On the French Riviera, retracing Matisse’s footsteps

“...When I realized I would see that light every morning, I could not believe my happiness.”
“When I realized I would see that light every morning, I could not believe my happiness.”
Quoted by Georges Salle, in the preface to the exhibition catalogue Henri Matisse, Nice, 1950

When the 48-year-old Henri Matisse discovered Nice, the encounter felt like a revelation. The quality of the daylight and the sparkling Mediterranean awoke such echoes in the master colourist that he remained loyal and unshakeably devoted to the Côte d’Azur ever after. The painter was to live almost 40 years in the region around Nice, and drew from it an inspiration which is to be seen in work of great sensitivity, dedicated to meaning and beauty.

From Nice, where he lived for 27 years, to Eze, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Villefranche-sur-Mer, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, and Cagnes-sur-Mer, not forgetting his encounters with Renoir in retirement at Vence during the war, Matisse set his flamboyant imprint on this light-filled and richly coloured land.

Nice Côte d’Azur invites you to inspect the unparalleled riches of our land as you review this Modern Master’s inspired career, teeming with creativity.

Christian ESTROSI
Member of french parliament for the Alpes-Maritimes
Mayor of Nice
Chairman of the Metropole Nice Côte d’Azur
Matisse in Vence

“This work has taken me four years of constant exclusive work; it is the result of my entire active life.”

(June 1951, letter by Matisse read by Father Couturier at the inauguration of the Chapel, then printed in L’Art Sacré, no.11-12, July-August 1951)

In 1943, Matisse rented Villa Le Rêve in Vence to get away from Nice, under threat of bombing. He planned to stay only a few weeks, but, deeply touched by the prevailing light and the charm of his home, with its terrace and flowers, “the fine plumes of its palm trees that fill the windows,” he remained five years. In Vence, Matisse went to see his friends Gide and Rouveyre, and received visits from Picasso, Aragon, Breton and Bonnard. This beautiful house, which has belonged to the town since 2000, is now a home for established artists and also for amateurs who enrol for courses and have the opportunity to express their art in the surroundings which captivated Matisse. The importance of the presence of artists in Vence starting in the 20th century incited the Château de Villeneuve-Fondation Émile Hugues, in 1992, to become a haven for modern and contemporary art on the French Riviera. A donation by the Matisse family has just enriched the collection. A visit to the Foundation in its fine 14th-century lordly chateau quite naturally leads to exploring the lovely historic town of Vence. Strollers can admire the well-preserved ramparts with five remaining gates, narrow streets and houses that have survived the ravages of time, squares and fountains and ancient Roman inscriptions.

Not to be missed

■ The historic town

With its elliptical layout, Vence is one of the few towns to have preserved its ramparts, against which people were allowed to build their houses starting in the 15th-century stalls. The mediaeval town offers many interesting sights: picturesque streets, fountains (including Fontaine du Peyra), the former bishop’s palace and the Villeneuve castle-Fondation Émile Hugues.

■ Cathedral of Vence dedicated to Notre-Dame de la Nativité

First built in the 4th century on the site of an ancient Roman temple, the Cathedral acquired its present form in the 12th century. It has many listed remains, a mosaic by Marc Chagall representing ‘Moses Saved from the Water’ (baptistery), splendid 15th-century stalls and 17th, 18th and 19th-century wooden polychrome statues.
Some time before leaving Vence, Matisse agreed, out of friendship for the Dominican Sister Jacques Marie who had once posed as a model for him, to decorate the Rosary Chapel. The painter had first thought only of the windows. But he ended up working on the very design and the completion of the Rosary Chapel. This realization is his spiritual will. A major work he enjoyed calling his masterpiece, “despite all its imperfections,” a place one cannot visit without emotion. As you walk along the Boulevard Henri Matisse, all that can be seen of the Chapel is the blue-and-white tile roof and tall wrought-iron cross. Once inside, the beauty of the volumes defined by Matisse, solid white, simple and pure on the floor, walls and ceiling are fascinating. Lemon yellow (light), bright green (plant life), pure ultramarine blue (the Mediterranean sky) give the stained glass frank colours that transcend the light. Everything here is sublime harmony, majestic simplicity, so visitors can feel, in Matisse’s own words, “purified and relieved of their burdens.”

