PERKINS, Sarah Bushnell, Mrs Lemuel Grosvenor
Plainfield, Connecticut 1771–1831

During the 1790s a series of pastels were executed by Sarah Perkins, mostly of members of her family. One (that of Rev. Nathan Perkins) has a label added by the subject’s granddaughter, identifying the artist. Her father was Dr Elisha Perkins of Plainfield, and she may have attended the Plainfield Academy of which he was one of the proprietors. She does not seems to have continued after her marriage to General Lemuel Grosvenor in 1801 – unless she is to be identified with the anonymous Beardsley Limner, active 1785–1805, but stylistic differences cast doubt on this. The work is frankly primitive. Sarah Perkins worked with a very limited palette, using small amounts of colour only for flesh tones.

Bibliography
Bolton 1923; Hartford 1959; Heslip & Kellogg 1984; Rubenstein 1982, p. 43

Pastels
J.5804.102 James BURRILL, Jr (1772–1820), pstl/ppr, 53.5x40 (Rhode Island Historical Society 1980.70.1). Attr?
J.5804.106 Caleb PERKINS (1749–1819), physician, pstl/ppr, 51.2x39.6, c.1790; & pendant: J.5804.114 spouse, née Sarah Trumbull (1745–1827), pstl/ppr, 51.2x39.6, c.1790 (Hartford, Connecticut Historical Society, 1901–2). Exh.: Hartford 1959, fig. 9/10 φ φ
J.5804.119 Joseph PERKINS (1704–1794), physician, pstl/ppr, 45.8x38.3, c.1790; & pendant: J.5804.12 spouse, née Mary Bushnell (1707–1795), pstl/ppr, 46.3x38.5, c.1790 (Historic Deerfield 1367.1/2. Acqu. 1950)
J.5804.121 =Mrs Joseph PERKINS, née Mary Bushnell, pstl/ppr, 65.4x57.8, c.1790 (Historic Deerfield, inv. 2010.16. Mr & Mrs Charles Armistead Coit 1959. Richardson’s, Bourne Auction Rooms). Exh.: Hartford 1959, fig. 7 φ
J.5804.123 Rev. Nathan PERKINS (1748–1838); & pendant: J.5804.124 spouse, née Katherine Pitkin (1757–1837), pstl, 51x42 (the sitters’ daughter, Mrs Charles Seymour, née Katherine Perkins (1782–1848); her niece, Mrs Joseph Cook Jackson, née Catherine Perkins Day; her daughter, Mrs Percy Hamilton Goodsell, née Catherine Seymour Jackson; her son Percy

Neil Jeffares, Dictionary of pastellists before 1800
Online edition
Hamilton Goodsell, Jr 1959). Exh.: Hartford 1959, fig. 4/3 ϕ

Mrs Bevil SEYMOUR, née Lucy Perkins (1783–1820), pastel/primrose, 48.9x38.3, c.1790 (Hartford, Connecticut Historical Society 1901-2-3). Exh.: Hartford 1959, fig. 11 ϕ


Girl, pastel/primrose, 49x41, c.1790 (Mr & Mrs Charles Armistead Coit 1959). Exh.: Hartford 1959, fig. 12 ϕ

Boy with large dog, pastel, 49.5x38.1; & pendant: J.5804.14 Girl with rose, pastel, 49.5x38.1 (New York, Sotheby’s, 16–19.I.2003, Lot 698 repr., attr., $39,000) Φ

J.5804.127