

Henri Matisse

Quotes

Art, Color, Artist, Expression, Feelings, Drawing, Painting, Effort, Mean, Mind, Inspirational, Light, Dream, Reality, Running, Cutting, Ideas, Looks, Tree, Blue

There are always flowers for those who want to see them.

~Henri Matisse

Creative people are curious, flexible, and independent with a tremendous spirit and a love of play.

~Henri Matisse

Don't wait for inspiration. It comes while one is working.

~Henri Matisse

Derive happiness in oneself from a good day's work, from illuminating the fog that surrounds us.

~Henri Matisse

The essential thing is to work in a state of mind that approaches prayer.

~Henri Matisse

Color was not given to us in order that we should imitate Nature. It was given to us so that we can express our emotions.

~Henri Matisse

Ever since there have been men, man has given himself over to too little joy. That alone, my brothers, is our original sin. I should believe only in a God who understood how to dance.

~Henri Matisse

The artist begins with a vision - a creative operation requiring effort. Creativity takes courage.

~Henri Matisse

I wouldn't mind turning into a vermilion goldfish.

~Henri Matisse

Don't try to be original. Be simple. Be good technically, and if there is something in you, it will come out.

~Henri Matisse

Nothing can be accomplished without love.

~Henri Matisse

Drawing is putting a line around an idea.

~Henri Matisse

Impressionism is the newspaper of the soul.

~Henri Matisse

The artists must see all things as if he were seeing them for the first time. All his life he must see as he did when he was a child.

~Henri Matisse

When I paint green, it doesn't mean grass; when I paint blue, it doesn't mean sky.

~Henri Matisse

My pictures are made up of four or five colors that collide with one another.

~Henri Matisse

A certain blue enters your soul. A certain red has an effect on your blood-pressure.

~Henri Matisse

I never retouch a sketch: I take a canvas the same size, as I may change the composition somewhat. But I always strive to give the same feeling, while carrying it on further.

~Henri Matisse

Drawing is like making an expressive gesture with the advantage of permanence.

~Henri Matisse

A certain blue enters your soul

~Henri Matisse

To look at something as though we had never seen it before requires great courage.

~Henri Matisse

Hatred, rancor, and the spirit of vengeance are useless baggage to the artist. His road is difficult enough for him to cleanse his soul of everything which could make it more so.

~Henri Matisse

We ought to view ourselves with the same curiosity and openness with which we study a tree, the sky or a thought, because we too are linked to the entire universe.

~Henri Matisse

Cezanne, you see, is a sort of God of painting.

~Henri Matisse

Art should be something like a good armchair in which to rest from physical fatigue.

~Henri Matisse

He who loves, flies, runs, and rejoices; he is free and nothing holds him back.

~Henri Matisse

I've been forty years discovering that the queen of all colors is black.

~Henri Matisse

An artist is an explorer. He has to begin by self-discovery and by observation of his own procedure. After that he must not feel under any constraint.

~Henri Matisse

Art is an escape from reality.

~Henri Matisse

Creation begins with vision.

~Henri Matisse

It is not enough to place colors, however beautiful, one beside the other; colors must also react on one another. Otherwise, you have cacophony.

~Henri Matisse

The effort to see things without distortion takes something like courage and this courage is essential to the artist, who has to look at everything as though he saw it for the first time.

~Henri Matisse

Another word for creativity is courage.

~Henri Matisse

Beauty comes from the balance between two and three dimensions, between abstraction and representation - I seek the equilibrium behind changing appearances.

~Henri Matisse

Cutting straight into color reminds me of the direct carving of the sculptor.

~Henri Matisse

Purer colors... have in themselves, independently of the objects they

serve to express, a significant action on the feelings of those who look at them.

~Henri Matisse

You study, you learn, but you guard the original naivete. It has to be within you, as desire for drink is within the drunkard or love is within the lover.

~Henri Matisse

There is nothing more difficult for a truly creative painter than to paint a rose, because before he can do so he has first to forget all the roses that were ever painted.

~Henri Matisse

When an artist or student draws a nude figure with painstaking care, the result is drawing, and not emotion.

~Henri Matisse

The artist has to look at life as he did when he was a child. If he loses that faculty, he cannot express himself in an original, that is, a personal way.

~Henri Matisse

A thimbleful of red is redder than a bucketful.

~Henri Matisse

It is with color that you render light, though you must also feel this light, have it within yourself.

~Henri Matisse

I don't paint things. I only paint the difference between things.

~Henri Matisse

An artist must possess Nature. He must identify himself with her

rhythm, by efforts that will prepare the mastery which will later enable him to express himself in his own language.

~Henri Matisse

The portrait is one of the most curious art forms. It demands special qualities in the artist, and an almost total kinship with the model.

~Henri Matisse

There is no interruption between my older paintings and my cutouts. Just that with an increasing sense of the absolute, and more abstraction, I have achieved a form that is simplified to its essence.

~Henri Matisse

Exactitude is not truth.

~Henri Matisse

It has bothered me all my life that I do not paint like everybody else.

