

Fernard Léger

Man in the City, 1919

Oil on canvas, 146 x 113 cm

The painting depicts a city, rendered through geometric and tube-like elements and unified color surfaces with clear outlines. The human figures are dark and light outlines scattered among various “mechanical” elements. On the right emerges the black, stylized figure of a man; in the center there is a round face, cut in half vertically; on the left, in the foreground, is a deconstructed figure defined by a succession of geometric shapes: from an oval head, to a cylinder suggesting the neck and arms, and semicircles and trapezoids that form the rest of the body. Legér is able to translate the rhythmic energy of contemporary life into pictorial images.