

The Third Cubist



Figure 1 Newspaper and Glass 1914



Figure 2/ Composition with Violin 1914

As Juan Gris started to develop his ideas into Synthetic cubism he became more creative with his compositions, in 'Newspaper with glass 1914' we can clearly see an artist who is becoming more experimental. The image appears to be seen from above, with us looking down on the table and its contents. As in his other pieces the subject matter is his everyday life, table cloth, glass, newspaper all appearing again to take their place in this work. The glass repeats across the table, as if Gris has drawn it over and over again, perhaps to try and correct, and he uses each version almost like a dance within the image. The newspaper intersects the confusion of the table cloth and the strong graphic lettering gives us something concrete and recognisable.



He uses a variety of materials within this work appearing to be very confident in his use of mixed media to create the image. Using multi layers of paper, wood, paint and pencil, he weaves the materials together to create one piece

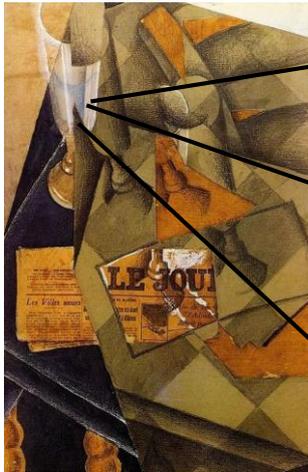
of work. He confuses our perception of what materials have been used for each part, and by cutting through sections of the coloured paper he using positive and negative space to deceive the order of the layers further.



Gris uses a finely drawn line carefully executed to describe the objects, his draftsman ship is evident in drawn areas of the work, Gris adds tone around he objects in a traditional manner and these areas work well to convince us of the realism still within the work. This is more evident in other works where he chooses to draw the fonts directly onto the work rather than using found objects. He is a master of the 'trompe l'oeil' technique and this is apparent in later works like 'Composition with Violin 1914'

It is hard to tell even with close examination if the black areas within 'Newspaper with Glass' have been painted or are also collage, this is also the case for some of the areas we presume to be wooden. Again Gris makes us work to try and solve these puzzles and in doing so engages the viewer in the art work its self.

The careful choice in harmonising colours beautifully ties the image together, Gris shows an almost designers eye to his colour schemes and paper collage choices. The use of a strong black line compliments the dramatic black diagonal table and the black graphic lettering on the newspaper. Gris is the master of the limited pallet making very sophisticated use of a narrow range of colours and tones within his work.



Gris again uses intersecting diagonal lines within the composition. The use of the checked table cloth helping this time to naturally divide the image up. Gris draws two versions on top of each other, one is a flat grid, the other creates an illusion of a vanishing point within the image.

The viewers eye is confused when looking at the image as our perspective changes depending on which lines appear more dominant.