

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CHIRAT DU VERNAY, Mme Charles-Bernardin, née Jeanne- Marie, dite Julie, Berlié

Lyon 1772 – La Croix-Rousse 25.X.1843

According to Chasle Pavie, Julie Chirat du Vernay was member of an important family from Lyon. Charles-Bernardin Chirat du Vernay (1761–1850) was a négociant-fabricant de fil d'or in Lyon, a freemason and député de Lyon under the Restauration. He married, at La Guillotière, 1.IX.1789, a Jeanne-Marie Berlié, daughter of a guimpier, Jean-François Berlié and Jeanne-Marie Goutelle. Chirat emigrated briefly but was back in Lyon as an officier municipal by 1795. The Lyon census for 1836 provides confirmation that Jeanne-Marie called herself Julie; there has been confusion with her elder daughter, Julie Chirat du Vernay (1790–1858). A second daughter, Félicité, married an Auguste Tastevin in Lyon in 1836.

Among Julie's accomplishments, art joined music, scientific experiments and literature. In 1804 she encountered, and received lessons from, the elderly Pillement (*q.v.*), and she produced a series of pastel landscapes in his manner; these remained in the family collection, and are reproduced in Chasle Pavie's study in 1922 (together with a portrait by Isabey presumably of her mother). The group of eight pastels executed in 1804 descended in the Tastevin family. No example is known before 1800.

Bibliography

Audin & Vial 1918; J. Chasle Pavie, "Une élève de Pillement. Julie Chirat du Vernay", *La Renaissance de l'art français*, v, 1922, pp. 613ff; Jean-Philippe Rey, "Une municipalité sous le Premier Empire: Lyon, 1805–1815", thèse, Université Lumière Lyon 2, 2010

Pastels

J.225.101 Scènes portuaires au clair de lune, pstl, 47x59, sd ✓ "20 mai 1807" (Paris, Drouot, Libert, 11.IV.2008, Lot 34 repr., n.est. Havnen, Bruun Rasmussen, 9.XII.2009, Lot 681) φ