

MATISSE, HENRY *Woman in a Purple Coat & The Snail*



Primary Focus: Line and Color

Secondary Focus: Collage

Matisse uses dark, bold lines and strong colors in his paintings. Later in his life he moved from painting to collage.

You can always tell a Matisse painting by the black outlines and massive amounts of pattern. His use of bold colors with figures arranged tilted toward the viewer are also his unique interpretation of **interior portraits**. Perspective was not important to him instead he chose to push the background forward creating a dramatic scene for the viewer.

Matisse is considered a **Fauve** painter. Fauvism is one of the many 'isms' in art and it literally means wild beast. Review some other 'isms' you know the students have encountered. (ie. Impressionism)

Collage. Matisse used this medium at the end of his life. Information in his bio. explains. Students like his story of perseverance and the collages. **The Snail** is a great example of Matisse's 'cut outs' (collage). Measure out the large dimensions of The Snail (2864 x 2870mm).

Some questions to pose:

- In this portrait is there any perspective? you may have to review perspective.
- Why do you think he painted without perspective?
- Do you feel that this adds drama his painting?
- Where is this woman? Inside or outside. Which room?
- What types of lines and patterns do you see?
- What do these lines do to the painting?
- How do you feel about the collages and cutouts he made?
- Do you see a snail in this collage?

IN CLASS ACTIVITY SUGGESTION:

Bring cut out shapes made from bright construction paper for each student (like Matisse uses in the snail). Bring in a large piece of black construction paper. At the end of the discussion have them go to the black paper to stick on their cut out piece to complete a class collage. **Remember this must be kept very short and not turn into a big class project.**

AT HOME ACTIVITY SUGGESTION:

On a completed coloring page or an original drawing add bold, black outlines to the objects or figures to create a Matisse type work.