

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

REYNOLDS, Frances

Plympton 1729 – London 1807

Sister of Sir Joshua, for whom she kept house as well as copying his works. She was also a published poet and writer. She worked in miniature, oil and pastel; in a letter of 9.i.1758, Dr Johnson reported that “Mr Reynolds has...raised his price to twenty guineas a head, and Miss is much employed in miniatures.” Her facility is said to have surpassed her brother’s when they were children, although she received no formal training. While one may assume that she made some of the pastel copies of his works, the two extant pastels, of the artist’s nieces, seem to reveal a distinctive handling that do not justify her brother’s reported embarrassment.



Bibliography

Ellen C. Clayton, *English female artists*, London, 1876, I, pp. 231ff; Foskett 1987; Greer 2001; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

Mrs Robert Lovell GWATKIN, née Theophila Palmer (1757–1848), pstl, 74x60 ov., inscr. ← “Souvenir from your/Aunt Fannie/1776” (Lord W..., 1911. London, Christie’s, 26.v.1933, 10 gns; Mrs Ittner. Paris, Drouot, Beaussant-Lefèvre, 7.XI.2011, Lot 56 repr., est. €5–8000, b/i). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 97. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 185. Related to Joshua Reynolds pnt., 1777 (Mannings 2000, no. 1390) ◈



~cop., pstl, 17x13.5 ov. (French PC 2007; London, Claridge’s, Europ Auction, 6.v.2011, Lot 43 repr., est. €3–5000) ◈



Marchioness of THOMOND, Countess of Inchiquin, née Mary Palmer (1750–1820), 72x60 ov., c.1780 (Lord W..., 1911. London, Christie’s, 26.v.1933, 5 ½ gns; Edwards). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 97. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 191; See 1911b, p. 27 repr. ◈