Here, Matisse painted:
- Femme à la robe blanche (Woman in a white dress)
- Intérieur rouge (Red interior)
- Nature morte sur table bleue (Still life on blue table)
- La liseuse à la table jaune (Woman reading at a dressing table, Matisse Museum collection Nice)
- Nature morte aux grenades (Still life with pomegranates, Matisse Museum collection Nice)
- Jazz (Matisse Museum collection Nice)
- Les Abeilles (Bees, Matisse Museum collection Nice)

Rosary Chapel, Vence
Altar, Virgin and Child and Way of the Cross

Things to know
- Rosary Chapel
  466, Avenue Henri-Matisse
  Tel: +33 (0)4 93 58 03 26
e-mail: dominicaines@wanadoo.fr

- Château de Villeneuve - Fondation Émile Hugues
  A haven for modern and contemporary art
  2, Place du Frêne
  Tel: +33 (0)4 93 24 24 23.
  Closed Mondays, open from 10 am to 12:30 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm.
  Guided visits available. Email: artculturepatrimoine@wanadoo.fr
  www.museedevence.com

- Villa Le Rêve
  261, avenue Henri Matisse, visible from the road to the Chapelle du Rosaire.
  No visits. Weekly painting classes offered, with lodging from April to October, without lodging from November to March. More information on www.villalerevevence.com

- Tourist Bureau
  (Office de Tourisme de Vence)
  Place du Grand Jardin (06140)
  Tel: +33 (0)4 93 58 06 38
e-mail: officedetourisme@ence.fr
  www.ence.fr

- How to get there
  By car: approximately 20km from Nice to Vence
  www.lignesdazur.com
In Cagnes-sur-Mer
Matisse met Renoir

“I look out over Nice, I am at Col de Villefranche, with the sun rising behind me. I can see the first colours appear on the mountains towards Cagnes...”

(In Correspondance Matisse-Camoin, published by Danielle Giraudy, Revue de l’art n°12, 1971)

On 31 December 1917, Matisse visited the great painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir in his Villa des Collettes. This meeting delighted them both and was followed by many others, during which Matisse showed Renoir what he was painting in Nice, at the Beau Rivage. Alongside his elder, thanks to their conversations, Matisse was able to sharpen his perception of the very special colours of the ‘Midi’. He was comfortable in this peaceful home and garden with its centuries-old olive trees where he, too, set up his easel. Renoir spent the last twelve years of his life at Les Collettes until 1919. Matisse was very impressed with the master’s courage, despite the severe physical constraints of his illness: “Never have I seen so happy a man and I have promised myself that, in my turn, I will not be cowardly.” The Villa has been a municipal museum since 1960, one of the most moving testimonials to one of the founders of Impressionism. Everything has remained in place: furniture, objects, studio... no one can remain indifferent to this little paradise on earth, aficionados and novices alike. With eleven of the master’s paintings and many of his sculptures, the Renoir Museum (which is reopening on 26 July 2013 after major renovation works) is in a flower garden, with the farm of Les Collettes, so often depicted by the artist.

Not to be missed

■ The mediaeval village
The mediaeval village offers a maze of sloping cobbled streets, vaulted passages, flower-decked steps, remarkable houses, unusual vistas, restaurants, artists’ studios and crafts shops, like Terraïo, displaying its turquoise faience creations for thirty years near the Castle. At the entrance, stands a chapel dedicated to Notre-Dame de la Protection, decorated with murals dated 1530.

■ Grimaldi Castle-Museum
It dominates the mediaeval village with all its nobility. A municipal museum since 1946, this listed historic building houses the “Musée ethnographique de l’olivier” (ethnographic museum of the olive tree), the Suzy Solidor Donation and temporary exhibitions of contemporary art.

■ Espace Solidor
Like many other artists, Suzy Solidor lived in Cagnes-sur-Mer. Her house, located on Place du Château, has become an artist’s workshop and exhibition space dedicated to contemporary jewellery (consequently, Cagnes-sur-Mer the “Ville & Métiers d’Art” [City of Arts and Crafts] label.)

