

Avant-garde - French for vanguard (The foremost or leading position in an army or in a trend or movement.).

Artworks and artists which stand in the forefront of a movement or of new ideas, often in opposition to established ideas and traditions; art that's ahead of its time, innovative, experimental.

Matisse and Fauvism

**The leader of the Fauves was
Henri Matisse (1869-1954)
French painter, sculptor, and
graphic artist. His varied
subjects comprised landscape,
still life, portraiture, domestic
and studio interiors, and
particularly focused on the
female figure.**



Henri Matisse. Self-Portrait in a Striped T-Shirt. 1906.

Fauvism: c. 1905 – 1908

Fauvism: Movement in French painting characterized by the use of intensely vivid colors, often applied unmixed from commercially produced tubes of paint in broad flat areas, by a spontaneity and even roughness of execution and by a bold sense of surface design.

Leading artists: Henri Matisse, André Derain, Maurice de Vlaminck, Raoul Dufy, Georges Braque, and Georges Rouault.



Matisse, *Woman with the Hat*, 1905. SF MOMA

The Fauves found their name when a critic pointed to a renaissance-like sculpture in the middle of the same gallery as their exhibition and exclaimed 'Donatello au milieu des fauves!' ('Donatello among the wild beasts!').



Henri Matisse, *The Joy of Life* (*Le Joie de vivre*), 1905-06, oil on canvas



Donatello, *David*, 1430, bronze



Andre Derain, *The Dance* 1906. Oil on canvas, 6' 7/8" x 6' 10 1/4".

Characteristics of Fauvist art:

- Explosive colors and impulsive brushwork, advancing the colorist tradition of the Post Impressionists
- Pure color squeezed directly from tubes
- Stark juxtapositions of complementary colors
- Sketchy brushwork, and wildly arbitrary colors create a harsh and dissonant effect
- Some works drew from the art of Africa, Pre-Columbian America and Oceania.
Some have themes of modern urban alienation

Matisse, Woman with the Hat,
1905, oil/canvas, SF MoMa





Matisse,
*Woman
with the
Hat*, 1905,
oil/canvas,
SF MoMa

Paul
Cezanne,
*Woman
Seated in
Blue*, 1902-
06, Oil on
canvas



**Vincent van
Gogh, *The
Night Café*,**
1888, oil on
canvas.

**Paul Gauguin. *Fatata te miti
(Near the Sea)*. 1892.**



“What I dream of is an art of balance, of purity- and serenity, devoid of troubling or depressing subject- matter, an art which could be for every mental worker, for the businessman as well as the man of letters, for example, a soothing, calming influence on the mind, something like a good armchair which provides relaxation from physical fatigue”

--From "Notes of a Painter" by Matisse



Henri Matisse, *The Joy of Life (Le Joie de vivre)*, 1905-06, oil on canvas



Giovanni Bellini, *The Feast of The Gods*, 1514, oil on canvas

Henri Matisse, *The Joy of Life*
(*Le Joie de vivre*), 1905-06, oil on
canvas



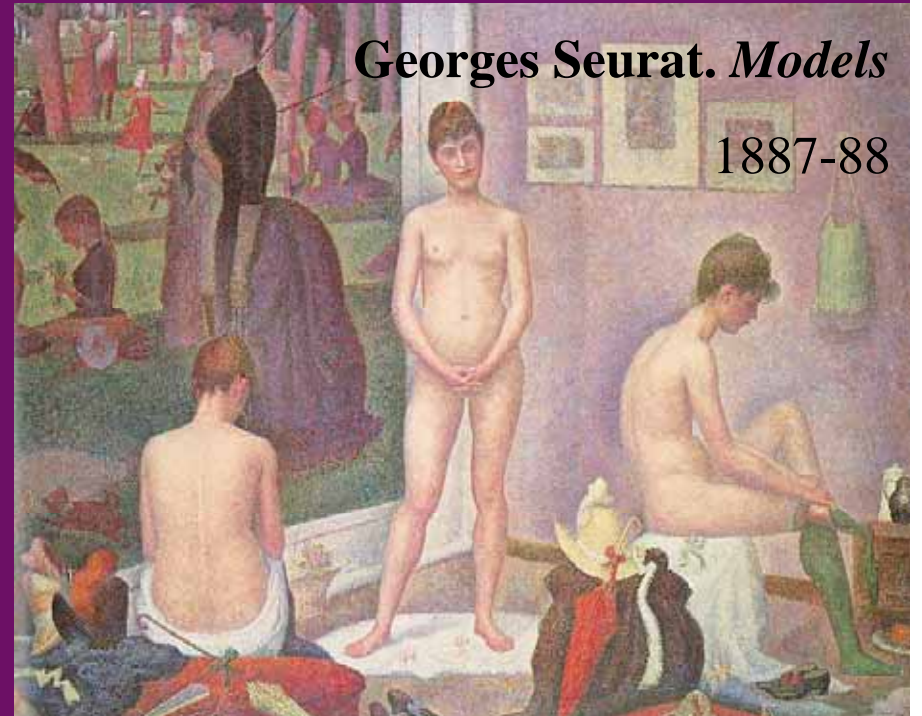
Cezanne, *Large
Bathers* (unfinished),
1899-1906



Henri Matisse, *The Joy of Life (Le Joie de
vivre)*, 1905-06, oil on canvas

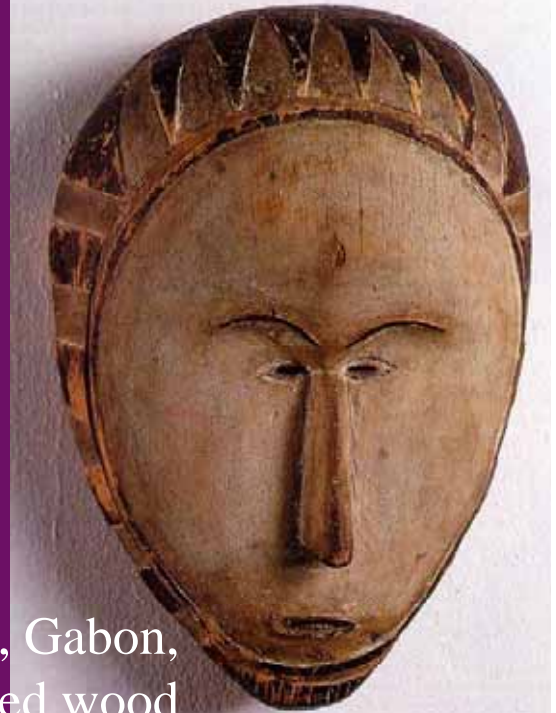


Georges Seurat. *Models*
1887-88



Influences of African Art:

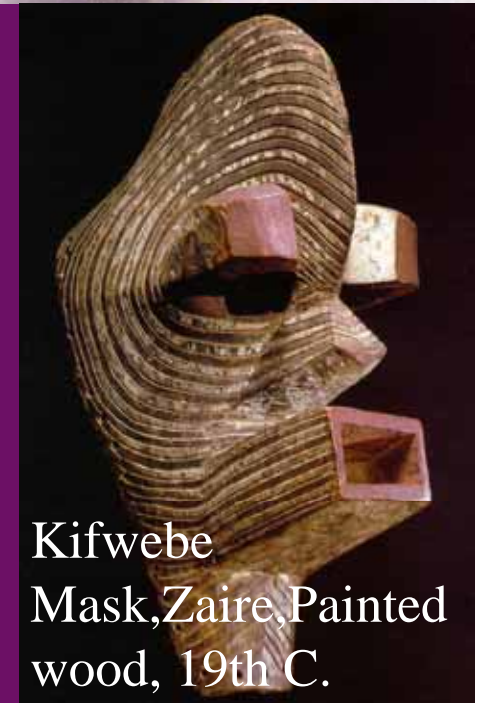
- In 1906 Matisse Derain and Vlaminck began to collect art objects from Africa which they had first seen in ethnographic museums and to adapt their forms into their art.
- Those objects were considered exotic, or “primitive”
- Once African art reached Europe it was stripped of its original context and function.



Mask, Gabon,
Painted wood



Reliquary guardian
figure, Gabon, 19th c.
Wood, copper, iron, and
brass, 1' 9 1/16" high.



Kifwebe
Mask, Zaire, Painted
wood, 19th C.





ANDRÉ DERRAIN, *The Dance* 1906. Oil on canvas, 6' 7/8" x 6' 10 1/4".



Henri Matisse, *Blue Nude: Memory of Biskra* (city in Algeria) 1907, oil on canvas

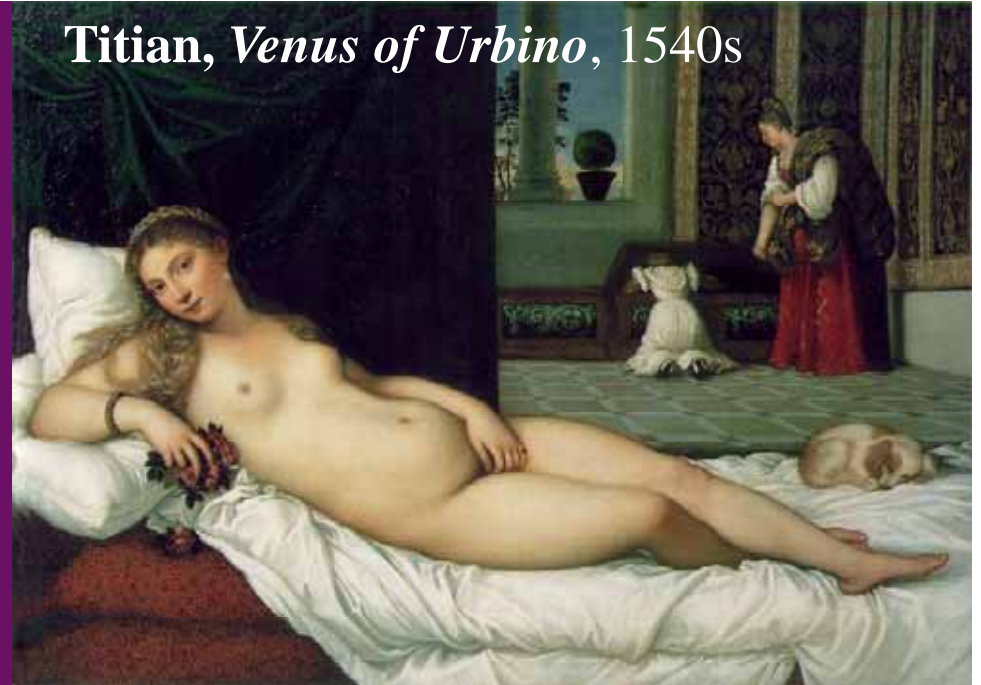
‘If I met such a woman in the street, I should run away in terror. Above all, I do not create a woman, I make a picture.’

--Matisse

Manet, *Olympia*, 1863



Titian, *Venus of Urbino*, 1540s



Henri Matisse, *Blue Nude: Memory of Biskra* 1907,



The Sleeping Ariadne. Roman copy of Hellenistic sculpture. 2nd c. BCE.





Henri Matisse, *Blue Nude: Memory of Biskra* (city in Algeria) 1907, oil on canvas



Matisse, Reclining Nude I (Aurora),
bronze, 1907

- Although Matisse is best known as a painter, his activities as a sculptor extended through most of his career and resulted in some eighty pieces; the majority are bronzes cast from plaster models.



African Mask.
Unknown artist

Matisse
Jeanette IV, 1910-1913
Bronze, Centre Pompidou,
Musée National d'Art
Moderne, Paris, France



Henri Matisse, *La Desserte (Dinner Table)*, 1896-97, oil on canvas

Matisse, *Harmony in Red (La Desserte)*, 1908, Oil on canvas



- saturated color
- flattened picture plane
- little attention to concepts of proportion or depth.
- Has a feel of graphic design and abstraction.

Matisse, *Harmony in Red*, 1908



Matisse,
*Woman
with the
Hat*, 1905

Choose ONE question and answer it.

Describe Matisse's aspirations and his process of work according to his essay "Notes of a Painter" (p. 838 in textbook).

Describe the use of color, lines, and pattern in Matisse's works. Do you agree with him that "art should be soothing and calming like a good armchair"?



Henri Matisse,
The Joy of Life
1905-06,