

## Introduction

The exhibition traces developments over Henri Matisse's career with more than 300 important drawings, prints, illustrated books and paper cut-outs, and demonstrates the centrality of drawing to Matisse's oeuvre.

### Relevance to students' learning

Students will:

- describe, analyse, interpret and judge art works
- create art works that demonstrate personal style or imagery
- create and discuss art works that support and challenge specific beliefs or traditional approaches to art
- and complete activities in order to understand the impact of visual art on society.

### The studio

Matisse created much of his work in his drawing studio; many images of the studio and objects contained in it can be seen throughout the exhibition. He would begin his day with what he considered 'warm-up exercises', that is, drawing his environment: flowers, objects and women.

Matisse experimented with many different styles throughout his lifetime, showing that painting could be created with many media, including fragile materials, paper, cardboard,

glass and tile. He was able to synthesise his thoughts through experimentation with paper cut-outs — a technique that was to become an incredibly important part of Matisse's aesthetic and legacy. Through decoupage and collage, Matisse cut out forms in the same way that he drew, and he drew in the same way that he sculpted forms. The use of different media enabled Matisse to associate drawing with three-dimensional art, creating lines by cutting-out, overlapping and creating depth.

### The Drawing Room

As part of the exhibition 'Matisse: Drawing Life', the Gallery of Modern Art's Long Gallery has been transformed into a large-scale drawing studio inspired by the art and working environments of Matisse. Changing displays, including still life arrangements, live performances and models, will engage your students in the creative activity of drawing.

**Site-specific architectural murals** by contemporary French artist Christophe Cuzin can be seen in Gallery 1.1. More information about the artist is available on the internet:  
<http://cuzin.canalblog.com/archives/commandes/index.html>  
<http://cuzin.canalblog.com/archives/expositions/index.html>

## Curriculum Summary

### Subject areas

#### Visual art

Students will:

- analyse the structure, content and technical features of drawings in 'Matisse: Drawing Life' to understand characteristics of Henri Matisse's personal style
- and consider the way Henri Matisse's work uses imagery from every day and cultural ephemera.

#### English

Students will:

- demonstrate and analyse the relationship between audience, subject matter, purpose and text type
- consider how texts can reflect an artist's point of view, beliefs and cultural understandings
- and examine the way non-literary texts entertain, evoke emotion and develop themes.

## In the Classroom

### Ask your students to complete the following:

- Research Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. Explain how Matisse drew reference from classical drawing techniques.
- Research different printmaking techniques including etching, linocut, lithograph and aquatint.
- Matisse experimented with different mediums and revisited the same subject matters throughout his practice. Revisit the portrait drawing of your classmate you completed in the exhibition. Recreate the portrait three more times using watercolour, linocut and a third medium of your own choice (you could even create a sculpture!)

### The following YouTube clips may be useful to inspire your students about Matisse's practice:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIeIeiUNFs>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlnBcaZEGb0>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwH-eDyWm0k>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be2LBRc-k0U&feature=related>

# TEACHER NOTES (YEARS 8-12)

# MATISSE DRAWING LIFE

3 December 2011 – 4 March 2012  
Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)

## Additional Resources

### Interactive tour

You can use an iPhone or other smartphone to access images, videos, interviews and information about 'Matisse: Drawing Life'. iPhone users can download the Gallery's free app. All other smartphone users can download any QR reader to access tour information. Free wi-fi is available throughout the Gallery. Connect to 'QAGGOMAwifi'.

### Virtual tour

Learn more about the Henri Matisse drawings featured in 'Matisse: Drawing Life'. A great resource for teachers and lecturers planning a Gallery visit. It allows students to generate their own printouts with artwork images and provides questions that can be answered in the exhibition. Suitable for pre- or post-visit exploration. Available at [www.qag.qld.gov.au/education](http://www.qag.qld.gov.au/education).

### Publications

The Gallery has produced two stunning publications to accompany the 'Matisse: Drawing Life' exhibition.

*Matisse: Drawing Life* is a 356-page publication exploring Matisse's art practice and the works on paper that he made throughout his long career. RRP \$49.95 (softcover) / \$69.95 (hardcover).

*Drawing Life for Kids: My Art Journal* has been developed by the Gallery's Children's Art Centre especially for children, in association with this major exhibition, and contains 160 pages of fun drawing activities. RRP \$19.95 (softcover).

Both publications will be available for purchase from the Gallery Store, Gallery Store Modern and online at [www.australianartbooks.com.au](http://www.australianartbooks.com.au).

### Drawing Life for Kids on Tour

[www.qag.qld.gov.au/drawinglifeontour](http://www.qag.qld.gov.au/drawinglifeontour)

Children and families in regional Queensland are invited to participate in Drawing Life for Kids on Tour: Celebrating Artists, a program highlighting the creative expression of drawing. The 'On Tour' program is to be held this summer from Saturday 7 January – Sunday 22 January 2012 as part of 'Matisse: Drawing Life'.

Drawing Life for Kids on Tour will comprise an exciting range of interrelated drawing activities designed to stimulate children's imaginations and be enjoyed with family and friends.

The curriculum information included in this resource has been developed from the Assessment and Reporting Framework in Queensland, focusing on learning and assessment around the Essential Learnings and Standards © The State of Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority, 2007.

This education resource has been published for 'Matisse: Drawing Life', an exhibition organised by the Queensland Art Gallery, and held at the Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia, 3 December 2011 – 4 March 2012.

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This education resource was developed by Caitlin Pijpers and Melina Mallos, Access, Education and Regional Services, 2011.

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Exhibition organised by the Queensland Art Gallery and Art Exhibitions Australia with the exceptional participation of the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Funding for insurance has been provided through the Queensland Government Exhibition Indemnification Scheme, administered by Arts Queensland.