

## Henri Matisse

### What Did Henri Matisse Create?

Henri Matisse was a French artist who created:

- Bright and colourful **paintings** using expressive brushstrokes.
- Beautiful **cut-paper collages**, especially later in life when he could no longer paint.
- **Prints, drawings, and sculptures**, all full of movement and feeling.
- Famous works like "**The Snail**", "**Dance**", and "**The Red Room**".
- Art that focused on **joy, light, and bold design** rather than perfect realism.



### Childhood

- Henri Matisse was born on **31 December 1869** in a small town in **northern France**.
- His father was a **grain merchant**, and his mother was very creative and often painted on ceramics.
- As a child, Henri did **not enjoy school** much and didn't show early signs of being an artist.
- He originally studied to be a **lawyer** and only started painting after a long illness.
- While recovering from surgery, his mother gave him a box of paints – and he **discovered his love of art**.

### Education

- Matisse first trained to be a **law clerk**, not an artist.
- After his illness, he decided to **study art seriously** and joined a local art school.
- He later studied at the **École des Beaux-Arts** in Paris under the artist **Gustave Moreau**.
- Matisse copied **Old Master paintings** in museums to learn techniques.

- He also experimented with **new styles** and **bold colours**, which shocked some teachers!

## Career

- Matisse became the **leader of the Fauvist movement**, known for wild colours and expressive painting.
- His use of **bright, unrealistic colours** made him both famous and controversial at first.
- He worked as a **painter, sculptor, and printmaker** throughout his long career.
- In later life, when he became ill and could no longer stand at an easel, he invented "**painting with scissors**"—cutting out bold shapes from coloured paper.
- He designed a famous chapel in **Vence, France**, called the **Chapelle du Rosaire**, filling it with stained glass and murals.
- His cut-outs became some of his most loved and celebrated works.

## Quotes from Henri Matisse

“Creativity takes courage.”

“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”

“What I dream of is an art of balance, of purity and serenity.”

“Drawing is like making an expressive gesture with the advantage of permanence.”

## Famous Works

Here are some of his most famous artworks:



**The Snail**



**Icarus**



**Woman with a Hat**