bust the pictorial boundaries that hold him. However, the old man is obedient enough to remain forever locked in his cocoon and this conveys the message that he operates on compressed energy and that he is relatively in bondage (Johnson 1974, p. 56).

During the blue period, Picasso used paintings to express his disappointment in society considering that elements such as poverty, anguish and frustration led his close friend into suicide (Berger 1965, p. 45). The weak nature of the guitarist in the painting brings with it a theme. The old man appears closer to death and his guitar acts like the preserver of life. Despite the hopeless nature of his life, the guitar and the music, that it generates offers the only hope. In a way, it is possible to argue that his guitar is his source of livelihood (Blunt & Pool 1962, p. 6). However, the poor nature of his life as depicted by Picasso is an indication that he has been unsuccessful with the guitar. An in-depth view of The Old Guitarist reveals another presence behind the musician (Blunt & Pool 1962, p. 6). It is possible to notice the ghostly view of a previous composition on the canvas. During the blue period, Picasso was faced with poverty. The economic necessity made it important for him to reuse canvases in the production of new paintings (Blunt & Pool 1962, p. 6).

Conclusion

The Old Guitarist is 1903/1904 painting by Pablo Picasso. The painting was inspired by the painful death of Picasso’s closest friend Casagemas. During this period, modernism was the movement that defined artwork in this society. Modernism emphasized on the rejection of hidden meanings in visual art that artists, such as Picasso, were able to express their concerns. Modernism was therefore a new way by which artists perceived the world. Picasso uses colour, space and texture to express the themes of poverty, sadness and hopelessness.