

HENRI MATISSE | COLOUR & COLLAGE

Matisse said that he was never truly expressing himself until he started to work with collage. His cut-outs comprise some of his most famous work and also represents the artist at his most expressive, despite being restricted by age and movement.

He called this, 'Drawing with scissors'.

In true Lavender Leonardos style we will be combining his painting 'Open Window, Collioure' with some of his more contemporary collage. (Duration 1hour 30minutes - Part two coming next week)

YOU WILL NEED

- HB Pencil
- Colouring pencils
- x1 A4 Paper
- x2 A5 Paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors

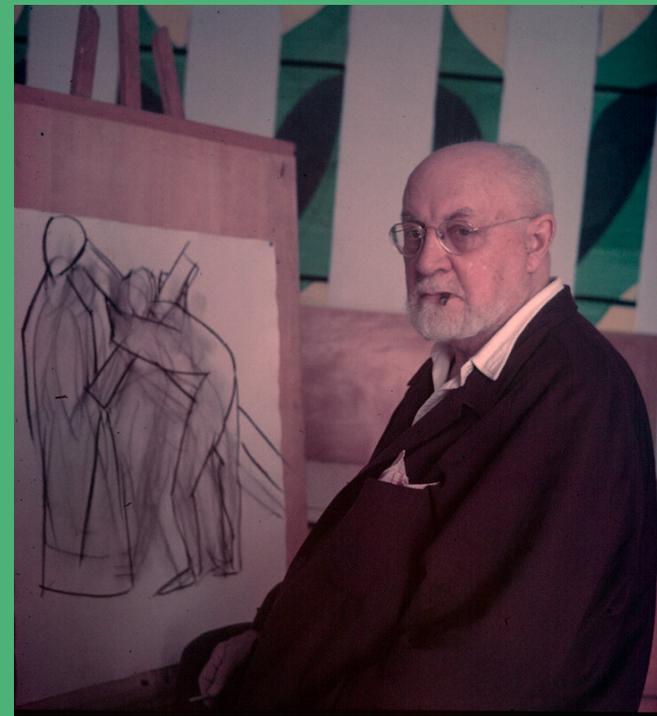


WHO WAS HENRI MATISSE?

Born: 1869 in Le Cateau-Cambrésis, a northern French town.

He was known as a painter, sculptor, draftsman, and printmaker. Celebrated along side Pablo Picasso, he was seen as a revolutionary artist who pushed boundaries within the visual arts. His work, as you will see spans over many mediums, styles and colours.

He once said he longed to unite colour and line within his work. Lets see how he did that.



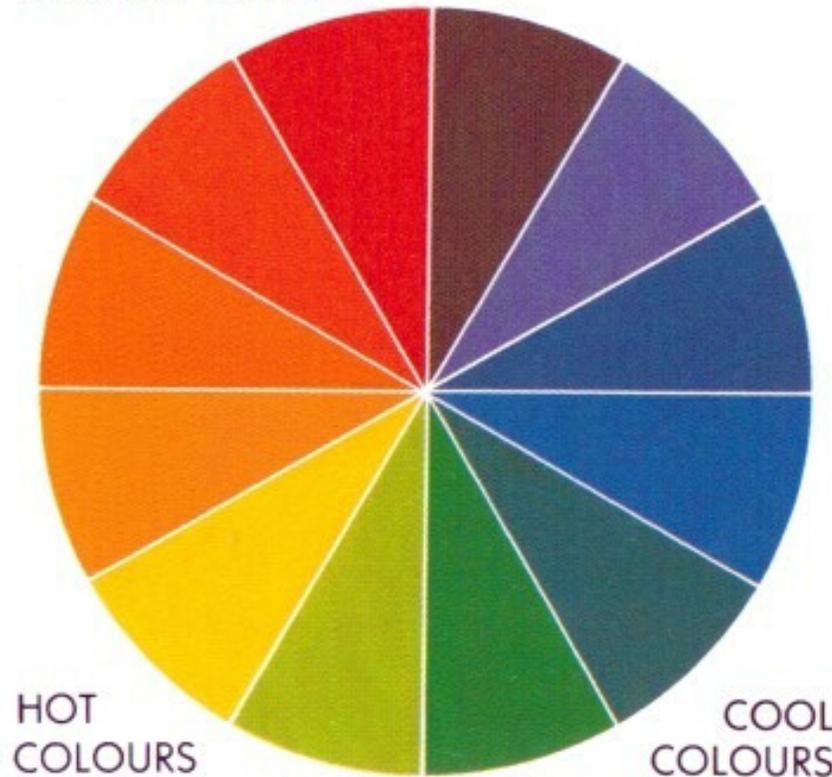
COMBINING HIS LOVE OF COLOUR, SCENERY AND COLLAGE!

Have a look at the colours in this painting. Where has he used complimentary colours? Can you remember we said; Cool colours tend to recede in the landscape, or seem further away, where as warm colours advance, or appear closer.



'Open Window, Collioure', a small but explosive work, it is celebrated as one of his most important early paintings. It was painted in Collioure, a small town on the Mediterranean coast of France in the summer of 1905.

