

Media release

Major Henri Matisse retrospective at the Fondation Beyeler

In autumn 2024, the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen/Basel will hold the first Henri Matisse retrospective in Switzerland and the German-speaking world in almost 20 years. Featuring over 70 works from major European and American museums and private collections, the exhibition will highlight the development and diversity of the artist's ground-breaking oeuvre. The latest in a long line of unparalleled exhibitions such as "Paul Gauguin", 2015, "Monet", 2017, and "The Young Picasso – Blue and Rose Periods", 2019, "Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage" will be on view at the Fondation Beyeler from 22 September 2024 to 26 January 2025.

Henri Matisse (1869–1954) ranks among the most significant exponents of modern art. His ground-breaking work has profoundly influenced generations of artists, from his contemporaries up to the present day. In freeing colour from the motif and simplifying forms, he redefined painting and imbued art with a hitherto unknown lightness. Matisse was also an innovator in the realm of sculpture, and in his late cut-outs he devised a distinctive interplay of painting, drawing and sculpture.

The exhibition will span the full range of the artist's career. Beginning with the early works created around 1900, it will move on to the revolutionary paintings of Fauvism and the experimental works of the 1910s, the sensual paintings of the Nice period and the 1930s, before culminating in the legendary cut-outs of the 1940s and 1950s. The wealth of significant paintings, sculptures and paper cut-outs on display will hold up to view the development and the range of Matisse's unique body of work.

Curated by Raphaël Bouvier, the exhibition is conceived as an invitation to the voyage and takes as its starting point Charles Baudelaire's famous poem of the same name from 1857. The exhibition thus invites viewers on a journey through Matisse's singular work and life, shaped by numerous travels. During his explorations of countries such as Italy, Spain, and Morocco or as far as Tahiti, the artist found ever-renewed inspiration in the nature and art of other cultures.

It will bring together iconic as well as seldom displayed works from major European and American museums and private collections, such as Centre Pompidou, Paris; National Gallery, Washington; Museum of Modern Art, New York; K20, Dusseldorf; and Baltimore Museum of Art. Key paintings will include *La Desserte (The Dinner Table)*, 1897; *Luxe, calme et volupté (Luxury, Peace and Pleasure)*, 1904; *La fenêtre ouverte, Collioure (The Open Window, Collioure)*, 1905; *Le Luxe I (Luxury I)*, 1907; *Figure décorative sur fond ornemental (Decorative Figure on an Ornamental Background)*, 1925/26; *Grand nu couché [Nu rose] (Large Reclining Nude)*, 1935; *Intérieur rouge, nature morte sur table bleue (Red interior, still life on blue table)*, 1947; and *Nu bleu I (Blue Nude I)*, 1952.

Admission

Adults: 30 CHF

Concessions for groups of 20 + visitors: 25 CHF

Admission is free up to age 25

Advance booking available from summer 2024

Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

Fondation Beyeler

The museum in Riehen near Basel is internationally renowned for its high-calibre exhibitions, its outstanding collection of modern and contemporary art, as well as its ambitious schedule of events. The museum building was designed by Renzo Piano in the idyllic setting of a park with venerable trees and

water lily ponds. It boasts a unique location in the heart of a local recreation area, looking out onto fields, pastures and vineyards close to the foothills of the Black Forest. In collaboration with Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the Fondation Beyeler is constructing a new museum building in the adjoining park, thus further enhancing the harmonious interplay of art, architecture and nature.

Further information:

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Fondation Beyeler opening hours: 10a.m. to 6p.m. daily, Wednesday 10a.m. to 8p.m.