Jardin de Renoir (Renoir’s garden), 1925
Oil on wood panel, 37.8 x 46 cm
Switzerland, Private collection

© City of Cagnes-sur-Mer Communication Department
From the seafront recently redesigned in contemporary style, elegant and planted with trees, you can glimpse the **mediaeval village** of Haut-de-Cagnes as did Matisse on his first visit to Renoir. The old Provençal stronghold has retained some of its mystery and discloses itself as you advance towards it. Nothing should be missed of its many sloping streets, its houses (some of which date from the 15th century), its steps covered with flowers, to savour its history and perceive its proud nature. With each step, new landscapes enchant the eye and, climbing slowly towards the Grimaldi Castle-Museum to the tower, there appears a grandiose panorama. This mediaeval fort built in 1310 by Rainier Grimaldi, Lord of Cagnes and Admiral of France, was originally a defensive watchtower. In the 17th century, it became a fine lordly home with the charm and opulence of a true palace. Acquired by the City of Cagnes-sur-Mer in 1937, the Grimaldi Castle-Museum offers visitors an opportunity to discover remarkable collections ranging from ethnography to contemporary art, as well as rooms with exceptional painted ceilings in the Baroque style.

**Here, Matisse painted:**

- **Oliviers, jardin de Renoir à Cagnes** (Olive trees, Renoir’s garden in Cagnes), 1917 -
- **Paysage de Cagnes avant l’orage** (Landscape in Cagnes before the storm), c. 1918 -
- **L’automne à Cagnes** (Autumn in Cagnes), 1918 -
- **Maison entre les arbres** (House between the trees), 1919.

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**Things to know**

- **Renoir Museum**
  Chemin des Collettes
  Tel: (+33) (0) 4 93 20 61 07
  After 18 months of major interior works, the Renoir Museum will be reopening on 26 July 2013, offering visitors an entirely renovated and redesigned site that can now be explored as it was in Renoir’s day. New areas have been opened to visitors and 17 plaster sculptures on loan from the Renoir and Guino families are on display for the very first time. Closed on Tuesdays and on 25/12 - 1/01 - 31/10. Guided tours on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 2 pm to 5 pm (6 pm in the summer).

- **Grimaldi Castle-Museum**
  Haut-de-Cagnes, Place Grimaldi
  Tel: (+33) (0) 4 92 02 47 30 /35
  Closed on Tuesdays and on 25/12 and 1/01. Open from 10 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm (6 pm from 2/05 to 31/10). Guided tours on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2 pm to 5 pm (6 pm in the summer).

- **Hippodrome de Cagnes-sur-Mer (racecourse)**
  Horse racing in winter and summer.
  Information: (+33) (0) 4 92 02 44 44

- **Tourist Bureau of Cagnes-sur-Mer**
  6, boulevard Maréchal-Juin (06800)
  Tel: (+33) (0) 4 93 20 61 64
  In the mediaeval village of Haut-de-Cagnes
  Tel: (+33) (0) 4 92 02 85 05
  Antenne du Cros-de-Cagnes:
  Tel: (+33) (0) 4 93 07 67 08
  www.cagnes-tourisme.com
  www.cagnes-tourisme.com/blog
  www.cagnesres.com

- **How to get there**

  **By car:** A8 motorway, exit at Cagnes-sur-Mer.
  **Public transport by coach to Cagnes-sur-Mer:** Lines 94, 200, 400 and 500
  www.lignesdazur.com

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*Hippodrome de la Côte d’Azur (racecourse)*

*Street in Haut-de-Cagnes*
In 1917, at the age of 48, the painter came here to recover from bronchitis. He remained here until the end of his life in 1954. From his little room at Hôtel Beau Rivage - an elegant 4-star hotel over a century old, whose entrance can be admired on Rue Saint-François-de-Paule - Matisse could glimpse the sea and the play of light. Dazzled, he rented a flat just a few metres away at 105 Quai des États-Unis for his studio.

In 1918, he moved to Hôtel de la Méditerranée & de la Côte d’Azur (gone today), where he stayed four years; Matisse long remembered this place that had so inspired him. Today, with much of its past luxury restored, the Palais de la Méditerranée, located on the Promenade des Anglais, renews itself over time and finds its former splendour. Behind the immense façade (a listed historic...
Things to know

**Nice Tourist & Congress Bureau**
(Office du Tourisme et des Congrès)
5, Promenade des Anglais
Tel: +33 (0)8 92 70 7407
www.nicetourisme.com

**Guided tours of Old Nice**
A guided walk [French/English] through the alleys of the old town, exploring its history and curious features. Every Saturday. 2 1/2 hours, starts 9:30am.

