

19 January 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Matisse opens flood gates to SE9

Saturday 14 January 2017 saw an opening event at Gerald Moore Gallery which would brighten any miserable January. Over 350 visitors braved the cold to come and be uplifted by Matisse: Drawing with Scissors. Late works 1950-1954. The exhibition of 35 lithographic prints that were overseen by the great man himself, though published in 1958, after his death. The colours used are so strong that Matisse was advised by his doctors to wear sunglasses.

Is this the seedling of the spread of the thriving art scene deeper into South East London? More queues of visitors are expected for the next three Saturdays, particularly among local residents who are keen to see for themselves a show that has been critically acclaimed as one of the top five exhibitions to visit in the UK and top ten cultural events this month. SE9, a lesser-known corner of SE London, is undergoing a quiet artistic revolution. A number of creative initiatives have sprung up over the last year, including the first ever Eltham Art Awards in November 2016. SE9 is being tipped as the latest creative hub to emerge in the vibrant SE London scene.

Highlights of the exhibition of lithographs made by the artist just days before his death in 1954, include his iconic Blue Nudes series and The Snail, some of the most celebrated images ever made by the artist. Matisse: Drawing with Scissors (A Hayward Touring Exhibition from the Southbank Centre) is open to the public on Saturdays at Gerald Moore Gallery until 11 February 2017 10am – 4pm. Viewing outside these hours is by appointment only.

The French painter, sculptor and designer, Henri Matisse (1869-1954) was one of the 20th century's most influential artists. His vibrant works are celebrated for their extraordinary richness and luminosity of colour and his spectacular paper cut-outs were his final triumph.

'There is no gap between my earlier pictures and my cut-outs', Matisse wrote; 'I have only reached a form reduced to the essential through greater absoluteness and greater abstraction'.

Matisse continued creating highly original works into his eighties. For his cut-outs he used paper hand-painted with gouache, which he carved into with scissors: 'the paper cut-out allows me to draw in the colour ... Instead of drawing the outline and putting the colour inside it...I draw straight into the colour'.

The lithographic reproductions in this exhibition are taken from a special double issue of Verve, a review of art and literature, published by Matisse's friend, the critic and fine art publisher Tériade, in 1958, four years after Matisse's death. The publication was planned during Matisse's lifetime and the first lithographic plates were prepared under his direction a few days before he died.

Matisse began his working life as a lawyer, before going to Paris to study art in 1890. At first strongly influenced by the Impressionists, he soon created his own style, using brilliant, pure colours, and started making sculptures as well as paintings. In 1905 he and his colleagues were branded the Fauves (wild beasts) because of their unconventional use of colour, and it was during this time that he painted his celebrated Luxe, Calme et Volupté (Luxury, Tranquillity and Delight).

[See Over](#)

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GERALD MOORE GALLERY

Gerald Moore Gallery opened in 2012 as a centre for modern and contemporary art with learning at its heart. Set within the grounds of Eltham College, this unique gallery brings together a rich mix of people to create a new learning community, offering innovative learning opportunities for all ages and fostering meaningful experiences with art. Every exhibition is FREE.

In unison with the exhibitions, our Outreach programme works with local community groups, teachers and schools, creating lasting relationships with our locality. We believe that the benefits of engaging with art are huge: building confidence; encouraging creativity; respecting others; problem solving; and resilience.

THE HAYWARD GALLERY

For over 40 years, the Hayward Gallery has played a key role in creating imaginative, high profile exhibitions in London and, through Hayward Touring Exhibitions, within the UK. Both Hayward Touring and the Arts Council Collection are managed by the Hayward Gallery on behalf of Arts Council England, and add to the Hayward's distinctive national remit.

The Hayward Gallery is a constituent part of Southbank Centre, the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. Each year the Hayward Gallery presents up to five major art exhibitions as well as Hayward Touring exhibitions in more than 100 venues around the country.

Matisse: Drawing with Scissors

A Hayward Touring Exhibition

Captions for press images

Henri Matisse

Fleurs de neige (Snow Flowers), 1951,

Gouache découpée

173,1 x 81cm

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Henri Matisse

L'Escargot (The Snail), 1952-53

Gouache découpée

286 x 287cm

© DACS -

Henri Matisse

La Chevelure (Flowing Hair), 1952

Gouache découpée

108 x 80 cm

© DACS

Henri Matisse

Nu aux oranges (Nude with Oranges), 1952-53,

Gouache découpée and India ink

155 x 108cm

© DACS

Henri Matisse

Nu bleu II (Blue Nude II), 1952

Gouache découpée

116,2 x 88,9cm

© DACS

Henri Matisse

Souvenir D'Océanie (Memory of Oceania), 1952-53

Pencil on gouache découpée

286,4 x 288,4cm

© DACS

Henri Matisse

Tristesse du Roi (Sorrow of the King), 1952

Gouache découpée

292 x 386cm

© DACS

Henri Matisse

Végétaux (Vegetation), 1952

Gouache découpée

175 x 81cm

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