

## BIOGRAPHY

*Giorgio de Chirico*<sup>1</sup>

Born in 1888 in Volos (Greece) of Italian parents. Remained in Greece until the age of 16.

From 14 to 16 years of age he attended a drawing and painting course at the Academy of Fine Arts of Athens; he also worked alone, painting landscapes on the environs of Athens.

At 16 he left Greece and came to Italy, to Florence where he had relatives. He visited the museums and galleries. At 18 he took a trip to Germany; he enrolled in the Munich Academy and he worked there for about a year. He then went back to Italy; he worked in Milan and in Florence; he visited Rome. In 1911 he left for Paris and it is there that he exposed for the first time at the Salon d'Automne of 1912. His works are noticed; painters such as Picasso speak of him to Guillaume Apollinaire, who he met in 1913; he also exposed at the Indépendants.

In addition to Apollinaire, Maurice Raynal, André Salomon, André Maurel and other critics talk about him. A few amateurs start to buy some canvases from him.

Upon the declaration of war he returned to Italy. He was mobilized in the spring of 1915 and remained in arms until 1918; released from the army he became passionate about ancient Italian painting; he travelled again between Milan, Florence and Rome; in Rome and Florence he made copies in the museums of the works of ancient masters.

In 1924 Léonce Rosenberg, during a trip to Rome, visited him, bought some canvases from him, he encouraged him to come to live in Paris again; In 1925 (in the month of May) he had an exposition at Léonce Rosenberg's that was very successful and in the month of November of the same year he established himself permanently in Paris.

New exposition at the Effort Moderne (Léonce Rosenberg) in February 1928 where almost everything was sold.

Paintings acquired by the following museums: Rome, Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo, Essen.

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<sup>1</sup> Biography written by hand by Giorgio de Chirico, undated but subsequent to February 1928. The original manuscript is kept at the Fond Léonce Rosenberg, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre de Documentation et de Recherche du MNAM/CCI, 9600.132.