Colour wheel



Strong contrasts



Blue Orange



Red Green



Violet Yellow



TASK ONE:

- Take an A4 piece of paper and fold it in half, we are only using one side for this task.
- Using your colouring pencils, create a colour chart of Matisse's painting 'Open Window, Collioure' (above) Not all the colours will be in your set, so you will have to blend.

TIPS:

- The simplest approach to blending colours together by layering one colour directly over the other. Use light pressure and apply each layer smoothly, just how we did with our pencil shading in our last worksheet.
- Burnishing: This is when you add white or a lighter colour on top of multiple layers of colour with heavy pressure.



Remember:

Experiment! This doesn't have to be perfect, and there is no right or wrong way of doing this. It's all about seeing how colours react when layered on top of each other. Some may surprise you!

COMBINING HIS LOVE OF COLOUR, SCENERY AND COLLAGE!

At the end of his career, Matisse began creating compositions using cut paper. He began "drawing with scissors" after some health issues left him confined to a wheelchair, and his restricted movement made it too difficult for him to paint.



You can see in Matisse's artwork to the right, his interest in bright colours. He has arranged complementary colours alongside each other to create a vibrant effect. These colours are in fact very similar to the ones in 'Open Window, Collioure'



The shapes Matisse used are all unique, from large regular shapes to detailed obscure ones. He has created a composition that flows, yet effortlessly forms a scene that is playing out in front of us.



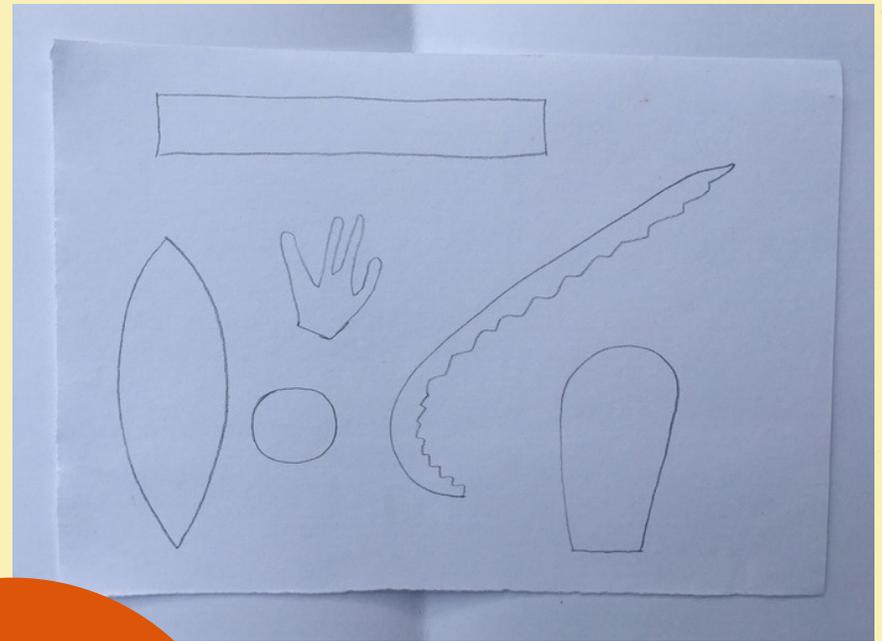
'The Sorrows of the King' 1958

"Cutting directly into colour reminds me of a sculptor's carving into stone."— Henri Matisse



TASK TWO:

- Draw 6 shapes from Matisse's 'The Sorrows of the King' onto a piece of A5 paper.
- Colour in each shape, making sure you're taking the shades from your colour chart. (you're aiming for one tone, nothing fancy)
- Cut your shapes out.



Tip:

Don't draw them too small, fill your page!



When you are done cutting the shapes, play around with the different arrangements. (Don't stick down just yet)

Think about:

- Complimentary colours
- The relationship between each shape
- The composition



Composition:

It's the placement or arrangement of the visual elements, such as figures, trees, and so on in a work of art.



Now repeat task 2!

This time using the shapes that you see around you. This could be anything from objects in your kitchen, ornaments, house plants and many more!

- Draw
- Colour
- Cut



TASK THREE:

Once you have cut out all your shapes, start experimenting again, this time with all of them. As well as thinking about colours, relationship and composition, also think about negative shapes.

All shapes can be described as either positive or negative:

- Positive shapes are the shapes of actual objects.
- Negative shapes are the areas between these objects.

The way positive and negative shapes act together creates the atmosphere of a composition.



Though much of Matisse's work, looks as if it might have been executed with effortless ease, Matisse cautioned that this effect was only an "apparent simplicity." In reality, he laboured exactingly to achieve the "art of balance, of purity and serenity".



When everything is in the right place, glue each shape to the opposite side of your colour chart.

Matisse said he was drawing with scissors because his cutting directly into colour, abolishing the conflicts – between colour, line, emotion and execution – that had slowed him down all his life.

Hmmmm that's something to think about, I'm going to leave you with that!

Next Time.....

You've just finished part one of two, so put this project somewhere safe for next week. You may already have a slight idea where we are going with this.....? All i'm going to say is, start looking out of your windows!