

PRESS RELEASE

EXHIBITION

Winter-Spring
2026

THE COLLECTION

From 7 February to 25 May 2026

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“The presentation is simple and carefully considered, with no pursuit of ‘effects’ [...]. In short, it is nothing like a clinical museum, but a succession of tranquil rooms [...]. Visitors should not expect to see the grand interiors of the early days, the Fauvist landscapes or the dazzling still lifes, but rather imagine that they have the chance to visit Matisse’s studio.”

Rosamond Bernier in the review *L'Œil*, September 1963

These words, taken from an article on the opening of the museum, aptly capture the singularity of this unique place.

The museum’s collection is the result of a remarkable history and was formed thanks to the generosity of Henri Matisse and his family. In 1953, a year before his death, the artist gave the City of Nice a group of works that formed the basis of the museum that is now dedicated to him, including *Océanie, la mer* (*Oceania, the Sea*) and *Océanie, le ciel* (*Oceania, the Sky*, 1946). Amélie Matisse, his wife, added to the collection in 1960 with a bequest of paintings, including *Nu au fauteuil, plante verte* (*Nude in an Armchair, green plant*, 1936-1937), and almost 100 drawings. The artist’s children – Marguerite, Jean and Pierre – and their heirs further enriched the collection by donating sculptures, engravings, illustrated books, ceramics and cut-outs, including all the preparatory works for the chasubles in the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence. The collection also includes many of the artist’s personal objects, true models and protagonists in his work.



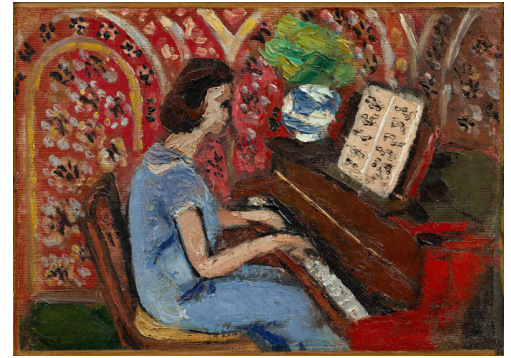
Drawings and cut-outs by Matisse pinned on the walls of his studio-apartment at 132, bd du Montparnasse, Paris, 1946
Photograph by Hélène Adant



Océania, the Sky, 1946-1947
Stencil screen printing on linen canvas



Amélie, Henri and Marguerite Matisse in the studio-apartment at place Charles-Félix,
Nice, ca. 1930
Anonymous photograph



Little Pianist, Blue Dress, Nice, 1924
Oil on canvas

Drawn directly from Henri Matisse's studios, the Musée Matisse Nice's public collection is one of the most important in the world, offering a comprehensive overview of the artist's work. It highlights the diversity of the media he used and allows us to grasp the breadth of his aesthetic experimentation, while at the same time accessing the intimate side that these "Matisse's Matisses" reveal.

More than 70 years after the death of Henri Matisse (1869-1954), it is striking to see the extent to which his work is an inexhaustible source of wonder. Extraordinarily open and diverse, the artist's work can be interpreted in multiple different ways. It is addressed to each and every one of us, and has brought the figure of Matisse into universal popular culture.

Located just a few metres from his former studio in the Hotel Régina, in Nice, the centre of the artist's creativity for over 30 years, the museum's mission is to explore Matisse's work and continue to deepen our knowledge and appreciation of it.

Since the museum's inauguration, collections have continue to grow. A chrono-thematic display, spread over four levels, illustrates their diversity and highlights recent acquisitions, including *Nature morte à la statuette africaine* (*Still Life with African Statuette*, 1907), and the deposit by the Centre national des arts plastiques of four aquatints from the late 1940s.

Exhibition proposed by Aymeric Jeudy, director of the Musée Matisse Nice



Nude in an Armchair, Green Plant, Nice, 1937
[November 1936]
Oil on canvas



Interior view of Matisse's studio-apartment at
the Régina, Nice, January 1942
Photograph by Gaston Diehl

MUSÉE MATISSE NICE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

musee-matisse-nice.org

Open every day except
Tuesdays
from 10am to 5 pm from
1 November to 31 March
and from 10am to
6pm from 1 April to
31 October

ONLINE TICKETING



MUSEUM SHOP ARTEUM

The museum shop offers
a wide selection of books
and items inspired by
Matisse and the French
Riviera. To be discovered
on site or online:
arteum.com



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HÔTEL BEAU RIVAGE
★★★★

A museum set within a major heritage site

Located on top of a hill, the Musée Matisse Nice is part of the vast heritage complex of Cimiez, the former Roman city of Cemenelum which became the central feature of Nice's development into a winter resort in the 19th and 20th centuries. The city is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The museum, inaugurated in 1963, consists of a 17th-century villa that was revamped and extended with a new wing by architect Jean-François Bodin between 1987 and 1993.

Nestled within a public garden, it stands in harmony with the surrounding area, offering visitors an engaging experience of Henri Matisse's work.

A unique collection

The collection which comprises works donated to the city by the artist and his heirs is displayed in a 1 200-square-meter exhibition space. Its presentation provides an insightful exploration into the œuvre of one of the greatest artists of the 20th century.

In close proximity to the studios where Matisse created most of his work, the museum holds a large collection of his personal objects made accessible to everyone through a chronological and multidisciplinary curatorial approach which sparks stimulating dialogues between art movements, techniques, and civilisations.



Exterior view of the Musée Matisse Nice
Photo © François Fernandez

VISUALS FOR THE PRESS



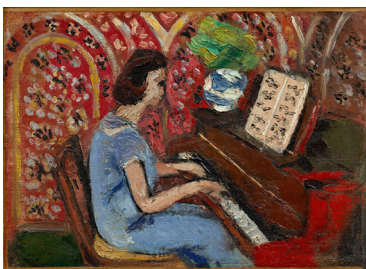
Henri Matisse, *Still Life with African Statuette*, 1907
Oil on canvas, 105 × 70 cm
Musée Matisse Nice
Gift of Barbara Duthuit, 2025
Photo © Musée Matisse Nice/François Fernandez

Drawings and cut-outs by Matisse pinned on the walls of his studio-apartment at 132, bd du Montparnasse, Paris, 1946
Photograph by Hélène Adant
Photo: Archives Henri Matisse



Henri Matisse, *Oceania, the Sky*, 1946-1947
Stencil screenprint on linen canvas, 177 × 370 cm
Musée Matisse Nice
Gift of Henri Matisse, 1953
Photo © Musée Matisse Nice/François Fernandez

Amélie, Henri and Marguerite Matisse in the studio-apartment of place Charles-Félix, Nice, ca. 1930
Anonymous photograph
Photo: Archives Henri Matisse



Henri Matisse, *Little Pianist, Blue Dress*, Nice, 1924
Oil on canvas, 22 × 29,8 cm
Musée Matisse Nice
Bequest of Madame Henri Matisse, 1960
Photo © Musée Matisse Nice/François Fernandez

Henri Matisse, *Nude in an Armchair, Green Plant*, Nice, 1937 [November 1936],
Oil on canvas, 72.5 × 60.5 cm
Musée Matisse Nice
Bequest of Madame Henri Matisse, 1960
Photo © Musée Matisse Nice/François Fernandez



Interior view of Matisse's studio-apartment at the Régina, Nice, January 1942
Photograph by Gaston Diehl
© Archives Frédéric Altmann

PRESS RELEASE

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