

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CASANOVA, Francesco Giuseppe

London 1.VI.1727 – Brühl 1802

The brother of the celebrated adventurer, Casanova was trained in Venice. He travelled to Paris in 1751, moving to Dresden the following year before settling in Paris in 1757. There, on 26.VI.1762 at Saint-Laurent, he married a dancer, Marie-Jeanne Jolivet (1734–1773), dite Mlle d'Alancour; after her death, he married Jeanne-Catherine Delachaux (1748–1818) on 26.VII.1775 at Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois; she remained the mistress of the prince de Montbarrey. In 1783, after the failure of his second marriage, he moved to Vienna with support from the prince de Ligne and Graf Kaunitz.

Trained in Parrocel's studio, he became a well-known battle painter (*agréé* 1761, *reçu* 1763), exhibiting at the Académie. Diderot was initially enthusiastic, but later thought his work the poorer after the departure of his talented pupil de Louthembourg. He left at least one pastel study, described as “d'un chaud et harmonieux coloris” by Ratouis de Limay, who found in it the rhythm and vigour of a Parrocel or Bourguignon. Casanova later executed a battle series of the Russian victory over the Turks for Catherine the Great in the 1790s.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Judith Carmel, in Grove 1996; Cornelius ver Heyden de Lancey, *François-J. Casanova, peintre du roi (1727–1803)*, Paris, 1934; Jal; H. Leporini, “Francesco Casanova”, *Pantheon*, XXII, 1964, pp. 173–83; Mariette 1851–60; Ottawa 2003; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Pastels

J.2106.101 Combat livré contre les Turcs par le maréchal de Berchény [László Ignaz BERCSÉNYI (1689–1778)], pstl, 83x67, sd 1775 (Philippe d'Estaille de Chantereine 1946. Versailles, Hôtel Rameau, G. Blache, 16.VI.1983, F20,000)