

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

VANDER GUCHT, Gerard

London 1696–18.III.1776

Various members of this family were active in London as artists, dealers, printsellers and artists' suppliers during the eighteenth century. Gerard Vander Gucht, Van der Gucht, or Vandergucht (1696–1776) was the elder son of the Antwerp engraver Michael van der Gucht (1660–1725), who had settled in London by 1688. (The younger son, John (c.1699–p.1730) was also an engraver.) Gerard was taught drawing by Chéron at the Great Queen Street Academy from 1713. In 1725 he took over his father's business at the Golden Head in Queen Street, and on 24.VIII.1725 he married a Mary Liney. Some 32 children followed, including two sons named Gerard, baptised in 1734 and 1739. Presumably the latter was the Gerard Jr (1739–c.1770) who became the printseller, artists' supplier and dealer. The date would be consistent with his apprenticeship to the joiner William Williams for a premium of £25 in 1753. In 1759 Gerard Jr married a Ruth Holden in Leatherhead. Gerard Sr's youngest son was Benjamin (*q.v.*), although Gerard Jr also had a son of this name born in 1769. Although he predeceased his father, the date of Gerard Jr's death is uncertain (a daughter was born in 1767).

Gerard Jr advertised painted portraits of "great and eminent persons" (*Public advertiser*, 25.V.1759), and also sold "all sorts of Italian, Dutch, French & Flemish Prints & Drawings" as well as artists' materials including crayons (*Public advertiser*, 12.V.1758). The Westminster rate books have him in Brook Street from 1755.

A pastel of a religious scene bears the trade label of "G. Vander Gucht/Carver & Gilder/Removed from the Golden Head in George Street/Hanover Square/to Vandyke Head in Brook Street/Grosvenor Square", on the basis of which the label can be dated to c.1755. There is no evidence that Gerard Jr worked in pastel, and the attribution of the copy of the Chandos portrait to "old Vandergucht" suggests that he may have been the artist responsible.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; British artists' suppliers at npg.org.uk; Oxford DNB; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 130; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.742.101 SHAKESPEARE, a/r Chandos portrait, pstl (Charles Jennens, Ormond Street, Holborn, 1766; Lord Howe). Lit.: Thomas Martyn, *The English connoisseur*, 1766, p. 121; *Connoisseur*, XXXII, 1912, p. 19 n.r.; Sir Sidney Lee, *A life of William Shakespeare*, 1916, p. 533 "a large copy in coloured crayons by Gerard Vandergucht belonged to Charles Jennens, of Gopsall, Leicestershire, and is still the property there of Earl Howe"

J.742.102 SHAKESPEARE, a/r Chandos portrait, crayons (Nuneham Courtenay 1823). Lit.: *Description of Nuneham-Courtenay*, 1806, p. 15, as by "old Vandergucht, after the original in the late Duke of Chandos's possession: the only authentic one"

J.742.103 The Agony in the Garden, pstl/ppr, 39.5x31 (Madrid, Alcalá Subastas, 9.III.2016, Lot 704 repr., anon., est. €500) [new attr., ?] φ

