



MAIRA AND MATISSE

A Guide for Families to Explore the Galleries Together



Maira Kalman's colorful illustrations of her favorite places, food, and objects are inspired by observations of life around her. She is also inspired by the work of many artists, including Henri Matisse. You can see Matisse's art in the special exhibition *Collecting Matisse and Modern Masters: The Cone Sisters of Baltimore* on the first floor of the Museum.

Let's take a look at a few of the connections between the work of Maira Kalman and Henri Matisse.

Start on the second floor in the third gallery of the Maira Kalman exhibition. Find the work called *Matisse in Nice*.

Describe what the figures are doing in this painting. This is an illustration of the artist Henri Matisse at work on a painting. He often used live models.

Do you see similarities between the image on Matisse's canvas and the way the images are drawn in the illustration?

Describe the various colors you see and where they may appear more than once in the scene.

Maira Kalman and Matisse concentrate on shape, color, and line in their art. Keep these ideas in mind as you explore the exhibitions.



Maira Kalman, *Matisse in Nice*, 2004-2005. Gouache on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

Look at the painting to your left, called *Red Room*.

What kinds of objects can you find in this room? Can you find a piano? A bird? A clock? A dog?

Maira Kalman and Matisse create scenes full of objects that show their interest in new and fascinating places.

What do you think is happening in this scene?

What kinds of images and shapes do you see on the wall of the room?

Maira Kalman also loves to collect objects. As you move through the final room of this exhibition, look closely at Maira Kalman's *Many Tables of Many Things*. What kinds of 'things' does she collect? Have you seen any of these items before?

There are many kinds of collections...

What are some objects people like to collect? Do you have a collection?



Let's go down to the first floor to look at a few works of art from the collection of **Claribel and Etta Cone**, which includes over 500 works of art created by Henri Matisse...

Go left when you enter the first gallery and find the painting by Matisse called *Yellow Pottery from Provence*.

What **shapes** can you find? How many **colors** do you see? What kinds of **lines** do you notice?

Matisse creates images that combine shapes, colors, and lines in an imaginative way. **Composition** is the placement of objects and shapes in a work of art. Matisse wants the viewer to experience a sense of balance when looking at the composition of his paintings.

Discuss how the **colors** and **shapes** balance each other in this painting.

Move into the next gallery and find the painting called *Seated Odalisque, Left Knee Bent, Ornamental Background and Checkerboard.*

In Maira Kalman's portrait of Matisse, we saw how the artist used live models to paint his figures.

Matisse also asked people to pose for his paintings.

He simplified images from real life and created lively scenes combining form, color, and pattern.

Find the painting to the right called
Interior, Flowers and Parakeets.

How many patterns do you notice?

Describe the kinds of shapes,
colors, and lines that repeat.

How do the patterns affect the mood of these two paintings?
Express the feeling you get from these scenes with your face and body.
Do you feel Joyful? Relaxed? Energetic?

Matisse used pattern to direct the viewer's eye and
to create movement in his paintings.

How do your eyes move with the rhythm of
Matisse's patterns?

**You may have noticed, earlier,
that Maira Kalman likes to
collect fabrics.**

In the next room, look closely at the many
textiles collected by the Cone sisters.

Do any of these fabric designs remind
you of Matisse's paintings? Why?

Matisse came from a family
of weavers and loved beautiful
fabrics. The patterns of the
textiles he draped in his home
often found their way into his
paintings.

**When you get home, look at an
object or scene in your house or apartment.**

How would you simplify the forms of the objects?
What types of lines would you use?

**Create your own work of art using ideas
inspired by the art of Maira Kalman and
Henri Matisse.**