

Ante Katunarić Sr. (Split, 11. January 1877 May 2, 1935) was Croatian artist and professor from Split. In addition to his talents in the field of painting and graphic arts, he was a writer, pedagogue, musician (cellist), journalist, football club president, car enthusiast, athlete and photographer. The Katunarić family from Split has cultivated a love for culture and art for centuries, which is evident in close friendly relations with eminent Croatian and worldwide artists from that period.

Ante marked the Split interwar period with his versatile appearance, becoming a true *Spiritus Movens* of the city life. Following high school graduation, he moved to Italy to study painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, from 1892 - 1895. In 1907, together with his faithful friend Emanuel Vidovic, he worked in Italy (Chioggia).

Katunarić's impressionist style paintings were inspired by the wonderful Italian landscapes and the marinas. He excelled in the lithographs, illustrations, and graphic design of the magazines and books. He has exhibited in many domestic and worldwide exhibitions, including the famous "Biennale" in Rome in 1910.

Ante was the best man and a close friend of the greatest Croatian American sculptor, Ivan Mestrovic. Mestrovic often portrayed him, mostly in the sculptures of the young Katunarić family (1906), and his torso in the "Well of Life" in front of the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb (1912).

Ante's other notable colleagues and friends were legendary painters, Jerolim Mise, Mirko Racki and Andeo Uvodic. His early life mentors were older Croatian classics, Vlaho Bukovac and Celestin Medovic.

Katunarić illustrated the book of Split's famous poet and mayor Vicko Mihaljević, together with the school colleague Virgil Meneghello Dinčić. Katunarić's oeuvre of engravings and graphics includes hundreds of works of various techniques. He also was the second and fourth historical President of Hajduk Split Football Club's, in the year 1912/1913 and again in 1914.

As a writer, he used the pseudonym "Duje Balavac", and wrote the following works:

Split War Sonnets (Hungry Sonnets) 1917, Tamašna Vrimena (Monologue), Ante od Soca (1918), From the Adriatic - Novels, 1930. God's Providence, 1933. His works were included in the Anthology of Croatian Humor (Zagreb 1934), and the collection The Tales of Split narrative prose from the "City under Marjan".