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New Book Traces the Rise and Fall of Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, A Female Artist During the French Revolution

LOS ANGELES—Adélaïde Labille-Guiard (1749-1803) was the only female member of the Parisian Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture to contribute to the reinvention of France and its artistic culture during the French Revolution. Despite this distinction, *Adélaïde Labille-Guiard: Artist in the Age of Revolution* (Getty Publications, \$29.95, hardcover) is the first English-language book devoted to her paintings and career.

A remarkable portraitist, Labille-Guiard occupied one of only four memberships to the Royal Academy designated for women. She painted in oils when few women did and was sought out by such diverse figures as the aunts of Louis XVI and the future American president Thomas Jefferson. She elicited both glowing admiration and virulent criticism from contemporaries throughout her thirty years in the public eye. An anonymous pamphlet even accused her of trading sexual favors in exchange for help with her painting from the artist François-André Vincent, whom Labille-Guiard later married.

While many of her royal family portraits were destroyed during the Revolution, Labille-Guiard herself was unharmed. Having received a royal pension since 1787 and having been closely associated with members of the royal family, she could have been condemned as an enemy of the Revolution. Unlike her contemporary and fellow Academy member, Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun, Labille-Guiard remained in France and participated in the reinvention of the country, its art, and its women. She advocated for unlimited Academy membership for female artists and, in 1791, she submitted her portrait of Robespierre to the Salon.

Adélaïde Labille-Guiard: Artist in the Age of Revolution fills major gaps in the scholarship on art during the French Revolution, on women artists, and particularly on the intriguing figure of Labille-Guiard herself.

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About the Author—**Laura Auricchio** is assistant professor of art history at the School of Art and Design History and Theory, Parsons The New School for Design.

Publication Information:

Adélaïde Labille-Guiard

Artist in the Age of Revolution

Laura Auricchio

J. Paul Getty Museum

144 pages, 7 ¾ x 9 ¼ inches, hardcover

46 color and 30 b/w illustrations

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