

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MARIE LESZCZYŃSKA, reine de France

Trzebnica 23.VI.1703 – Versailles 24.VI.1768
Maria Karolina Zofia Felicja Leszczyńska, known in France as Marie (Catherine-Sophie-Félicité) Leszczyńska or Leczinska, was the daughter of Stanisław Leszczyński (*q.v.*) and, from 1725, wife of Louis XV. She was the subject of numerous portraits, including a La Tour pastel exhibited in 1748. Like her father, she was an amateur artist; examples of her work in oil are known, among them decorative chinoiseries and devotional pictures. Among her favourite painters were Coypel, Oudry and Vien (*qq.v.*). An invoice from Coypel “pour des couleurs fournies à la Reine, montant à somme de 30 livres 12s” is in the Archives nationales (O¹ 1914). Vien exhibited six small encaustic pictures in the 1755 salon. They have not survived; but some idea of the Tête de Vierge (Gachtgens & Lugand 1988, no. 109) can be obtained from the crayon-manner engraving by Jean-Charles François (1759), which bears the legend “peint par sa Majesté” [Marie Leszczyńska]. It is tempting to speculate that the queen’s copy may have been in pastel.

Monographic exhibitions

Marie Leszczyńska 2011: *Parler à l’âme et au cœur: la peintre selon Marie Leszczyńska*, Fontainebleau, 18.VI.–19.IX.2011. Cat. Xavier Salmon

Bibliography

Duvaux 1873, p. XIX; Nollac 1928; Tokyo 2011

GENEALOGIES [Poland](#); [France](#)