**Tour of “Art in the City”**
Guided tour looking at the works of art alongside the tramway: a real open-air museum. Guided tours in French/English on Fridays. 2 1/2 hours, starting at 7pm.

**Nice: The Grand Tour**
Discover Nice in an open-top bus. Leaves from in front of the Jardin Albert 1er. Details from the Nice Tourist & Congress Bureau (Office du Tourisme et des Congrès).

**Petit train de Nice [little railway]**
45min round trip by the sea, Old Nice and the Castle. Leaves from in front of the Meridien Hotel.

**French Riviera Pass**
A single ticket for exploring Nice and the greater Nice area. For sale at the Tourism Office and Congrès.

*Booking required: offices of the Nice Tourist & Congress Bureau (Office du Tourisme et des Congrès), or by telephone or online.

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**Here, Matisse painted:**

Autoportrait (Self-portrait) - Ma chambre au Beau Rivage (My room at the Beau Rivage) - La Baie de Nice (The Bay of Nice) - Intérieur, femme lisant en manteau écossais (Interior, woman reading in a plaid coat) - Le Violoniste à la fenêtre (Violinist at the window) - Intérieur à Nice (Interior in Nice) - Fête des fleurs (Flower fête) - Tempête à Nice (Storm in Nice, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - Decorative figure against an ornamental background - Odalisque au coffret rouge (Odalisque with a red casket, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - Petite Pianiste robe bleue fond rouge (Little pianist, blue dress, red background, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - Nu dans l’atelier (Nude in the studio).

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**Matisse at the inauguration of Galerie des Ponchettes, 1950**

Landmark), the contemporary touch and the harmony between the residential and festive functions recall the persistence of this singular establishment in the creative sphere. This is where the first great Matisse exhibition was held in Nice in 1946. In 1950, a second exhibition devoted to the painter, very much involved in modern art in Nice, inaugurated Galerie des Ponchettes.

This is the start of the great art adventure on the Côte d’Azur. It begins with the opening of many museums.

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**Place Masséna “Art in the City” guided tour**
Jaume Plensa “Conversation in Nice” 2007

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**The building at No. 1, Place Charles-Félix, where Matisse once lived**

You are facing the sea, irresistibly attracted to Cours Saleya, lively and colourful, just behind you. On Place Charles-Félix at its eastern end stands a fine building. This is where Matisse once lived: first on the third floor, later on the fourth floor, in a larger flat overlooking all of Baie des Anges.

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**La Vague, 1952 (The Wave, 1952)**
Gouache paper cut-out, 51.5 x 160 cm - Matisse Museum, Nice
Behind Place Charles-Félix where Matisse resided, the Castle Hill, 90 metres high, draws all your attention. Climb to this wonderful public park overlooking the city and the sea, to breathe in the delightful fragrances of its typically Mediterranean vegetation. From this exceptional viewpoint that you can also discover the Port of Nice, a splendid harbour of modest size, lined with Italianate façades.

At No. 50 Boulevard Franck-Pilatte, the dynamic Club Nautique de Nice remembers: in 1927, a new member came to join. His name? Henri Matisse. Enthralled with canoeing, the painter loved rowing. His 154 outings at sea in nine months earned him a medal for assiduity, a source of great pride for him. Just a stone’s throw from the Port, towards Villefranche-sur-Mer, the residential Mont-Boron district is a peaceful leafy haven with a grandiose panorama on the Mediterranean Sea. This is where Matisse sought refuge with his son Pierre in 1918 when he had to leave Hôtel Beau Rivage.

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Here, Matisse painted:

Les Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus trees) – Mont-Alban (Mont-Alban Fort) – La Villa bleue (Blue Villa) – Plage à Nice vue du Château (The beach of Nice seen from the Castle Hill).
Matisse in Cimiez

“Most people come here for the light and the picturesque. I am from Northern France; what struck me were the great flashes of colour in January and the luminous daylight”.

(Yves Bridault, 1982, “J’ai passé un mauvais quart d’heure avec Matisse”
‘I had a hard time with Matisse’ - Arts, n° 371, 13 August 1982)

You leave the seafront to head towards Cimiez. Near Lycée Masséna, you will see Rue Désiré-Niel where, in 1931, Matisse took over a former garage temporarily converted into a studio at No. 8. The space available was ideal for the work underway, a commission from the famous American collector, Dr Albert Barnes, for the main gallery in his Foundation. This was ‘The Dance’, a monumental work for which the painter resorted to the technique of gouache-covered paper for the first time.