~Henri Matisse

It has always bothered me that I don't paint like everyone else

~Henri Matisse

I don't know whether I believe in God or not. I think, really, I'm some sort of Buddhist. But the essential thing is to put oneself in a frame of mind which is close to that of prayer.

~Henri Matisse

When I started to paint I felt transported into a kind of paradise... In everyday life I was usually bored and vexed... Starting to paint I felt gloriously free.

~Henri Matisse

I have always tried to hide my efforts and wished my works to have a light joyousness of springtime which never lets anyone suspect the

labors it has cost me.

~Henri Matisse

The whole arrangement of my picture is expressive. The place occupied by the figures or objects, the empty spaces around them, the proportions, everything plays a part.

~Henri Matisse

I do not literally paint that table, but the emotion it produces upon me.

~Henri Matisse

From the first shock of the contemplation of a face depends the principal sensation which guides me throughout the entire execution of a portrait.

~Henri Matisse

A picture must possess a real power to generate light and for a long time now I've been conscious of expressing myself through light or rather in light.

~Henri Matisse

Above all, an artist must never be too easily satisfied with what he has done.

~Henri Matisse

Seek for the boldest color possible, content is irrelevant.

~Henri Matisse

Seeing is in itself a creative act which requires effort.

~Henri Matisse

When I eat a tomato I look at it the way anyone else would. But when I paint a tomato, then I see it differently.

~Henri Matisse

When you're out of will power you call on stubbornness, that's the trick.

~Henri Matisse

What I dream of is an art of balance.

~Henri Matisse

If I close my eyes, I see things better than with my eyes open.

~Henri Matisse

Seek the strongest color effect possible... the content is of no importance.

~Henri Matisse

A young painter who cannot liberate himself from the influence of past generations is digging his own grave.

~Henri Matisse

Truth and reality in art do not arise until you no longer understand what you are doing and are capable of but nevertheless sense a power that grows in proportion to your resistance.

~Henri Matisse

In love, the one who runs away is the winner.

~Henri Matisse

Hatred is a parasite that devours all. One doesn't build upon hatred, but upon love.

~Henri Matisse

...for whether we want to or not, we belong to our time and we share in its opinions, its feelings, even its delusions.

~Henri Matisse

A certain color tones you up. It's the concentration of timbres.

~Henri Matisse

Color exists in itself, possessing its own beauty.

~Henri Matisse

Color helps to express light, not the physical phenomenon, but the only light that really exists, that in the artist's brain.

~Henri Matisse

The energy within you is stronger than ever for being held back, compressed, and said No to.

~Henri Matisse

All my efforts go into creating an art that can be understood by everyone.

~Henri Matisse

My choice of colors does not rest on any scientific theory, it is based on observation, on feeling, on the experience of my sensibility.

~Henri Matisse

I am curious about color as one would be visiting a new country, because I have never concentrated so closely on color expression. Up to now I have waited at the gates of the temple.

~Henri Matisse

With color one obtains an energy that seems to stem from witchcraft.

~Henri Matisse

My curves are not crazy.

~Henri Matisse

To arrive is to be in prison.

~Henri Matisse

An artist must never be a prisoner. Prisoner? An artist should never be a prisoner of himself, prisoner of style, prisoner of reputation, prisoner of success, etc.

~Henri Matisse

Instinct must be thwarted just as one prunes the branches of a tree so that it will grow better.

~Henri Matisse

The chief function of color should be to serve expression as well as possible.

~Henri Matisse

What interests me most is neither still life nor landscape, but the human figure.

~Henri Matisse

It is only after years of preparation that the young artist should touch color - not color used descriptively, that is, but as a means of personal expression.

~Henri Matisse

One gets into a state of creativity by conscious work.

~Henri Matisse

I'm growing old, I delight in the past.

~Henri Matisse

You want to paint? First of all you must cut off your tongue because your decision takes away from you the right to express yourself with anything but your brush.

~Henri Matisse

With greater completeness and abstraction, I have attained a form

filtered to its essentials.

~Henri Matisse

If drawing belongs to the world of spirit and color to that of the senses, you must draw first to cultivate the spirit.

~Henri Matisse

There are flowers everywhere, for those who bother to look.

~Henri Matisse

Precision is not reality

~Henri Matisse

Jazz is rhythm and meaning.

~Henri Matisse

From the moment I held the box of colors in my hands, I knew this was my life. I threw myself into it like a beast that plunges towards the thing it loves.

~Henri Matisse

Would not it be best to leave room to mystery?

~Henri Matisse

My models, my human figures, are never like extras in an interior. They are the main theme of my work. I depend absolutely on my model.

~Henri Matisse

One must, of course, have one's entire experience behind one and not have lost the freshness of instinct.

~Henri Matisse

The things that are acquired consciously permit us to express ourselves unconsciously with a certain richness.

~Henri Matisse

You must forget all your theories, all your ideas before the subject. What part of these is really your own will be expressed in your expression of the emotion awakened in you by the subject.

~Henri Matisse

An artist is an explorer.

~Henri Matisse

Time extracts various values from a painter's work. When these values are exhausted the pictures are forgotten, and the more a picture has to give, the greater it is.

~Henri Matisse

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