Pablo Picasso

Half-length Portrait of a Man in a Striped Jersey, 14 September 1939 Gouache on paper, 63 x 45 cm

The painting depicts a figure wearing a striped sweater worn by seamen. The portrait is part of series on the same subject. The deconstruction of the representational planes displays both a frontal and a right-hand profile view of the figure. The head is divided into two triangular prisms. The larger one depicts the face, the smaller one the nose. Each prism contains the stylized shape of the eyes, ears and nostrils. On the right-hand side, the semicircular skull is covered in hair, rendered in light brushstrokes. At the base, the fisherman's torso features the broad neckline of the sweater. The horizontal lines are interrupted by a rectangle on the right, and a triangle on the left.