

Activity Guide: Matisse Shape Masterpieces

Henri Matisse’s playful, abstract designs have become some of the most recognizable works in modern art. Bring the vibrant, abstract world of Matisse to life with a fun and easy collage activity. These pre-cut, solid-color shapes make it simple for artists of all ages to explore Matisse’s iconic style of “paper cut-outs” without the need for scissors. Perfect for classrooms, community art projects, or individual crafting sessions, this activity encourages creativity while connecting participants to art history.



Activity:

1. Start by selecting either a piece of plain copy paper or construction paper as your background. The color of the background will set the tone for your collage, so encourage participants to think about how the background interacts with the shapes they choose.
2. Using the pre-cut Roylco Matisse Collage Shapes, begin arranging the pieces on the background paper. Encourage participants to think about balance, movement, and rhythm in their compositions, just as Matisse did in his work. There’s no right or wrong way to arrange the shapes—this activity is all about personal expression!
3. Once satisfied with the arrangement, start gluing the shapes onto the background paper. Use a glue stick for quick drying or liquid glue for a more secure hold.
4. That’s it! While participants are working, you can read to them about the life and works of Henri Matisse.

This craft promotes sustainability by using organic materials and FSC-certified paper.

Supplies Needed:

- Roylco Matisse Collage Shapes
- Copy paper or construction paper for your Matisse Masterpiece base
- Glue sticks or liquid glue
- Optional: Markers, crayons, or paint for additional embellishments

Carolyn’s tip:

I did mine on white paper, but you don’t have to. It’s nice to use a black background for a big pop of color!