Along Boulevard de Cimiez, you are charmed by the fine buildings on either side, witness to the splendour of the Belle Époque in Nice. You see the imposing silhouette of the Régina, once the majestic residence of Queen Victoria, where Matisse bought two flats on the third floor in 1938. This vast living area where he also made his studio, filled with vases, furniture, plants, fabrics and wall hangings, was his last home: he died there on 3 November 1954.

Matisse now rests in a special area of the Cemetery of Cimiez, well kept up and always decked with flowers.

The west tower and wing of the Régina from its private garden in 1897

And the Régina today

Not to be missed

- The Matisse Museum
  See following page.

- Matisse’s tomb
  Located in the Cemetery of Cimiez, it is open to the public: entry left of the Monastery church, then follow the signs.

- The church of the Monastery of Cimiez and its garden
  This Franciscan church dedicated to “Notre-Dame” houses, among other splendours, a famous Pietà, one of three fine Late Gothic works by Louis Bréa, the cloister and a religious museum. The Monastery Garden is a very popular place to stroll, with its beautiful rose garden and a breathtaking view on the city.

- The Amphitheatre of Cimiez
  This Roman amphitheatre is the oldest monument of the city. It hosts folk shows, as the May Celebrations or Lu Festin de Nissa, which takes place all May long, every year.

- The Archaeology Museum
  Build on the Gallo-Roman archaeological site, just a stone’s throw from the Amphitheatre and the Matisse Museum, it displays collections of artefacts from the excavations of the ancient Roman town of Cemenelum, witness to the great Mediterranean civilizations and their rich trade.

  Tel: +33 (0)4 9 38 15 957
Things to know

■ Matisse Museum
164, avenue des Arènes de Cimiez.
Tel: +33 (0)4 93 81 08 08
E-mail: musee.matisse@ville-nice.fr
www.musee-matisse-nice.org
Closed on Tuesdays and some public holidays. Open from 10 am to 6 pm. Free admission.

In 2013, the Matisse Museum in Nice will be celebrating its 50th birthday. Especially for the occasion, the City of Nice has decided to pay tribute to Henri Matisse and his family, who have been unstinting in showing their interest for the museum. To give this tribute the reflection and scale it deserves, the City of Nice has commissioned Jean-Jacques Aillagon, former French Minister of Culture, with coordinating it as General Curator of the major exhibition “Nice 2013. A summer for Matisse”.

■ How to get there
Public transport: bus n° 15, 17, 20, 22 or 25 (get off at “The Arenes” or “Cimiez Monastere”). Flat-rate bus ticket: €1.50.
www.lignesdazur.com

■ “Nice 2013. A summer for Matisse”
From 21 June to 23 September 2013
This major exhibition will be held across 8 museums in Nice thanks to exceptional loans from prestigious national institutions and foreign museums alike.
Exhibitions from 10 am to 6 pm at the Matisse Museum (+33 (0)4 93 81 08 08); at MAMAC (+33 (0)4 97 13 42 01); at Palais Lascaris (+33 (0)4 93 62 72 40); at the Fine Arts Museum (+33 (0)4 92 15 28 28); at Masséna Museum (+33 (0)4 93 91 19 10); at the Archaeological Museum (+33 (0)4 93 81 59 57); at the Theatre of Photography and Image (+33 (0)4 97 13 42 20) and the Ponchettes Gallery (+33 (0)4 93 62 31 24). €10 pass for all 8 exhibitions. www.matisse2013.nice.fr

The Matisse Museum

Located across from the Régina in the Park of Cimiez, the Matisse Museum is a perfect example of successful harmony between old and modern. The fine Genoese-style villa with its red-ochre façades, expanded in 1993 with the addition of a contemporary wing with pure discreet lines, houses works made by the artist throughout his career, masterpieces from his years in Nice in particular and, what is very interesting, a large number of personal possessions that were the subject of or elements in many of his compositions. The Matisse Museum invites visitors to enter the painter’s private creative universe. The Museum’s new wing organizes temporary exhibitions, and has an auditorium, a workshop for artistic teaching, a ‘cabinet de dessins’ created for the Museum’s fortieth anniversary for the collection’s many drawings and a shop. The painter enjoyed ambling through the park surrounding the Roman amphitheatre of Cimiez with its centuries-old olive trees. It adds to the beauty of the site; Art and Nature lovers never tire of it.

