



Get Smart with Art Lesson

Painting with Scissors/ Henri Matisse

Lesson Created by the Virgin Valley Artists Association, Mesquite, NV



The Snail (L'Escargot), 1953, (Gouache on paper, cut and pasted, on paper, mounted on canvas. Purchased with assistance from the Friends of the Tate Gallery, 1962. © 2014 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York)

For Parents: This lesson describes the life of disabled artist Henri Matisse and the contributions he made to the art world. Students will use his method of “painting with scissors” to create their own art.

Supplies Needed: 1) Scissors 2) Glue, glue stick, or tape 3) Construction paper, wrapping paper, or old magazines 4) A firmer piece of construction paper, poster board or cardboard to glue the shapes onto. If your child needs supplies for this lesson, send email to lindaharrisvva@gmail.com.

For Students:

Henri Matisse was born in 1869 in northern France. Matisse did not show much interest in art during his childhood. He later went to school in Paris to become a lawyer. When he was 20, Matisse became very ill with an attack of appendicitis. While he was recuperating, his mother bought some art supplies for him. Matisse found art to be a “kind of paradise,” and decided to become an artist. Matisse took lessons and first created art to look realistic, much like photographs. But then he developed his own style called Fauvism. Fauvism was a style



which used bright colors in places where they were not typically seen.

For example, a woman’s face might be painted green and yellow.

Matisse was also a draftsman, sculptor and printmaker, but he’s best known for his paintings. Later in his life, Matisse became ill with cancer and needed surgery. After his surgery, he was only able to be in a wheelchair or a bed. He was no longer able to paint. He decided to create art from paper cutouts. He would arrange the shapes (the positive spaces) along with the cuttings that fell on the floor (the

negative spaces) to form pieces of art. Sometimes his art was the size of a room. Matisse died

in 1954. He lived to be 84.



The Sheaf (La Gerbe) by Henri Matisse, 1953. (Maquette for ceramic realized 1953. Gouache on paper, cut and pasted, on paper, mounted on canvas. Collection University of California, Los Angeles. Hammer Museum. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney F. Brody. © 2014 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York)

Now it's your turn. Create your own artwork in Matisse's style. Cut out pieces of brightly colored paper and arrange the positive and negative shapes on the firmer cardboard. Use glue or tape to stick the pieces down and create your design. Be sure to sign your work!

If you would like to learn more about Henri Matisse, you can read about him in the following books.

[Matisse's Garden](#) by Samantha Friedman

[Matisse King of Color](#) by Lawrence Anholt

[Matisse for Kids](#) by Margaret E. Hyde

** This lesson was designed and written by Norma Sachar and Linda Harris, VVAA members.