

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEWIS, Mrs

fl. London 1783

It seems unlikely that the Mrs Lewis, recorded as an honorary exhibitor at the Society of Artist in 1783, could (as has been suggested) have been Judith Lewis (1711–1781), sister of the portrait painter Stephen Slaughter; if so the exhibits (including also a miniature and a fruit piece in needlework) would have been posthumous. Two conversation pieces in the style of John Wootton, dated 1755 and 1766, are known, and Walpole praised her trompe-l'œil bas-reliefs; but there is no indication of work in pastel. Alternatively the exhibitor may have been the wife of one of the several Lewises who showed at the Society, perhaps of John Lewis, a director of the Society of Artists who also exhibited portraits, landscapes and fruit pieces until 1776.

Bibliography

Elizabeth Einberg, "The Betts family": a lost Hogarth that never was, and a candidate for Slaughter", *Burlington magazine*, CXXV/964, .VII.1983, pp. 414–16; Oxford DNB, *s.n.* Stephen Slaughter; Walpole 1828, II, p. 705

Pastels

Landscape, crayons, Society of Artists 1783, no. 328