

Art Vocabulary

Abstract painting

Canvas

Fauvism

Gouaches decoupees

Harmony

Iconic

Motif

Modern Art/modernism

Perspective

Point of view

Realism

Studio (atelier)

COLLECTING INFORMATION ON **L'Atelier Rouge**

(These are suggestions to provoke critical thinking around this painting. Teachers may want to edit these questions according to the class).

- Where and when did Matisse create L'Atelier Rouge?
- How large is the painting?
- Where is L'Atelier Rouge hanging? (In which famous museum?)
- Describe exactly what you see in the painting.
- Although Matisse invites us to enter into his studio, his world, he is not present. Why not?
- Explain how the relative “flatness” (lack of perspective) affects you.
- Matisse once said about color: *“When I put a green, it is not grass. When I put blue, it is not the sky...the chief function of color should be to serve expression...I do not literally paint that table but the emotion it produces on me...”* The studio at Issy-les-Moulineaux was actually white. Why do you think Matisse chose to paint it red?
- State your impressions of this painting. Does it say something to you? Have your first impressions changed? If so, tell how.
- Explain what you think Henri Matisse is trying to say with this painting. (What is its meaning?)

Events of 1911 for use in Matisse Timeline (or as historical context for *L'Atelier Rouge*)

World Events:

Mexican Revolution

Chinese Republic proclaimed. Sun Yat-sen named first president.

Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole

First time airplanes used in aerial bombing

International tensions increase, World War I will begin in three years.

Science:

Description of the atom

Discovery that human genes carrying specific traits are inherited

Chevrolet and Ford cars are mass produced on assembly lines.

Cars and trucks are beginning to replace the horse, especially in cities

Some telephone service in urban areas.

Electricity (power) in cities, large towns, not much in rural areas.

Social History:

First Monte Carlo Car Rally

First International Women's Day, although in most of the world, women cannot vote and do not have the same rights and privileges as men.

Women's clothes reach to ankles. Their hair is long and hats, v. large. They do not wear trousers or shorts. When horseback riding, they sit side saddle, wearing a "riding" skirt.

Jeans, as we know them, have not been invented.

Average life expectancy in France is around 50 years. (Same for Canada).

Outhouses still the norm in rural areas

Bath usually once a week in a tub. Hot water showers, scarce.

Art:

Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque paint in Cubist style.

Henri Matisse creates several famous paintings, including *L'Atelier Rouge*, *The Pink Studio*, *Interior with Aubergines* and *The Painter's Family*.

In Canada, The Group of Seven, begins painting landscapes

Emily Carr's early paintings influenced by French artists

Art Vocabulary

abstract painting-

A style of painting without representational intentions; having little or no resemblance to natural appearances.

canvas -

A surface prepared for painting, usually oil. For this reason, canvas is sometimes a synonym for “oil painting”.

fauvism -

An early 20th century French art style, often associated with Henri Matisse, that deals with use of intense color in bold and arbitrary ways. The word *fauve* means wild beast. The movement lasted only three years but its influence has been of lasting significance.

gouaches decoupees –

Paper cutouts, often made into a collage. Henri Matisse pioneered this art form in the 1940's when he was no longer able to stand in front of an easel to paint for long periods of time.

harmony -

Agreement between parts of a design or composition, giving unity and an aesthetically pleasing whole.

iconic -

An adjective coming from the word *icon* (a religious image) nowadays often a reference to something or somebody with great cultural importance; of special status.

motif -

The theme or dominant feature in a piece of art.

Modern Art/modernism -

Art produced from the era roughly between the 1860's and the 1970's; an umbrella term used to describe the style and the ideas behind art produced during this time.

perspective -

Showing depth to a scene; depicting objects as they would appear naturally to the eye.

point of view -

A physical or emotional view, attitude, or position; standpoint. What your thoughts are about a particular thing.

realism -

With reference to art = representing things as they are in real life.

studio (atelier) -

The place, usually a room or suite, where an artist creates works of art.

Template for Timeline

1869-1910

1911-1941

1942-1954

1955 -2011

Henri Matisse

World Events

Everyday Life

Grandparents'
Lives