



“HENRI MATISSE: An Enduring Fascination”

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dita Amory and Anne Dumas, et al, *Vertigo of Color: Matisse, Derain, and the Origins of Fauvism* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2023)
Karl Buchberg, et al, *Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs* (Museum of Modern Art, 2014)
Stephanie D’Alessandro and John Elderfield, *Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913-1917* (Yale University Press, 2010)
Albert E. Elsen, *The Sculpture of Henri Matisse* (Abrams, 1971)
Jack Flam (ed.), *Matisse on Art*, rev. ed. (University of California Press, 1995)
Denise Murrell, *Posing Modernity: The Black Model from Manet and Matisse to Today* (Yale University Press, 2018)
Hilary Spurling, *Matisse, the Master: A Life of Henri Matisse, The Conquest of Colour, 1909-1954* (Knopf, 2005)
“ ”, *The Unknown Matisse: The Early Years, 1869-1908* (Knopf, 1998)
Alastair Wright, *Matisse and the Subject of Modernism* (Princeton University Press, 2004)

IMPORTANT NAMES, TERMS, & CONCEPTS

modern art
abstraction
“academic” painting
Le Cateau-Cambrésis
The Académie Julian
L’École des Beaux-Arts
Le Salon
Adolphe Bouguereau
Gustave Moreau
Le Salon des Indépendants
Le Salon d’Automne
Ambroise Vollard
Fauve art
a “painterly” painting
Gertrude and Leo Stein
The Cone Sisters
Sergei Shchukin

Cubism
 Dance, as a subject
 odalisques
 life drawing
 relief sculpture

PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED (all are by Henri Matisse)

The Green Stripe (Portrait of Mme. Matisse), 1905 (National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen)
Woman with a Hat, 1905 (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art)
The Open Window, Collioure, 1905 (National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC)
The Dessert/Harmony in Red/The Red Room, 1908 (The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia)
The Joy of Life, 1905-06 (Barnes Foundation Museum, Philadelphia, PA)
The Dance (I), 1909 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)
The Dance (II), 1910 (The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia)
Odalisque series, 1920s+ (in various collections)
The Pink Nude/Large Reclining Nude, 1935 (Baltimore Museum of Art, MD)
The Backs (series of 4 bronze relief sculptures), 1909-1930 (9 complete sets at major museums in Europe and the U.S., including the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC and NYC's Museum of Modern Art)
Blue Nude series of cut paper collages, 1952 (examples in various museums; for specifics, see Buchberg exhibition catalogue listed above)
The Chapel of the Rosary--interior design, 1947-51 (Vence, France)

MATISSE: CHRONOLOGY

1869—Henri Matisse born, December 31st, in Le Cateau-Cambrésis (northern France), where his father is a grain merchant. He is educated at a lycée, in nearby Saint-Quentin.
 1887—Matisse goes to Paris, to study law. In 1887 passes his law exams and starts work as a law clerk, back in Saint-Quentin.
 1889—Matisse learns to paint, while recovering from appendicitis.
 1891—Matisse returns to Paris, this time to study painting.
 1894—A daughter, Marguerite, is born to Matisse and his companion, Caroline Joblaud.
 1895—on his 3rd attempt Matisse passes entrance exam for the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris.
 The next year, several of his paintings are exhibited at the Salon.
 1898--Matisse marries Noellie (Amélie) Parayre; together they raise Marguerite and have two sons, Jean (1899-1976)--who becomes a sculptor; and Pierre (1900-1989)--who runs an important NYC art gallery from 1931 until his death.
 1901—Matisse has work at the Salon des Indépendants, Paris. (The following year, due to extreme financial distress, he moves back in with his parents.)
 1904—Matisse's first one-man exhibit, at Vollard's Paris gallery.

- 1905—Matisse exhibits Fauve paintings in the Salon d'Automne; these are very controversial; Gertrude & Leo Stein buy one of his canvases.
- 1906—Matisse meets Picasso through the Steins. Matisse also meets Russian arts patron Sergei Shchukin; visits Algeria; buys his first African sculpture; makes his first lithograph.
- 1908—Matisse publishes *Notes of a Painter*; first NYC exhibition (at Alfred Stieglitz's "291" gallery); opens an art school (active through 1911).
- 1909—Matisse is commissioned to make two large paintings (*Music and Dance*) for Shchukin's Moscow home.
- 1910—Matisse's father dies; he visits southern Spain; sees exhibit of Islamic art.
- 1913—Has works in NYC's notorious Armory Show.
- 1914—World War I begins. At 45, Matisse is too old for military service.
- 1916—Matisse begins working with an Italian artist's model, Lorette (through 1918).
- 1917—Matisse begins spending his winters in Nice.
- 1919—Matisse paints his first *Odalisques*.
- 1920—Matisse designs costumes and sets for the ballet *Le Chant du Rossignol*. Matisse's mother dies. He begins working primarily with the artist's model Henriette Darricarrère (through 1927).
- 1921—Matisse has his first painting purchased by a French museum.
- 1923—Matisse's daughter marries Georges Duthuit, a French art critic/historian.
- 1925—Matisse is appointed Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.
- 1927—Matisse wins First Prize at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh.
- 1928—Matisse's long-estranged wife, Amélie, comes to Nice and lives with him for an extended period.
- 1930—Matisse spends three months (without his wife) in Tahiti; also visits his U.S. patrons, the Cone sisters and Dr. Albert Barnes.
- 1934—Matisse makes illustrations for James Joyce's *Ulysses*.
- 1935—Matisse begins working with Russian refugee Lydia Delectorskaya (1910-1998) as a model; she is his secretary/companion, for the rest of Matisse's life.
- 1938—Matisse starts making colored paper cutouts, as finished works of art.
- 1939—World War II begins. Matisse is designated a "Degenerate" artist by the Nazis. He is legally separated from his wife.
- 1941—Matisse has surgery for abdominal cancer. Becomes friends with a young nurse who later becomes a Dominican nun, Sister Jacques-Marie, in whose honor he designs the decorations for a Chapel at Vence, in southern France--near Nice.
- 1943—Matisse rents a villa in Vence.
- 1946—Matisse is elevated to the rank of Commander, in the French Legion of Honor.
- 1947—Matisse publishes the book, *Jazz*, for which he creates both illustrations and text.
- 1948—Matisse starts work on the Vence Chapel (he completes it in 1951).
- 1950—start of the Korean War. Matisse wins the Grand Prize at the Venice Biennale.
- 1951—Matisse has a major retrospective exhibition at NYC's Museum of Modern Art.
- 1952—The Matisse Museum is established in his hometown of Le Cateau, France.
- 1953—Matisse's first all-cutouts exhibition takes place, in Paris.
- 1954—Matisse dies in Nice, of a heart attack, on November 3rd (age 84).

THE MAIN WOMEN IN MATISSE'S LIFE

[N.B. For interesting, related information see Hilary Spurling's article, "Matisse and His Models," in the *Smithsonian Magazine*, October 2005.]

1. Caroline Joblaud (1895-1898) was Matisse's girlfriend during the late 1800s; their daughter Marguerite was born in 1894.
2. Amélie Noellie Parayre (1872-1958) was Matisse's wife. They married in 1898 and were legally separated in 1939. The couple had two sons: Jean (1899-1976) and Pierre (1900-1989).
3. Lydia Delectorskaya (1910-1998) was a Siberian refugee, originally hired to help nurse Mme. Matisse in 1932. She modeled for Matisse and was his assistant, from 1935 until his death.

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