

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUPLESSIS, Joseph-Siffred

Carpentras 22.IX.1725 – Versailles 1.IV.1802
A pupil of Frère Imbert in his native Carpentras, Duplessis travelled to Rome (where he is thought to have studied with Subleyras) and Lyon before settling in Paris in 1752. He exhibited in the Salon de Saint-Luc in 1764 and was *agr  * in 1769, *re  * 1774 by the Acad  mie royale; conseiller 1780. His iconic portrait of Louis XVI, commissioned in 1776 for 1200 livres, is known from numerous autograph replicas (six were specified in the commission) and many further copies. Of the various versions of Franklin, whether in a grey silk coat or fur-trimmed red one, confusion still surrounds which was exhibited in the 1779 salon, as one critic commented on “ce portrait en veste de satin blanc”.

Given Duplessis’s brilliance in oil portraiture, it is to be regretted that his recorded output of pastels is so small. It appears however that he used pastel occasionally throughout his career, even before his arrival in Paris (despite its poor state, the early pastel of Bernardi may well be his). He brought the same sense of meticulous finish to these works as we know from his oil paintings, with precise details, accurate colours and strong handling.

Monographic exhibitions

Duplessis 2016: *Benjamin Franklin: portraits by Duplessis*, New York, MMA, 22.VIII.–28.XI.2015. [no cat.]

Duplessis 2025: *Joseph-Siffred Duplessis (1725–1802). L’art de peindre la vie*, Carpentras, biblioth  que-mus  e Inguimbertaine, 14.VI.–28.IX.2025. [no cat., v. Salmon 2025]

Bibliography

Alauzen 1962; Thierry Bajou, in Grove 1996; Belleudy 1913; Belleudy 1937; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; B  n  zit; Chabaud 2003; Dudouit 2006; Rachel Dudouit, catalogue raisonn   (in preparation); Dumont-Wilden 1909; Engerand 1900; Guiffrey 1915, p. 277f; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Paris 1974b; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Rosenberg & Stewart 1987; Salmon 2025; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Toledo 1975; Wright 1992

Salon critiques

Junius, Salon de 1769, *Neue Bibliothek der sch  nen Wissenschaften und der freyen K  nste*, ix/2, 1770, pp. 356–64:

Die Bildnisse vom D  plessis haben auch ungemein viel Charakter und Wahrheit.

Pastels

Charles-Louis-Auguste Fouquet, mar  chal-duc de BELLE-ISLE (Metz, mus  e de la Cour d’Or, inv. 12334) [a/r La Tour, q.v.]

J.2906.102 Henri BERNARDI DE VALERNES DE SAINT MARCELLIN, lieutenant des vaisseaux du roi, pstl, 30x25, c.1748 (Sault, mus  e municipale, inv. 22. Don Evariste Bernardi de Valernes 1878). Lit.: Belleudy 1913, p. 335, no. 138 n.r.; Vergnet-Ruiz & Laclotte 1962, n.r.; Chabaud 2003, p. 144 n.r., attr. rejected [??; attr.] Φα



Photo Claude Labro, courtesy Mus  e municipal de F-Sault-84390
Mlle CLAIRON, v.   c. fr.

J.2906.112 Benjamin FRANKLIN (1706–1790) en habit gris, pstl/pchm, 73.7x61, 1779, inscr. verso “Benjamin Franklin,    77 ans; peint en 1783 par Duplessis; donn   par Franklin lui-m  me    M. Louis le Veillard, maire de Passy” (New York Public Library, inv. 260052. Le Veillard; desc. MM. de S  narmont; acqu. John Bigelow 1867; don 1908). Exh.: Philadelphia 2005; Duplessis 2016,   tude pour le portrait au collier de fourrure, c.1777. Lit.: Belleudy 1913, p. 322, no. 66 n.r.; Oswald 1926, p. 12f repr.; Sellers 1962, pl. 25; Keith Arbour, “One last word: Benjamin Franklin and the Duplessis portrait of 1778”, *Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography*, CXVIII/3, 1994, pp. 183–208; Ingamells 2004, pp. 171ff; Boze 2004, fig. 11; New York 2018, fig. 35; Baetjer 2019, fig. 59.2; Jeffares 2019d; Salmon 2025, fig. 130 φ



