



Henri Matisse: Cut-outs, Drawing With Scissors

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Drawing with scissors: The revolutionary late-period work by Matisse

Towards the end of his monumental career as a painter, sculptor, and lithographer, an elderly, sickly Matisse was unable to stand and use a paintbrush for a longer period of time. In this late phase of his life—he was almost 80 years of age—he developed the technique of ‘carving into color’, creating bright, bold paper cut-outs. Though dismissed by some contemporary critics as the folly of a senile old man, these *gouaches découpées* (gouache cut-outs) in fact represented a revolution in modern art, a **whole new medium that re-imagined the age-old conflict between color and line.**

This **fresh, standard TASCHEN edition of our original prize-winning XL volume** provides a thorough historical context to Matisse’s cut-outs, tracing their roots in his 1930 trip to Tahiti, through to his final years in Nice. It includes many photos of Matisse, some rare color images, by **Henri Cartier-Bresson, Brassai,** and the filmmaker **Murnau** and text from **Matisse, Picasso,** publisher **E. Tériade,** the poets **Louis Aragon, Henri Michaux,** and **Pierre Reverdy,** and **Matisse’s son-in-law, Georges Duthuit.**

In their deceptive simplicity, the cut-outs achieved both **a sculptural quality and an early minimalist abstraction which would profoundly influence generations of artists to come.** Exuberant, multi-hued, and often grand in scale, these works are true pillars of 20th century art, and as bold and innovative to behold today as they were in Matisse’s lifetime.

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