originally Canavasso, he was music master to the prince de Carignan in 1739). His mother, Jeanne-Marie-Henriette Bertolio, was buried in Saint-Sulpice, 25.XII.1757, aged c.36 years; an entry appears in the registres de clôtures d'inventaires (AN Y5327, 1758), listing three minor children, Charles-Augustin, Joseph-François and Paule-Louise Canavas. Joseph-Gabriel's brother was Jean-Baptiste Canavas (–1784), a celebrated cellist, friend of Rousseau and subject of a médaillon by Cochin. His three sons included François-Toussaint Canavas, secrétaire to the duc d'Aiguillon, and the actor d'Alainval.

Bibliography

Cucuël 1913, pp. 341ff; Cuzin 2014, p. 398; Lionel de La Laurencie, *L'École française du violon...*, Paris, 1923, II, pp. 101f; Sanchez