~grav.: Alexandre Tardieu. Lit.: Burgess 1973, p. 125

~version, pnt., 72.4x59.7 (Washington, NPG, inv. NPG.87.43; dep.: White House 2021. Don: Anne Louise Boyvin d’Hardancourt, Mme Brillon de Jouy (1744–1824); desc.: Gilles de Carpentier, Toulouse; acqu. 1987). Exh.: Philadelphia 1956, no. 22 repr. Lit.: Sellers 1962, p. 272, no. 5

~version, pnt., pnt., 73x59 (PC Lyon; Paris, PIASA, 13.XII.2006, Lot 16 repr.; Hirschl & Adler; Lisa Blue Baron; New York, Sotheby’s, 29.I.2015, Lot 82 repr.)

~cop., pnt. a/r Duplessis, 64x53, c.1783 (Moscow, Pushkin Museum, inv. 3707). Exh.: Boze 2004, no. 14, attr. Boze. Lit.: Данилова 1995, p. 304 repr.

~cop., pnt a/r Duplessis, 73x59 (Jean Valade; acqu. Thomas Jefferson 1787, as by Greuze for

the abb   V  ri; Monticello). Lit.: Sellers, attr. Valade

~cop. Massavy Darmancourt, miniature, 1788 (Stockholm, NMB)

~cop. Fran  ois Dumont, miniature

~cop. Lorentz Sparrgren, miniature

~cop. Alexis Judlin, miniature (comm. 1780)

~cop. Joseph Wright (1756–1793) of New Jersey, pnt., 1782 (London, Royal Society). Lit.: Charles Henry Hart and Joseph Wright, “An original portrait of Doctor Franklin, painted by Joseph Wright, belonging to the Royal Society, London”, *Pennsylvania magazine of history and biography*, XXXII/3, 1908, pp. 320–34 repr.; *American national biography*

~version: Washington, Corcoran Gallery

~cop., various media, Fran  ois Baricolo; Boze; Mme Lavoisier; Alexandre Roslin; Saint-Non; Valade; & al., qq.v

FRANKLIN, “au collier de fourrure”, pnt., 1778 (New York, MMA). Exh.: Duplessis 2016. Lit.: Baetjer 2019, no. 59 repr.; Salmon 2025, fig. 129

J.2906.118 ~cop., pstl/ppr, 76.2x63.5 (San Marino, Huntington Library, inv. 53.4. Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow; Gen. Brayton Ives, Clarence S. Bement, Isman, Philadelphia; Rosenbach & Co. 1926; acqu. 1953). Lit.: “A life-size bust portrait of Benjamin Franklin...”, *Huntington Library quarterly*, XVII/1, .XI.1953, repr.; Bennett & Sargentson 2008, no. 143 repr., attr. Jean Valade [??] φκ



J.2906.12 ~cop., pencil, pstl, watercolour/ppr, 26.8x19. (New Haven, Yale University, Franklin collection, CT231176. Acqu. 1935).

~cop. Alexandre Roslin, pnt. (New-York Historical Society). Lit.: Stacy Schiff, *Dr Franklin goes to France*, London, 2005, repr. cvr

J.2906.122 ~cop., pstl/pchm (PC 2015) [new attr.] φ



Christophe Willibald GLUCK (1714–1787), improvisant, pnt., 100x80, sd 1775 (Vienna, KHM). Lit.: Salmon 2025, fig. 123

~grav. S. C. Miger

~cop., pnt., 101x85, 1775 (Versailles, inv. V.2015.22. Paris, Sotheby's, 17.VII.2015, Lot 46 repr.; pre-empted, €99,000). Lit.: Lit.: Salmon 2025, fig. 125

~?version, pnt. (Pauline Viardot). Lit.: Prod'homme 1918, p. 74, c

J.2906.126 ~étude, pstl, 57x47 ov. (Félix Doistau; Paris, Georges Petit, 9–11.VI.1909, Lot 88 repr., est. ₣30,000, ₣71,000. Mme J. Brasseur, de Lille; Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, 13.III.1920, Lot 13 repr., est. ₣80,000, ₣91,000. Paris, 23.XI.1965, Lot 3 repr., ₣21,000. André Meyer; F. Meyer; Paris, Sotheby's, 16–17.X.2012, Lot 93 repr., est. €15–20,000, €48,000 [=€58,350]; US PC). Exh.: Paris 1908a, no. 16, pl. 10; Paris 1969, no. 38. Lit.: Lemoine 1908, p. 19 repr.; Labat 1909, p. 314, "une saisissante vérité"; Prod'homme 1918, p. 39, e; Belleudy 1913, p. 324, no. 75 n.r.; Ratouis de Limay 1946, pl. LVII/87; F. Lesure, *Collection musicale André Meyer*, Abbeville, 1973, pl. 115; *Gazette Drouot*, 26.X.2012, p. 48; Salmon 2025, fig. 122 Φσ



