



**PROANTIC**  
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

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## Allegory Of The Cycle Of Life, French Neoclassical School, Circa 1805-1815

7 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état



### Description

Circle of François Gérard. Oil on canvas, early 19th century - First Empire period. Dimensions: 85 × 69 cm. An elegant neoclassical composition depicting the "Three Ages of Life," painted in an antique Italian landscape where the Bay of Naples and the distinctive silhouette of Mount Vesuvius are visible in the distance. The scene brings together several allegorical figures embodying the major stages of human existence. In the center, a young woman holding an infant symbolizes motherhood and the continuity of life. To her left, a bearded old man draped in a red cloak evokes old age and the experience acquired over time. On the right, a vigorous young man, depicted in an ideal of classical beauty, embodies youth and the strength of age. The whole forms a visual meditation on the passage of time and the cycle of

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life, a theme particularly appreciated in the moral and allegorical painting of the early 19th century. The balanced and theatrical composition is fully in keeping with the Neoclassical taste of the period, both in the purity of its lines and in the idealized treatment of the figures and the antique inspiration of the landscape. The work can be compared to the production of the followers of François Gérard (1770-1837), a major history painter and portraitist of French Neoclassicism, whose influence was considerable during the Consulate and the Empire. A beautiful, decorative, and evocative painting, characteristic of the First Empire's taste for moral subjects, classical references, and idealized Italian landscapes. The gazes directed towards the sky by the old man and the female figure lend the scene a contemplative and philosophical dimension, while the young man, turned towards the earthly world, embodies the impetus of youth entering life.