

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SENÉ, Louis

Geneva 1747 – Paris 1804

Ratouis de Limay noted the pastel of a young woman by Sené, or Séné, “un peu dans la manière de Mme Vigée Le Brun”. It is evidently by the important Swiss miniaturist, the son of a merchant Gédéon Sené from a family of goldsmiths. A precocious sketch of Voltaire which was engraved set him on an artistic career, and in 1765 he was sent to the école de l'Académie in Paris under Lagrenée l'aîné. He exhibited religious pictures at the Colisée in 1776 (from 38 rue Neuve-Saint-Eustache) and showed a miniature and several portraits in the Salon of 1804. His marriage in 1781 to Elisabeth-Genève Legris is well documented, and in 1789 the family spent two years in Geneva before returning to Paris. He is represented by miniatures in Geneva and the Louvre, while many others have passed through the salerooms. Apart from the pastel in the 1921 sale, two pendant portraits were in the comte de Reiset's sale the following year, while pastels of Beaumarchais's son and third wife were exhibited in 1966.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bordeaux 1995, p. 253f; Hofstetter 2008; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946

Pastels

Augustin CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS (1768–1772), fils de l'auteur dramatique & de Genève Wattebled, pstl, ov., s. de Sené, c.1772 (PC 1966). Exh.: Paris 1966, no. 133 n.r.

Mme Pierre-Augustin CARON DE BEAUMARCHAIS, née Marie-Thérèse de Willer-Mawlaz (–1816), pstl, ov., s. Sené, c.1775 (PC 1966). Exh.: Paris 1966, no. 495 n.r.

Jeune fille; & pendant: Garçonnet, pstl (comte de Reiset; Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, Baudoin, 30.I.–3.II.1922, Lot 29, 30, fr8200)

Femme en corselet bleu, coiffée d'un chapeau de paille, 54x45 ov., s (Paris, Georges Petit, 4.V.1921, Lot 11 repr.; Paris dealer a.1946) ◉

