

AQC0377

# Nanopublication — Solar Symbolism in Geometric Figuration

by Arnaud Quercy · The traveler · 2022



## Solar Symbolism in Geometric Figuration

I replaced the [1] figure's hair with a rounded solar form, creating a traveler-as-sun icon that merges adventure symbolism with geometric abstraction while maintaining clear facial recognition through the prominent eye, angular nose, and curved lips.

### CONTEXT

The composition employs geometric abstraction while preserving figurative legibility—a balance essential for the work's conceptual function as both portrait and symbol. The rounded form crowning the head operates as solar disk rather than naturalistic hair, transforming the traveler into a sun-bearer or solar avatar. This choice connects the figure to adventure, horizon-gazing, and the Mediterranean [5] light that defined the Salou Beach context.

The facial features remain clearly articulated despite the geometric treatment: a prominent eye with strong definition anchors the composition, an angular nose creates structural rhythm, and softly curved lips provide expressive focus. These recognizable elements prevent the work from dissolving into pure abstraction, maintaining the tension between geometric reduction and human portraiture that characterizes the piece.

This formal strategy emerged from the work's position within the Mediterranean Echoes collection, where I explored travel not as physical displacement but as inner journey and contemplation. The figure gazes toward an unseen horizon—the classic traveler's pose—but the solar crown elevates this to archetypal or mythic register. The sun becomes both destination and companion, embodying the transformative potential of journey.

The bas-relief technique allowed these geometric forms to emerge with sculptural clarity from the sand surface. Depth and shadow created by the relief carving gave dimensionality to what might otherwise read as flat shapes, anchoring the abstract elements in physical presence. The monumental 120 × 150 cm scale made these formal decisions legible from distance, allowing the work to function as coastal landmark during its brief existence.

By combining clear facial cues with symbolic geometry, I aimed for a figure that could be immediately recognized as human portrait while simultaneously operating as icon—traveler, sun-seeker, horizon-gazer. The warm earth tones of the beach sand unified these abstract and figurative elements into coherent visual statement, where natural material supported rather than fought the geometric composition.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Arnaud Quercy (2022). The traveler — Catalogue raisonné. <https://arnaudquercy.art/en/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0377.html>  
<https://arnaudquercy.art/fr/catalogue-raisonne/AQC0377.html>
- [2] \*\*Arnaud Quercy\*\*
- [3] Mediterranean Echoes collection artist statement (2022): "The call of the Mediterranean is eternal. The Heart of the Traveller captures this magnetic pull, embodying the essence of adventure tempered by deep reflection."
- [4] Related works in same series: "The Sailer" (perceptual ambiguity), "The Woman Reading" (geometric abstraction with cubist influence), establishing formal vocabulary across the Salou Beach sculptures.
- [5] \*\*Series:\*\* Mediterranean Echoes — Ephemeral Sand Sculptures
- [6] Visual documentation showing solar disk, geometric facial features, and bas-relief depth modeling.
- [7] ## Document Metadata
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- [14] Multimodal Institute
- [15] multimodal.institute

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