

Artist: Paul Signac

Title: Felix Feneon

Date: 1890

Location: Paris

Paul Signac embraced the terminology of pointillism. Once coined by George Seurat as divisionism. He worked with political leaders and others to create designed portraits. This is the portrait of Felix Feneon. “Felix Fénéon was an art dealer, collector, curator, political activist, critic, and friend of Signac who shared the artist's interests in science and Japanese prints. In this painting Signac depicts this unconventional and enigmatic personality with his characteristic goatee, holding a top hat and a walking stick in one hand and a flower in the other. Combining figuration and abstraction, he sets Fénéon's static profile against a swirling background—a kaleidoscopic depiction of optical theorist Charles Henry's recently published color wheel. A similar playfulness underlies the exceedingly long title, possibly a spoof on scientific terminology.”

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/78734>

