

# RHYTHM AND MEANING

The Standard Bank Gallery will be hosting an exhibition of works by Henri-Émile-Benoît Matisse (1869-1954) from 13 July-17 September. And for Federico Freschi, co-curator and Executive Dean: Faculty of Art, Design & Architecture at the University of Johannesburg, there's a lot to look forward to.

"In addition to an ongoing roster of exhibitions of work by important South African artists, the Standard Bank Gallery has previously hosted exhibitions of the works of modern masters Marc Chagall, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso," he says. "The last exhibition, *Picasso and Africa*, was held in 2006 and bringing Matisse – arguably 'the greatest of them all', as Marcel Duchamp put it – into this space a decade later is an exciting opportunity to expose a new generation of art-lovers to works of this stature."

Prolific in many media, Matisse produced a significant body of paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and artists' books. The exhibition will include a number of paintings, drawings, collages and prints covering all the dominant themes in his work, from his early Fauvist years, through his interest in exoticism and orientalism, to the paper cut-outs he produced in the last years of his life.

"Matisse is one of the most important artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, having revolutionised painting in the early 1900s by liberating colour and form," says Freschi. "As such, he's credited – with Picasso and Duchamp – as being one of the originators of modern art."



The gallery will host free public walkabouts. In addition to school groups being brought to the exhibition, there'll be travelling workshops, led by a group of art educators, to schools which are too far away to access Johannesburg.

"An exciting educational programme for pupils is being devised," says Freschi. "It will be centred on an interactive workbook that encourages children to play and experiment with various aspects of Matisse's style and subjects, while introducing them to the broader historical and social thematics that underlie his work."

• Henri Matisse: *Rhythm and Meaning* will be presented by Standard Bank in partnership with the Embassy of France and the French Institute of SA. Entry will be free of charge. – **Eugene Yiga (@eugeneYiga)**

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