

# Girodet in the Revolutionary Era

**1750**

Rococo style is prevalent in Paris; François Boucher becomes its leading practitioner under the patronage of King Louis XV.

**1767**

Girodet is born in Montargis, France, to Antoine Girodet and Anne-Angélique Cornier.

**1774**

King Louis XVI is coronated in France.

**1776**

The Declaration of Independence is adopted in Philadelphia.

**1784**

Jacques-Louis David executes his Neoclassical masterpiece *The Oath of the Horatii*. Girodet enters David's studio and later works with him to produce a copy of the painting.

**1787**

Girodet's father dies; Doctor Benoît-François Trioson becomes Girodet's guardian.

**1789**

Girodet wins the Prix de Rome with his painting *Joseph Recognized by His Brothers*. In the heightening tension of the French Revolution, a mob of Parisians storms the Bastille prison, a symbol of monarchical tyranny, and steals the government's weapons.

**1790**

Girodet leaves for Rome.

**1791**

Girodet produces his first major work, *The Sleep of Endymion*.

**1792**

Mobs storm the Tuileries Palace, home of King Louis XVI, who is then tried and convicted of treason.

**1793**

Terror ensues as angry revolutionaries kill hundreds of royalist sympathizers; Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette are guillotined in Paris.

**1795**

Girodet returns to Paris.

**1797**

Girodet executes his celebrated portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley.

**1798–1814**

French general Napoleon Bonaparte rises to fame and power through his military campaigns across Europe and in Egypt and Russia.

**1801**

Girodet completes his monumental depiction of the mythical Gaelic bard Ossian for Napoleon's country retreat at Malmaison.

**1804**

Napoleon crowns himself emperor of France.

**1806**

Girodet's *Scene from a Deluge* is exhibited at the official Salon in Paris.

**1808**

*The Burial of Atala*, based upon a novel by Chateaubriand, is an instant success. Girodet is named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

**1809**

Doctor Trioson legally adopts Girodet, who adds Trioson to his own family name.

**1810**

Girodet completes *The Revolt of Cairo*, illustrating an episode during Napoleon's imperial campaign in Egypt.

**1814**

Girodet's adoptive father, Doctor Trioson, dies. Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to the Italian island of Elba.

**1814–24**

The French monarchy is restored under the reign of Louis XVIII.

**1815**

Napoleon is defeated in the Battle of Waterloo, and is deported to the island of Saint Helena, off the coast of Africa.

**1817**

Girodet creates a studio for women artists.

**1819**

Girodet completes his last great painting, *Pygmalion and Galatea*, based upon a myth from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Théodore Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* becomes an icon of French Romantic painting.

**1824**

Girodet dies. Charles X (grandson of Louis XV) is crowned king of France, reestablishing a brief period of absolute monarchy.

**1830**

In the July Revolution, insurgents overthrow the repressive regime of Charles X; King Louis-Philippe agrees to rule as a constitutional monarch.