



Attilio Codognato. A 18k gold ring set with a Large Neoclassical Agate Cameo.

Cameo: c. 30 × 40 mm | Mount: 18k yellow gold | Ring size: Q (UK) / 8½ (US) — TDD 56 |

Total weight: approx. 27 g

Cameo : First half of the 19th century

A magnificent Neoclassical agate cameo ring by the celebrated Venetian house of Codognato. The large oval cameo, carved in two-layer agate, presents a bust-length portrait of the young Hercules in right-facing profile: his idealised features — finely arched brow, straight nose, powerful jaw — framed by an abundant head of tightly curled hair, the defining attribute by which the hero is recognised in the Hellenistic and Roman sculptural tradition. The milky white relief figure stands in vivid contrast against a deep grey-brown ground, evoking the great marble portraits of Antiquity — most notably the celebrated Heracles type disseminated throughout the Mediterranean world following the conquests of Alexander.

The composition breathes the heroic idealism of Neoclassical glyptic art at its finest.

The bold 18-karat yellow gold mount is of marked architectural character: a wide, imposing bezel set on tapering fluted shoulders with geometric stepped detailing on the underside, centred by a cabochon stud — a design fully in keeping with Codognato's distinctive aesthetic, hovering between Grand Tour romanticism and 20th-century goldsmiths' virtuosity. Signed Codognato on the shank.