

THOMAS COLE

American, 1801–1848

Study for the Voyage of Life, circa 1840

Oil on canvas

On loan from The Owens Foundation

Thomas Cole was a founding member of the Hudson River School, a group of painters that sought to infuse detailed representations of American landscapes with romantic meaning. Cole prepared this study for *Youth*, the second painting in his *Voyage of Life* series. This series of four large-scale paintings depicts a guardian angel guiding a man through a sequence of dramatic landscapes, allegorizing the journey of life through Christian themes of death and resurrection.