



The Wine Glass
Oil on Panel
Johannes Vermeer
1660

The first thing you'll notice about *The Wine Glass* is the bright coloring. Everything seems to jump out of the painting, almost too bright to be real — the stained-glass panels on the windows, a blue curtain illuminated by the sun, the woman's red dress, the gold frame on the back wall. Vermeer likely painted this when he was only about 27, which reveals an extraordinary maturity in a painter so young.

Born in 1632, Johannes Vermeer cemented himself as an important piece of Dutch art history in the relatively short life he lived. His paintings depict not scenes of grandeur, but instead relatable scenes of everyday middle class life. They may look foreign to us now, but what they're really doing is giving us a window into the lives normal people would have lived 400 years ago.

Questions (Answer in complete sentences in Sketchbook)

- 1. Describe what you see in this painting? (What is the content?) /1**
- 2. What is the medium? /1**
- 3. What is done well in this painting? /1**
- 4. The scene itself provides plenty of questions for the one looking at it — what is the relationship between the two people? Why do they both look so subtly tense and uncomfortable? Explain what you think is going on. /2**