

Taschen

HENHENRI MATISSE. CUT-OUTS. DRAWING WITH  
SCISSORS

Gilles Néret, Xavier-Gilles Néret

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## HENHENRI MATISSE. CUT-OUTS. DRAWING WITH SCISSORS

### Drawing with Scissors

#### **Matisse's revolutionary late-period work**

Toward the end of his monumental career as a painter, sculptor, and lithographer, an elderly, sickly Matisse was unable to stand and use a paintbrush for long. In this late phase of his life—he was almost 80 years of age—he developed the technique of “carving into color,” creating bright, bold paper cut-outs. Though dismissed by some contemporary critics as the folly of a senile old man, these *gouaches découpées* (gouache cut-outs) in fact represented a revolution in modern art, **a whole new medium that reimagined the age-old conflict between color and line.**

This **fresh edition of the first volume of our original award-winning XXL book** provides a thorough historical context to Matisse's cut-outs, tracing their roots in his 1930 trip to Tahiti, through to his final years in Nice. It includes many photos of Matisse, some rare images, by **Henri Cartier-Bresson** and the filmmaker **F. W. Murnau** and text from **Matisse**, publisher **E. Tériade**, the poets **Louis Aragon**, **Henri Michaux**, and **Pierre Reverdy**, and Matisse's son-in-law **Georges Duthuit**. In their deceptive simplicity, the cut-outs achieved both a **sculptural quality and an early minimalist abstraction which would profoundly influence generations of artists to come.** Exuberant, multi-hued, and often grand in scale, these works are true pillars of 20th-century art, and as bold and innovative to behold today as they were in Matisse's lifetime.

*“A rare and outstanding symbiosis of book art and art book.”*

— *Der Standard, Vienna*

#### **The editors:**

**Gilles Néret** (1933–2005) was an art historian, journalist, writer, and museum correspondent. He organized several art retrospectives in Japan and founded the SEIBU Museum and the Wildenstein Gallery in Tokyo. He directed art reviews such as *L'Œil* and *Connaissance des Arts* and received the Élie Faure Prize in 1981 for his publications. His TASCHEN titles include *Salvador Dalí: The Paintings*, *Matisse*, and *Erotica Universalis*.

**Xavier-Gilles Néret** taught philosophy of art and design at the ESAA Duperré and Université de Paris I Panthéon La Sorbonne. He studied the connections between philosophy and poetry with particular relation to Stéphane Mallarmé. He lives and works in Paris.

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