

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

## Online edition

### **SAINT-MARTIN, Geneviève- Nicole de**

Paris 1711–2.III.1757

A member of the Académie de Saint-Luc, rue Saint-André-des-Arts, Mlle de Saint-Martin exhibited fifteen portraits between 1751 and 1756, of which one is identified as in oil; most of the others are large enough probably to be in the same medium, but one speculates that some of the remaining items could be in pastel. A signed miniature, watercolour on vellum, appeared at auction in 2012; erroneously reported as dated 1740 but evidently 1756 or 1758. Since her 1751 exhibits included portraits of Jean-Baptiste Oudry (playing the guitar – perhaps echoing La Tour's portrait of Dumont le Romain) and his wife, it is most likely that the artist was related – probably one of his nieces. In 1710 Jacques de Saint-Martin, maître peintre and marchand de tableaux on the pont Notre-Dame, married Oudry's sister Geneviève (their father was another maître peintre); the clôture d'inventaire after Jacques's death in 1720 named three children, Nicole, Marie and Jean-André. Geneviève was remarried to Charles Lombard, again a maître peintre, but he too died by 31.I.1722 when another entry in the registre de clôtures d'inventaires is found; a few months later she married Pierre-Robert Grindel.

Her elder daughter Nicole de Saint-Martin, here (2021) identified as the portraitist, was marraine at the baptism of her cousin, Nicolle Oudry, 30.IX.1727 (at Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois; as found in the annuity created by her parents, 25.X.1745). On 15.XII.1746 Claude Dupouch (*q.v.*), accompanied by "Nicole de Saint-Martin, sa femme", witnessed the marriage contract of her cousin Nicole Oudry with Pierre-Paul de La Groue. It appears she lived with Dupouch after his wife's death in 1743, but there is no record of a formal marriage: "Nicole de Saint-Martin, fille majeure, demeurante en la maison de défunt Claude Dupouch" was charged with representing his property after his death in 1747. On 3.III.1757, the transcription of the parish records of Saint-André des Arts (Fichier Laborde) confirms the burial of "Geneviève Nicole St Martin, fille majeure, maîtresse peintresse, décédée la veille, rue st André, âgée de 46 ans ou environ". The witnesses confirm her identity: her half-brother Charles Grindel, maître tabletier, and her brother-in-law, Thomas-Michel Lherminier, bourgeois de Paris, receveur de la capitation de la ville de Paris, and husband of Marie-Barbe Saint-Martin.

#### **Bibliography**

Bénézit; Guiffrey 1915, p. 448f; Marandet 2002; Sanchez 2004; Wildenstein 1966, pp. 55, 113

#### **Salon critiques**

Anon., *Lettre de M. H... à M. P..., son ami en province, au sujet du concours en peinture et sculpture de MM. de l'Académie de Saint-Luc, ouvert dans une salle des Grands-Augustins, à Paris, le 20 février 1751*.

C'est au soin d'éviter un pareil défaut que les portraitiers de notre temps doivent en partie la réussite de leurs ouvrages. Tels sont: MM. Vigée, Mérelle, Verdier, Allais, Chevalier, Barrère, M<sup>lle</sup> Saint-Martin et d'autres, qui tous contribuent à former un ensemble dont la beauté saisit, avec une satisfaction secrète, les

personnes de goût et fixent celles disposées à en avoir. Malgré cela, je ne doute pas qu'il ne se trouve encore de ses petits auteurs d'insipides brochures qui, pour faire parade de leur esprit, viendront, perchés sur quelques-uns des chevalets de nos maîtres peintres; mais, pour les faire descendre, il suffira de leur présenter l'estampe où l'on voit un aveugle introduit au Salon du Louvre pour y juger des couleurs.

#### **Portraits in unspecified media**

J.6474.101 M. VOISIN, horloger, m/u, 97.2x81,  
Salon de Saint-Luc 1753, no. 202