

Who is Henri Matisse?

Henri Matisse was a French artist who loved **bold colours**, **simple shapes**, and **joyful designs**. Later in his life, he made beautiful pictures using **painted paper cut-outs** — he called it “**drawing with scissors**.” His art is full of **energy**, **colour**, and **movement**!

What you will make

In this tutorial, you'll create a **Matisse-style painting** with **bright, flat colours** and **fun shapes** like **leaves, stars, and dancing figures**.

You Will Need:

- White paper (A4 or bigger)
- Paint
- Paintbrushes and water
- Pencil
- Black marker for details

Step 1: Pick a Theme

Think of something **joyful** or **fun**, like:


- Under the sea 🌊
- A garden of shapes 🌸
- Dancing stars ✨
- A jungle of colour 🌿

Step 2: Paint a Bright Background

1. Paint the whole paper one bold colour — maybe **blue**, **yellow**, or **pink**.
2. Let it dry before adding shapes on top.

Step 3: Add Flat Painted Shapes

1. Use bright paints to **paint big, simple shapes** right onto the background:
 - Wiggly leaves
 - Big stars
 - Flowers
 - Circles
 - People dancing
2. Matisse used **flat colours** — no shading, just one colour per shape!

 **Tip:** Don't worry about making the shapes perfect — they should look **fun and free!**

Step 4: Arrange Shapes with Movement

1. Place your shapes so they **dance across the page**.
2. Try **overlapping** some shapes or letting them go **off the edge** for movement.

More Creative Activities

1. Make Your Own Matisse Cut-Out Art!

Matisse loved using paper and scissors to make pictures — this is called **collage**.

You will need:

- Coloured paper
- Safety scissors
- Glue
- A large piece of paper to stick everything onto

Your mission:

- Cut out different shapes: stars, swirls, leaves, hands, and circles
 - Glue them onto your page to make your own Matisse-style art
 - Use bright, happy colours!
 - Give your artwork a title — just like Matisse did!
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2. Collage the Snail!

Matisse made a famous artwork called "**The Snail**" using colourful paper shapes.

Recreate this picture using only **bright, bold coloured shapes**.

3. Flower power!

Cut some flowers and dry them under a big book, between sheets of tissue. Once they are dry, use them to create a collage of a flower vase