

## Press Release

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Henri Matisse  
Nu Bleu II (Blue Nude II), 1952  
Lithographic reproduction

### **National treasures on display for local families!**

**Matisse: Drawing with Scissors**  
**15 October 2016 – 8 January 2017**

**Late Works 1950 - 1954**

This weekend, the River & Rowing Museum in Henley on Thames will be celebrating the opening of a stunning exhibition of work by one of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's most influential artists, Henri Matisse (1869 – 1954).

Furthering their commitment to engaging young people with work of the highest quality, the Museum is providing free access to all children during this opening weekend – 15 & 16 October.

**Ludo Keston, Director, River & Rowing Museum:** “Bringing history and the arts to life is a core purpose for our charity and I can think of no better way to celebrate the work of one of the Twentieth Century’s greatest artists than by encouraging children and their families to be inspired by it, right here in Henley.”

Family visitors will be welcomed into the gallery, where they can use trails and activities to explore the iconic artworks and spend time discovering more about the work of Matisse in the dedicated reading area.

His vibrant works are celebrated for their extraordinary richness and luminosity of colour and his spectacular paper cut-outs were his final triumph. *Matisse: Drawing with Scissors*, a Hayward Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre, features 35 posthumous prints of the famous cut-outs that he produced in the last four years of his life, when confined to his bed. It includes many of his iconic images, such as *The Snail* and the *Blue Nudes*.

**Eloise Chapman, Head of Collections & Exhibitions, River & Rowing Museum:**

“Henri Matisse was one of the most influential French artists of the Twentieth Century, producing bold and colourful works. His later focus on paper cut-outs marked a new and exciting direction in his work. We are thrilled that this exhibition of world class art is coming to the River & Rowing Museum and can’t wait to share these wonderful lithographs with our visitors.”

The lithographic reproductions in this exhibition are taken from a special double issue of *Verve*, a review of art and literature, published by Matisse’s friend, the critic and fine art publisher Tériade, in 1958, four years after Matisse’s death. The publication was planned during Matisse’s lifetime and the first lithographic plates were prepared under his direction a few days before he died.

**Children go free on the opening weekend, 15 & 16 October.**

### **Exhibition Extras**

#### **Matisse: Drawing with Scissors**

**Sat 12 Nov 11.30am – 12.30pm**

Sandra Smith, history of Art lecturer

Examine the late work of Henri Matisse, focussing on his association with Impressionism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and most importantly his love affair with colour.

Tickets: £5

#### **The Cutting Edge**

**Sat 12 Nov 2 – 4.30pm**

Inspired by Matisse? Unleash your imagination in an exciting, creative workshop exploring the dynamics of paper cutting and collage.

£25

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### **Press Contact**

Catherine Yoxall – Head of Marketing & Communications

+44 01491 415642

[catherine.yoxall@rrm.co.uk](mailto:catherine.yoxall@rrm.co.uk)

Claire Woods – Project Assistant

[claire.woods@rrm.co.uk](mailto:claire.woods@rrm.co.uk)

### **Editor's notes**

#### ***The River & Rowing Museum***

The River & Rowing Museum is one of the U.K.'s leading independent museums. Situated in picturesque Henley-on-Thames, the family friendly museum has a permanent collection exploring the River Thames, the international sport of rowing, the town of Henley-on-Thames and the Wind in the Willows. In addition, the museum plays host to a number of visiting exhibitions, working with partners such as the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the Hayward Gallery, Southbank and the National Portrait Gallery in London. The Museum is a registered educational charity, and welcomes over 114,000 visitors per year, including 20,000 children and adults who enjoy time in the purpose built learning centre.