

# Over 2`s Visual Arts activities

## Cut-outs collage, inspired by Henry Matisse



*Henry Matisse, The Snail, 1953*

### Featured artist:

Henri Matisse (31 December 1869 - 3 November 1954), one of the undisputed masters of 20th century art, was a French artist, known for his use of colour and his fluid and original draughtsmanship. He was a draughtsman, printmaker, and sculptor, but is known primarily as a painter.

With the aid of his assistants, Matisse invented a systematic approach to the technique of his cut outs. First, his studio assistants brushed gouache on sheets of white paper. Once dry, a stockpile of coloured paper were available to Matisse at any given time. He often spontaneously cut out elements and placed them into compositions. Matisse described his cut-outs process as “painting with scissors”.



### Resources needed:

- Paper sheets of various colours (painted white paper sheets can be used)
- White or black paper/card surface
- Child scissors
- Glue stick or PVA glue

**Duration:** *open ended, as long as children can keep their interest.*

### Implementation:

- Look at examples of Henri Matisse cut-outs at **[www.henri-matisse.net](http://www.henri-matisse.net)**
- Use scissors to cut random paper shapes (on paper sheets of various colours). You can watch the recommended videos below for tips on improving your scissor cutting skills. Alternatively, you can tear the paper with your fingers.
- Once you have a variety of colourful shapes available, stick them with glue on a piece of white or black paper/card.
- Look at your final artwork and talk about the arrangements you have made with the different shapes (also known as composition).

### Videos on supporting children with their scissor cutting skills:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvN3iTnBzbg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiTHp8Ac7Gg>

### Intent:

- Cut, tear and arrange paper shapes to make a collage composition.
- Develop the ability to use scissors safely and with increasing control.
- Talk about shapes and arrangements made with shapes of various colours and sizes.

**Keywords:** *cut, stick, cut-out, collage, shape, colour, composition, arrangement, arrange*

### Art dictionary

**Collage:** an artistic composition made of various materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) glued on a surface.



**Composition:** the term used to describe the arrangement of the visual elements in a painting or other artwork.

**EYFS Learning outcomes:**

Expressive Arts and Design: Exploring media and materials

(30-50 Months)

- Realises tools can be used for a purpose.

(40-60 Months)

- Manipulates materials to achieve a planned effect.
- Uses simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately.

Physical Development: Moving and Handling

(30-50 Months)

- Uses one-handed tools and equipment, e.g. makes snips in paper with child scissors.

(40-60 Months)

- Uses simple tools to effect changes to materials.
- Handles tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.

Maths

(30-50 Months)

- Shows interest in shape by sustained construction activity or by talking about shapes or arrangements.

(40-60 Months)

- Beginning to use mathematical names for 'flat' 2D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes.
- Uses familiar objects and common shapes to create and recreate patterns and build models.

