

HENRI MATISSE: THE CUT-OUTS

a guide for families

This guide to the exhibition is full of questions. These are for you to talk about in your group – it's not a quiz with right answers. Look out for other people using this guide. Maybe you'll want to compare notes as you explore.

ROOM 1

Matisse said that working with cut paper rather than paint made him **look at the world differently**.

Here are two artworks with the same title, showing the same objects. What differences do you notice between: the materials Matisse used? where things are placed? your reaction to each one?

After the exhibition, go to Open Studio ('The Object is an Actor') on Level 0 to **make your own still life** in our temporary drawing studio. Open on weekends, and Thursdays and Fridays during school holidays



ROOM 6

Most of the works in this room are quite **small**. Think about how it feels to look at them, how **close** you need to be to see their **details**. There are some much bigger works coming up soon.

ROOMS 2 AND 3

Matisse **loved dance and music**. In Room 2 you can see his designs for the costumes and set for a ballet. His book – called *Jazz* – is in Room 3. Jazz musicians often add their own creative response to a tune rather than strictly following a score: improvising. Matisse felt this was what he was doing making this book. Choose an artwork - do different **colours** or parts of the picture make different **sounds** or inspire different **movements**?

ROOM 5

Matisse called some of the cut-out shapes in the big cluster in this room **masks**. Which cut-out would you choose as **your mask**? Which one is closest to **your mood** today?

ROOM 4

Matisse made these two big works to remember a visit to the island of Tahiti where he loved swimming in the warm sea and admiring the 'stupendous fish'. Starting with one paper bird, he kept adding more **creatures and plants from the sea and sky**, covering two walls of his flat. As you look at these works, imagine you're under the sea.

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Tate has extensive family events programmes, with regular, special and holiday activities.

Visit tate.org.uk/learn/families to find out more.

Under 12s can visit any temporary exhibition free of charge when accompanied by an adult.

ROOM 14

This is the final room of the exhibition – a last chance to gather **inspiration** for making your own cut-outs. This guide could make a good material to start off with...

We'd love to display your cut-out online in the Tate Kids Gallery: kids.tate.org.uk/mygallery



ROOM 7

Matisse was working on **huge designs for a chapel**, but wasn't strong enough to stand on a ladder for too long. His solution? A long **bamboo 'wand'** with charcoal attached to the end. Can you think of any other ways he could have solved the problem? What helps you look at artwork that is up high?

Go to the Welcome Room ('Colour is a Liberation') on Level 0 to **explore Matisse's colours** further. Open on weekends, and Thursdays and Fridays during school holidays.

ROOM 13

Look at the **huge cut-outs** in this room and then think back to the small works you saw earlier. Does size make you look differently? Try looking from **close up and from a distance**.

ROOM 8

The paper Matisse cut up was painted with gouache, a quick-drying matt paint. The colours he used have names like **'Light Japanese Green'**, **'Deep Cadmium Yellow'** and **'Persian Violet'**. What names would you give the colours he uses in *The Thousand and One Nights*?

ROOMS 11 AND 12

Matisse had assistants who painted sheets of paper in colours he chose. When he had cut out shapes, they pinned them to the wall for him. Lots of different processes went into making the works in these rooms. Have a look and see if you can find traces of:

- slicing
- cutting
- snipping
- tearing
- ripping
- pinning
- gluing
- layering
- drawing



ROOM 9

The **four blue figures** look similar, but Matisse made three of them quickly and easily from one sheet of paper, while one of them was the result of **lots of experimenting**. Look closely and see if you can tell which one. What effect did his experimenting have?

Go to Family Gallery (*This morning I woke up from the most amazing dream...*) on Level 0 to **experience an immersive space** of different tones, textures and light. Open everyday from **24 July – 1 September 2014**.

ROOM 10

Matisse was too ill to go out, so he made *The Parakeet and the Mermaid* to bring a **whole garden into his home**. It spread around the corners of his house, the paper shapes pinned in place, fluttering in the slightest breeze – not so much a flat picture as an environment. What outdoor space would you want to bring inside your home?