Here, Matisse painted:
La Danse inachevée (Unfinished Dance), 1931 - La Danse de Paris (The Dance, Paris version), 1931-1933 - La Danse de Mérion (The Dance, Barnes Foundation, Merion PA, USA), 1932-1933 - La Blouse roumaine (Romanian blouse) - Intérieur au vase étrusqué (Interior with an Etruscan vase) - Nature morte à la dormeuse (Still life with sleeping woman) - Le Rêve (Dream) - Le Luxe (Luxury) - Nature morte au magnolia (Still life with magnolia) - Fauteuil rocaille (Rocaille armchair) - Nymphée dans la forêt (Nymph in the forest, la Verdure, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - La Danseuse créole (Creole dancer, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - La Vague (The wave, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - Fleurs et Fruits (Flowers and fruit, Matisse Museum collection, Nice) - Le Nu bleu IV (Blue nude IV, Matisse Museum collection, Nice).
Matisse visiting Cap-Ferrat

“This is a land where light plays the main role; colour comes after... above all, you must feel that light, have it in you...”.

(Marchand, 1947)

Matisse’s publisher had a villa at Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. The painter enjoyed visiting him, always dazzled by the light, the landscape and the Mediterranean environment that, between the land, the sky and sea, utterly enchanted him, so much so that he sometimes stayed near the harbour at Villa Lou Mandiou. His son Pierre Matisse is buried in the cemetery of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat.
the life of matisse

Key dates in the life of Matisse

1869
Birth on December 31 in Le Cateau Cambrésis (northern France); childhood in Bohain.

1887-89
Attendance at the Paris Law School after which he became a solicitors’ clerk in Saint-Quentin, while taking art lessons at the École Quentin-Latour.

1890
First experience with painting, while convalescing.

1895
Admission to Gustave Moreau’s studio at the Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he met Rouault, Camoin and Manguin.

1898
Marriage to Amélie Parayre; honeymoon in London and visits to Toulouse and Ajaccio (Corsica).

1901
Exhibition of his works at the Salon des Indépendants under Signac’s presidency and meeting with Vlaminck.

1904
First personal exhibition at Ambroise Vollard’s gallery.

1905
Summer in Collioure with Derain; exhibition at the Salon d’Automne where works by Matisse, Derain, Friesz, Manguin, Marquet, Puy, Rouault, Valtat and Vlaminck displayed together in one room earned the artists the name Fauves (‘wildcats’ for their violent colours).

1909
Two murals on Dance and Music commissioned from Matisse by Shchukin, an art lover from Moscow.

1910
Retrospective at the Bernheim Jeune gallery.

1912-13
Travels to Morocco with Camoin and Marquet.

1916
Arrival in Nice; first visit to Renoir in Cagnes-sur-Mer.

1918
Exhibition at Paul Guillaume’s galley with Picasso.

1921
Move to Nice where he would spend one half of the year, the other half in Paris.

1922
Odalisques series.

1930-31
Travel to Tahiti and, at the end of the year, acceptance of a commission by Dr Barnes for a large mural on the theme of The Dance; rental of a studio at 8 Rue Désiré-Niel in Nice, to create The Dance.

1938
Move to the former Hôtel Régina converted into a block of flats on the hill of Cimiez.

1939
Temporary move in June to Villa Le Rêve in Vence to flee the threat of bombing in Nice.

1943
Beginning of work decorating the Rosary Chapel for the Dominican Sisters in Vence and use of gouache cut-outs.

1948
Return to the Régina in Nice.

1950
Major exhibitions in Nice and Paris.

1951
Inauguration on 25 June of the Chapel in Vence; retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

1952
Inauguration of the Matisse Museum in Le Cateau Cambrésis.

1953
Donation by Matisse to the City of Nice for the creation of a museum of four works - Nature morte aux grenades (Still Life with pomegranates), La Danse créole (Creole Dance), Océanie le ciel (Oceania, the sky), Océanie la mer (Oceania, the sea) - and four drawings in the Themes and Variations series.

1954
Death in Nice on 3 November; final resting place in Cimiez.
Femme à l'amphore
(Woman with amphora), 1953
Gouache paper cut-out,
174.5 x 51.5 cm
Matisse Museum, Nice