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The Greatest Painters of the world : From impressionism to surrealism and abstract: Henri MATISSE



Directed by Jacques VICHET A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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Henri Matisse was a French painter, illustrator and sculptor. He was the leader of the Fauvist movement (Fauvist/Fauvism??) and Pablo Picasso, his friend, considered him as his great rival.

He painted his first painting 'Still Life with Books » in June 1890.

Soon afterwards, he went to Paris and entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, where he worked in the atelier of Gustave Moreau.

Moreau encouraged his students to think their painting, to dream it, to go beyond the technical skill.

Like his codisciples Georges Rouault and Simon Bussy, Matisse was excited by this vision of painting and intended to develop his own, according to his own individuality.

Matisse began working in Paris in 1900, at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière, under Antoine Bourdelle.

He also worked at the atelier of Eugène Carrière. He exhibited his work at the Salon des Indépendants in Paris (1901) and participated in the very first Salon d'Automne (1903).

He also exhibited his works in 1904 at Ambroise Vollard.

Matisse met the Japanese painter Yoshio Aoyama, who also lived in Nice, in the Cimiez district, and the latter became his disciple.

According to Matisse, Aoyama was a master of color, he coined the term «Aoyama blue ».

In 1919, Igor Stravinsky and Sergey Diaghilev commissioned him to design the costumes and sets for the London performance of the ballet The Song of the Nightingale.

At the age of 80, he created a major artwork centered on collage, by using paper cutouts. He wanted to have the same fluidity with a pair of scissors as with a paintbrush. His pictorial skills helped him reclaim the rhythm he had developed in painting.

In 1952 the Matisse Museum was inaugurated in Cateau-Cambresis, the artist's native city.