

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **GODDARD, James**

London 23.i.1756–p.1790

Portraitist in pastel and miniature; pupil at the Royal Academy Schools from 18.XII.1771 (“aged 15 23d Jany last”). He was the son of James Goddard, an enameller, and Prudence, née Fletcher, baptised 22.II.1756 at St Giles-in-the-Fields; his parents married on 4.IX.1742, and his widowed mother remarried in 1764, to Maximilien-Étienne Picasse, an engraver and enameller. “Stephen Picasse” was listed as a goldsmith in the Assay Office return of 1773. When his cousin Louis Picasse, a goldsmith in Paris, died, mentioning Maximilien-Étienne in his will, documents in the AN (Y 5203 Registres de tutelles, 22.IX.1785) reveal that the legatee, a “compagnon orphèvre a Paris” had died in the Hôtel-Dieu 17.VII.1785. In 1771 James Goddard exhibited at the Society of Artists from Mr Picasse’s, Denmark Street. In 1782 and 1783 he exhibited at the Free Society from 4 Newman’s Row, Lincoln’s Inn Fields. His subjects included actors and naval officers. There is no record of subsequent artistic production.

From 1776 newspaper advertisements appeared for a fencing master, advertising as “Mr. Picasse, late pupil of Mons. De la Boissiere of Paris”, who had recently returned from France and opened an academy in Piccadilly; some of the advertisements mentioned his house in Denmark Street. On 30.III.1781 James Picasse, fencing master of Denmark Street, was admitted to the Honourable Artillery Company, but left on 14.XII.1785 for non-payment of arrears of quarterage. From 1785 the advertisements mentioned a fencing academy established by Mr Goddard at 27 Pall-Mall. A “James Picasse” married an Ann Prosser at St Dunstan-in-the-West on 17.XII.1781; he or a homonym is listed in the land tax records at Lloyds Court 1781–83. A lengthy article in the *Morning star* on 28.VIII.1789 announced a challenge to a fencing match with the chevalier de Saint-George; the article explained that Goddard had been taken up by a fencing master in Gerrard Street, Soho called La Pierre, who had sent him to Paris where he assumed the name Picasse. The duel, which took place in 1790, was reported as a draw. Nicolas-Benjamin Texier de La Boëssière (1723–1807), maître d’armes, was the teacher of both contestants.

### **Bibliography**

Foskett 1987; Myrone 2022; Waterhouse 1981

### **Pastels**

J.352.101 Gentleman, crayons, Free Society 1782, no. 136

J.352.102 Lady, crayons, Free Society 1783, no. 180