

# Fauvism

## Information:

- Fauvism started in 1905, and included artists such as **Henri Matisse, André Derain** and **Georges Braque**.
- The name "Fauvism" originates from the french "**les fauves**" (English: *wild beasts*). The expression was coined by famous art critic Louis Vauxcelles when he saw Matisse's artwork exhibited in 1905. He saw the unnatural palette as the work of **Fauves**.
- The movement occurred in the early 20th century (1905-1910) which involved favouring passionate brushstrokes and vibrant colours over a realistic presentation.
- These colours were applied straight from the tube as a synthetic colour creating a bright, vibrant and abstract painting.
- **Fauvism's main and radical goal was to separate colour from its descriptive, representational purpose.**



Henri Matisse - *Landscape at Collioure*

## Contextual - what was around at the time:

1. Other periods that occurred at the same time:
  - a. The Rose Period - Picasso's movement.
  - b. Cubism
  - c. Expressionism
2. Other events that occurred at the same time:
  - a. The Russian Revolution
  - b. The beginnings of The Great War
  - c. Exploration - Man is able to go to both North and South Pole.
  - d. The King of Britain dies after ruling for nine years.
3. Pictures of major European cities at the time:



Paris in 1907



London in 1907



Madrid in 1907

## Painters and Paintings:

Influential painters of the Fauvist movement included:

- Henri Matisse
- Henri Manguin
- Georges Braque
- André Derain
- Maurice de Vlaminck

### Henri Matisse

**(1869-1954)** was born on the 31st December 1869 in France. He was born into a wealthy family where he was brought up by his father, who was a merchant.



*Portrait of Madame Matisse* by Henri Matisse

Matisse studied law and started working as a court administrator. **Matisse** Soon after, he began to paint and went to study in Paris where he painted still life, which was typical of the time. In 1896 he joined the Impressionist movement, which led him onto the Fauvist movement and understanding colour.

**Henri Manguin** was born on the 23rd March 1874 in France. He started painting as a student under Gustave Moreau in Paris. He was influenced by Impressionism, in which he loved to use vibrant colours, which led him into Fauvism, which helped to encapsulate the essence of Fauvism. He died 25th September 1949.

**Georges Braque** was born on the 13th May 1882. He was brought into the artistic

world as a sculptor, a printmaker, a collagist and a painter, however, he was most famous for being an art historian and a part of the fauvist movements.

**André Derain (1880-1954)** was born on the 10th June 1880. It is said that he was the "co-founder of Fauvism". He studied by himself and, due to his skill set, he was brought into contact with Matisse and Vlaminck and helped start the Fauvist movement.

**Maurice de Vlaminck (1876-1958)** was born on the 4th April 1876 in Paris and was brought up into an artistic family. His father was a violinist and his mother was a pianist. He started painting when he was around the age of 20, and was considered one of the major figures in Fauvism along with Matisse and Derain.

Some examples of paintings painted during the period:



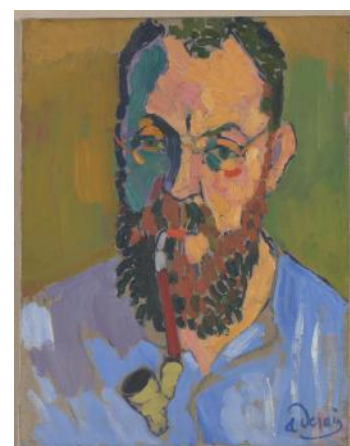
*Woman with a hat* by Henri Matisse



*Bridge at Chatou* by Maurice de Vlaminck



*Charing Cross Bridge* by André Derain



*Portrait of Matisse* by André Derain

The feature that all these paintings have in common is a new use of vibrant colours giving the image a somewhat synthetic feel. Furthermore:

1. Henri Matisse overuses green tones in the woman's face which can have two interpretations. Either this makes her look unwell or there is a sense of exaggeration which is a common idea in Fauvism.
2. The second image also has a green line down her face, however, Matisse has used an unusual dark blue for the person's hair. This painting was disliked by most people, however, nowadays it is one of Matisse's most well known paintings.
3. Derain applied the colour straight from the tube onto the canvas which creates a sense of vibrancy and explains why the beach on the left is bright red.
4. Prior to these paintings, no painter would dare to paint with the unnatural and false colours that Derain used on the shirt of Matisse.
5. In the painting *Bridge at Chatou*, the factories are yellow which is questionable as factories are usually conveyed as brown, grey or another typically dreary colour which fits in with the idea of synthetic.