

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DABOS, Mme Laurent, née Marie-Jeanne Bernard

Lunéville 1765 – Paris 1841

Miniaturist; daughter of the calligrapher Joseph Bernard de Paris, and pupil of Mme Labille-Guiard (*q.v.*). A letter to the *Mercur* praised Mlle Bernard's submission to the Salon de la Jeunesse in 1787: "Deux dessins pleins d'esprit et de finesse, un portrait au pastel rempli de grâces et d'expression". No other pastels are recorded (unless she is the "Mlle B" who signed and dated a 1785 copy of Labille-Guiard's *Flore Pajou*), but she went on to exhibit miniatures at the Salon de Toulouse in 1789 (the home town of her husband, Laurent Dabos (1761–1835), a pupil of Vincent, whom she married in Paris by contract of 25.VI.1788: AN MC/RE/LXXVII/5), and the Paris salons in 1791 and between 1802 to 1835. Under her husband's influence she migrated to genre painting. Her portrait of Marie-Antoinette was engraved by Phelippeaux, while a chalk and gouache drawing of the Dauphin, "par Dabos, dessiné au Temple l'an 1792" was given by the duchesse d'Angoulême to a cousin of Mme Blanchard de Farges (*q.v.*). According to a later notarial document (AN MC/VI 970, 19.XII.1820, which bears her autograph initials JB) creating a joint annuity of 600 francs, Mme Dabos was born in Lunéville on 11.II.1765, two years later than given in most sources. She died in Paris, at 85 boulevard Beaumarchais, 9.X.1841, according to her inv. p.m. (AN MC/RE/VIII/21, 17.XI.1841).

Bibliography

Blanc 2006; Chatelus 1991, p. 153; Doria 1934; Greer 2001; Laurentie 1913a, *s.n.* suppl. no. 4 n.r.; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Passez 1973; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur, Voreaux 1998

Salons critiques

Anon., "Lettre à MM. les rédacteurs du *Mercur*... sur l'Exposition ... à la Place Dauphine", *Mercur de France*, 4.VI.1787, p. 186.

Mlle *Bernard*, dont je vous ai parlé l'année dernière avec éloges en mérite encore cette année. Deux Dessins pleins d'esprit & de finesse, un Portrait au pastel rempli de grâces & d'expression la doivent faire regarder, par celles qui courent la même carrière, comme une rivale redoutable.

Pastels

[J.2544.101](#) Portrait, pstl, Salon de la Jeunesse 1787