



36.2 × 48.3 cm

Description

The strongly lit items of this still life appear to be casually arranged on a desk in a study. The pince-nez resting between the pages of a book and the well-worn copybook balanced over the edge of the table give a sense of animation to the work. To the side are a pewter inkstand with quill pens, rolls of paper and some coins. Hugh Lane paid five guineas for the work in 1906. (JO'D) This is a still life showing a pair of pince-nez glasses between the pages of an open book resting on some papers upon a table. There is also a couple of coins, a pewter inkstand, two quill pens and a roll of paper lying on the table, which is covered in a green baize cloth. The glasses and the book in this picture may have a symbolic meaning. Bonvin was interested in Dutch and Flemish 17th-century painting, where still lifes often had a 'vanitas' theme, emphasising the transience and mortality of life.

Still Life with Book, Papers and Inkwell

Date

1876

Primary Maker

François Bonvin

Medium

Oil on zinc

Dimensions