

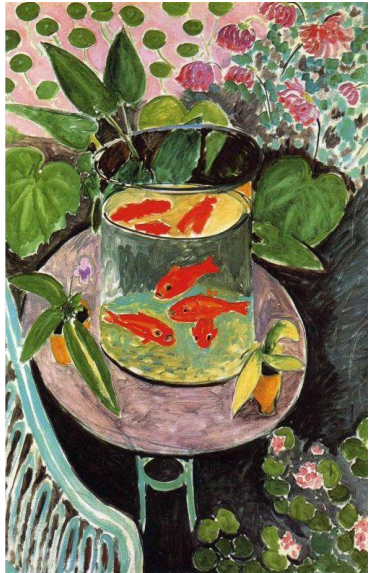


KS3 Year 8 Art Knowledge Organiser – Colour Theory in Practice

Colour Theory in Practice: An introduction to Henri Matisse.

The Goldfish, 1912

How do you make the fish the focus of the composition?



This oil on canvas painting belongs to a series that Matisse produced between spring and early summer 1912.

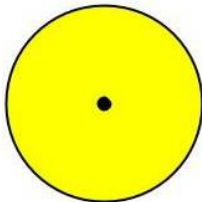
Beckoning the viewer towards the scene, the bright orange fish are central to the canvas against a colourful backdrop. The foliage as well as the ornamental railing or bench rail mimic the curves in the table on which the goldfish bowl perches. The entire composition feels balanced and the use of colours exudes a sense of soothing calm.

Artists began to become particularly aware of the significance of complementary colours after the development of scientific colour theory in the nineteenth century. This theory played an important part in the development of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism as well as Fauvism and much modern painting thereafter.

In an experiment with colour, Goethe discovered that complementary colours created after images. Goethe also pointed out that colour can impact, and be affected by, mood and emotion. Yellow and yellow-red were 'plus' colours, because they are positive and life-enhancing in character, while blues, purples and blue-greens were 'minus' colours, because they evoke anxiety and restlessness.

TEXT

TEXT



2014 Tate Modern exhibition <http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/henri-matisse-cut-outs>

1954 Matisse died in Nice, from a heart attack.

1936 - 1954 when ill health first prevented Matisse from painting, he began to cut into painted paper with scissors to make large scale images of simple shapes.

1909 Matisse produced "The Dance" inspired by images on Greek vases.

1905-1910 Matisse was part of the group of painters known as the Les Fauves (Wild Beasts).

1898 Henri goes to London to study the paintings of the Impressionist, Turner.

1889 Henri Matisse started to paint.

1869 Henri Matisse was born in France.

Keywords / Formal Elements:

Still Life	The subject matter of a still life painting or sculpture is anything that does not move or is dead.
Composition	The placement or arrangement of visual elements to create a work of art.
Fauvism	Is the name applied to the work produced by a group of artists from around 1905 to 1910, which is characterised by strong colours and fierce brushwork.
Impressionism	Developed in France in the nineteenth century and is based on the practice of painting out of doors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in a studio from sketches. Main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life.
Complementary Colours	These are pairs of colours that contrast with each other more than any other colour, and when placed side-by-side make each other look brighter.

ORNAMENTAL
Scientific Colour Theory
CANVAS Contrast
BALANCED
BOLD FOLIAGE
CUT OUTS
SATURATION