



## SOPHIE BLANCHARD

*Aviators (1778 - 1819)*

Sophie Blanchard was the wife of ballooning pioneer Jean-Pierre Blanchard and the first woman to work as a professional balloonist. Blanchard made more than 60 ascents, enduring loss of consciousness, freezing temperatures, and near drowning. Napoléon Bonaparte promoted her to "Aeronaut of the Official Festivals," and later King Louis XVIII named her "Official Aeronaut of the Restoration."