

AUTOBIOGRAPHY¹

I was born in Volo (Greece) in 1888 of Italian parents. I dedicated myself to drawing and to painting since my childhood; I never did regular studies in any academy whatsoever; only, around the age of 18, I attended the academy of Munich for a year. In Italy and France, I always worked alone. I worked in Paris from 1911 to 1915; I exposed during this time at the Salon d'Automne and at the "Indépendants".

I became friends with Guillaume Apollinaire. I returned to Italy in 1915 where I lived until 1925; during these 10 years, I worked a lot and was very occupied with pictorial technique. I took part in a number of exhibitions in Germany, in Italy, in France, in England, in America, in Belgium and in Holland. A few months ago I returned to Paris where I intend to live from now on.

Giorgio de Chirico

Different periods of my painting:

Paris period (1911-1915) during which time I painted cityscapes; compositions in which the architectural element played an important role; and at the same time some still-lives in the same style; all my painting of this period is a souvenir of Italy.

Italy period (1915-1925) at the beginning of this period, I painted still-lives and paintings which I called "Metaphysical Interiors"; they were views of rooms with objects set on tables; the ceiling and the floor played the same lyric role that the sky and the ground play in a landscape. However, in the years that followed, I was tempted by paint that was richer in matter and colour, by a freer technique and now, having progressed in the difficult craft of painting, I try to express, with the greatest strength possible, the images and the fantasies that haunt my spirit.

¹ The original manuscript is kept in the Fond Léonce Rosenberg, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre de Documentation et de Recherche du MNAM/CCI, 9600.197. Datable to the spring of 1926, cf. G. Rasario, *ivi*, footnote n. 59, p. 287.