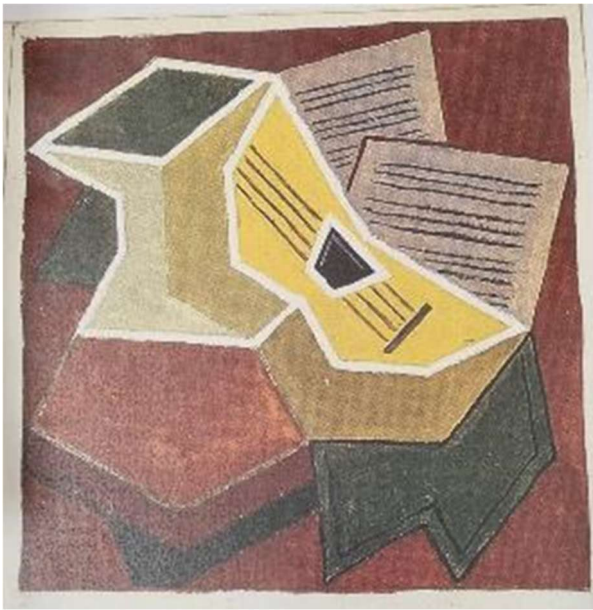


AUDIO DESCRIPTION



Guitare et compotier (Guitar and Fruit Bowl) by Juan Gris, is a work measuring 24.5 cm in height x 23.8 cm in width produced in 1925. It is framed. The technique used is gouache on paper.

Gouache is a painting medium that is mixed with water, like watercolour, but with greater covering power. It does not allow what is underneath to be seen, which makes it ideal for painting light colours on dark backgrounds and for easily correcting mistakes. It is made up of colour pigments, gum arabic (a natural resin from trees) and an opaque white powder, such as zinc oxide, which gives it its characteristic opacity.

It is widely used on paper or cardboard for illustrations, designs and art teaching, thanks to its matt finish and vivid colours. Gum arabic is a key ingredient that helps bind the pigments and gives gouache its special consistency.

The composition is framed within a profile of geometric lines that form solid structures of colours: brown, red, white and yellow.

In the centre of the composition, the main feature is the yellow slanted guitar with four strings, which is supported by a kind of column. Both elements are based on solid geometric structures that also support two sheets with straight lines. All the structures stand out against a dark red background.

Juan Gris (1887-1927) was a Spanish painter and sculptor, considered one of the leading representatives of cubism. Born in Madrid as José Victoriano González, he moved to Paris in 1906, where he joined the circle of artists that included Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. His work is characterised by the use of geometric shapes, vivid colours and a personal interpretation of cubism, bringing clarity and structure to the movement.

Among his most outstanding works are *Portrait of Picasso* (1912) and *The Bottle of Anis* (1914).

Juan Gris died young, at the age of 40, in 1927, of kidney problems. Although initially his work was not very much recognised in Spain, today he is considered one of the major representatives of cubism. His paintings are admired for their balance between abstraction and representation. They are exhibited in important museums such as the Museo Nacional Reina Sofía and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid.