

Self-Portrait with Pipe and Bandaged Ear

by Jerry Ratch

His ear is swathed by a large white bandage
that runs down under the chin. Dressed in a heavy dark
green coat, buttoned at the neck.

Streaks of orange relieve the darkness of the green.
Purple and black cap on his head.
Calmly smoking a pipe.

His dark green eyes looking out at us, as loose swirls of
pipe smoke rise into the solid red background, and
yellow strokes of paint rise into the orange air.

And those eyes that continue staring out
at the world, that may be in pain.
May be in pain.