LARGER IMAGE

~version, pnt. (Pauline Viardot). Lit.: Prod'homme 1918, p. 74, c

~cop. Anton Hansman, pnt., c.1848 (MV 4583)

J.2906.128 ?GLÜCK, de profil, en habit bleu, regardant de face, pstl (Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, 16–17.VI.1922, Lot 159 n.r., attr.)

GLUCK (*Maurice Despret 1925*), v. *Aubry*

J.2906.131 L'abbé Esprit-Jean-Fiacre JOURDAN (1729–1815), chanoine de Saint-Louis du Louvre, pstl, 80x65 ov. (Mme veuve Jourdan, Aubignan, 1913. PC 2005; 2025). Exh.: Duplessis 2025. Lit.: Belleudy 1913, p. 325, no. 82 n.r.; Chabaud 2003, pl. vi; Wall 2012, p. 210, fig. 14 as Salon de 1769 [≠][L'abbé Jourdan, pnt., Salon de 1769, no. 197 (M. Jourdan 1913). Exh.: Duplessis 2025. Lit.: Belleudy 1913, no. 81; Salmon 2025, fig. 122 Φ



Photo J.-P. Chabaud

La Fayette (Cambridge, Fogg Art Museum), v. *Ducreux*

J.2906.135 Le comte de Saint-Priest [?François-Emmanuel Guignard, comte de SAINT-PRIEST (1735–1821), ambassadeur à Lisbonne, à Constantinople et en Hollande, ministre de l'Intérieur en 1790, pair de France], pstl, 65x53 ov. (Galerie Kraemer, Paris; seized ERR, inv. Krä 39, ₣500; Jeu de Paume 25.X.1942; Kogl; Munich CCP, Mü-Nr 21863/13; repatriated 25.IX.1947; restituted) [?attr.; cf. Ducreux] φ?αδν



J.2906.137 Homme en buste, de ¾ à g, sans mains, sourcils très drus, yeux noirs, bouche entr'ouverte, pommettes rosées, visage animé et agréable, en habit bleu, à petit collet, cravate et jabot de dentelle; gilet marron à peine visible, pstl, ov., s ← "J. Duplessis" (marquis d'Oncieu de Chaffardon 1913). Lit.: Belleudy 1913, p. 338, no. 159 n.r.; Chabaud 2003, p. 138, erroneously repr. pnt. of Caffieri as pastel, inconnu

J.2906.139 Homme, de ¾ vers la gauche, la tête presque de face, habit de satin jaune, son tricorne sous le bras gauche, pstl, 59x48 (B.-M.; Paris, Drouot, Giard, 30.IV.1924, Lot 4 n.r.)

J.2906.14 Femme inconnue, pstl, sd 1762 (Zélikine; Paris, Drouot, Baudoin, Lair-Dubreuil, 22–23.V.1908, Lot 203 n.r., ₣200). Lit.: Belleudy 1913, p. 337, no. 155 n.r.; Chabaud 2003, p. 137 n.r.

Jeune fille en robe de ton changeant, les mains dans son manchon (Félix Doistau; Paris, Georges Petit, 9–11.VI.1909, Lot 89 repr., as Duplessis). Lit.: Chabaud 2003, p. 138 repr., as Duplessis [v. Lenoir]

J.2906.142 Dame au collier, pstl (R...P...; Paris, Drouot, Baudoin, 14–15.III.1934, Lot 123 n.r., attr., ₣1520)

Anon. related pastels

Mme Alexandre LENOIR, née Catherine-Louise Adam (1738–1790), mère d'Alexandre Lenoir, en robe bleue tenant une brochure, pnt., 80x65 (Louvre MI 1132. Legs La Caze). Exh.: Duplessis 2025, no. 42 repr. Lit.: Clément de Ris 1848; Chabaud 2003, as Duplessis; Paris 2007, CD p. 700f repr., attr. Voiriot. *Olim* attr. Chardin, *Mme Lenoir tenant une brochure*, Salon de 1743, no. 57; Tocqué; Greuze etc.

J.2906.1431 [*olim* J.773.131] ~cop., pstl/ppr, 72.5x59 (Paris, Pecheteau-Badin-Godeau-Leroy & de Ricqlès, 15.XII.1997, Lot 25 repr., attr. Ch. Coypel, est. ₣30–40,000, ₣29,000. Paris, Tajan, 17.III.2004, Lot 61 repr., éc. fr., est. €2500, b/i. Paris, Drouot, Ader, 18.XII.2019, Lot 18 repr., entourage de Valade, inconnue, est. €800–1200; Paris, Drouot, Ader, 27.II.2020, Lot 23 repr., entourage de Valade, inconnue, est. €500–800. French art market 2025). Lit.: Jeffares 2006, p. 605, col. C n.r., inconnue; Faroult & Voiriot 2008, as by Voiriot φκν



~cop. Gilles-Louis Chrétien, min., s (Munich, Hampel, 21–22.IX.2007, Lot 866). Lit.: *Gazette Drouot*, 8.IX.2007, p. 25 repr.

~cop. John-Jules Nimmo (c.1830–1881), min./ivory, 6.4x5.3 ov. (London, Sotheby's, 24.X.1988, Lot 295; London, Christie's, 9.XII.2008, Lot 98)

~cop., pnt. (Vichy, Guy Laurent, 22.XI.2008, Lot 8044)

J.2906.1432 [*olim* J.773.132] ~cop. Louis-Eugène Cœdès, pstl, 81x65 inscr., XIX^e (Paris, PIASA, 19.II.2025, Lot 151 repr., anon., as of Mme Lacaze, est. €300–400, €1690; Galerie Christian Le Serbon, cat. 2025, no. 15 repr., as by Coedès a/r Duplessis)φκν



LOUIS XVI, pnt., 1778 (Versailles, MV 3966). Lit.: Salmon 2025, fig. 60

~numerous repls.

J.2906.145 ~cop., pstl, 48x40 (Chaalis, abbaye royale, fondation Jacquemart-André, inv. 678, S1717) φκσ



Photo courtesy Institut de France

J.2906.148 ~cop., pstl, 59.6x46.0 ov. (Soufflot, architecte; vente p.m., Paris, Le Brun, 20.XI.1780, Lot 40, 24 livres 5)

J.2906.1488 ~cop., pstl, 57x46 (Henri Lacroix; vente p.m., Paris, Drouot, Chevallier, Paris, 18–23.III.1901, Lot 207 n.r., as a/r Duplessis)

J.2906.149 =?cop., pstl, 45x36 (Versailles, Trianon, Chapelle, Perrin, Fromantin, 16.V.1971, Lot 85 repr., as Lenoir, ₣11,000) φκ



J.2906.151 ~cop., pstl, 66x49 (Frederick Silberman 1952. Berlin, Dannenberg, 18–20.IX.2025, Lot 3979 repr., est. €500) φκν



J.2906.153 ~version, pstl, 39x43 (Paris, Drouot, Rabourdin, Choppin de Janvry, 23.V.1986, Lot 15, as Boze, fr68,000) φκ



J.2906.155 ~cop., pstl, 65.3x54.4 ov., inscr. "Louis XVI/Peint par Duplessy/en 1782" (London, Phillips, 11.XII.1996, Lot 113 repr., circle of Duplessis, est. £2-3000, £1600) φκ



J.2906.157 ~cop., pstl, 42x25 (Saint-Brieuc, Guichard Juillan, 19.XI.2001, Lot 223 repr., est. fr1000-1500) φκ

J.2906.159 ~cop., pstl, 39x31 ov. (Paris, Drouot, Chayette & Cheval, 28.I.2011, Lot 10 repr., éc. de Duplessis, est. €300-500) φκ



J.2906.1593 ~cop., pstl, ov. (PC 2026) φκ
Le comte de PROVENCE, pnt. (Chalais, abbaye royale, fondation Jacquemart-André)

J.2906.162 ~cop., pstl, 73x59 ov. (Paris, Tajan, 17.XII.2015, Lot 59 repr., attr. Boze, est. €7-8000) φκ

