

Henri Matisse • Painting with Scissors

Sunday 9 August 2026 • 11:00am start • 75 min planned, ends 12:15pm • La Vita Nova, South Yarra

AGES 8 to 12	GROUP Small	RUNS 90 min	DECK 35 slides	THEY TAKE HOME A paper vase + flowers
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READ THIS FIRST • THE ORDER CHANGED

Re-sequenced so **children are cutting within two minutes** instead of sitting for half an hour. Warm-ups now come **before** the story, and the "he got sick and invented cutting" arc is told **during** the make. Slide numbers below match the new deck, which opens on the title then "Do you recognise any of these?"

TIME	WHAT HAPPENS	SLIDES
11:00am 2 min	Welcome, then straight to pictures Names on tags done. "Do you recognise any of these?" is pure looking, no story yet. Take three guesses and move.	1-2
11:02am 11 min	Scissors in hand • the warm-ups Four scissor moves in the air, then on scrap. Cut to the jazz, then the two-minute flower twice. Loud, fast, deliberately untidy. HANDS ON	3-4
11:13am 3 min	Now meet Henri Born 1869. The real photographs. He was going to be a lawyer until a box of paints arrived in bed. He learned every rule first, and was brilliant at it.	5-8
11:16am 3 min	Tate Kids film Full screen, sound tested. Ask them to watch his hands, not his face. VIDEO	9
11:19am 7 min	The big idea, then the Wild Beasts Colour is a feeling, not a fact. He threw out the rules and a whole gang went with him. A critic called them wild beasts as an insult; they kept it. Then look at the real paintings.	10-13
11:26am 4 min	Two quick games Which colours SHOUT? Point to vote. Then guess the cut-out, where there are no wrong answers. Both are ten seconds of thinking and a lot of noise.	14-15
11:30am 2 min	The secrets of a great cut-out Bold colour. Simple shapes. No drawing first. Fill the page. This is the brief, so land it properly.	16
11:32am 28 min	THE MAKE • part one, two bold collages The heart of the day. The mission is on slide 17, the four steps on 18 to 21, and "borrow Henri's shapes" on 22 — leave that one up. Walk the room, do not hover. At about 11:45, while they are cutting, tell the story on slides 25 to 30: he got sick, he invented cutting from his bed, inside his paper jungle of a studio. They will listen while their hands work. THE MAKE	17-22
12:00pm 4 min	THE MAKE • part two, it becomes a vase Demo once on slide 31. Draw a wide flat vase on the BACK of both collages, cut, glue the two side edges, slide it over the jar.	31-32
12:04pm 2 min	Artist words • filler while slow finishers catch up Cut-out, collage, organic shape, Fauvism. Ask for an example of each from the room. Skip this if you are tight.	33
12:06pm 8 min	Show and tell, then the flowers Every child, in turn: what is it, favourite bit, one brave choice. Everyone claps. You add the water and the flowers at the very end. PROTECT THIS	34
12:14pm 1 min	Close and hand back "You are a Master in the Making." Vase in hand, artwork dry, tell them who is next Sunday.	35

Running it well

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If you are running early

- Let the make run longer. It is the part they remember.
- Play "guess the cut-out" again with their own shapes.
- Add the artist words slide and ask for examples.
- Second flower each, if you have them.

If you are running late · trim in this order

- **First:** the artist words slide. Pure filler.
- **Then:** one of the two colour games.
- **Then:** shorten the story block during the make.
- **Never:** the warm-up cutting, the make, or show and tell.

Watch for

Safety, every time

- The hand holding the paper stays **behind** the blades.
- Scissors are passed handle first, never carried open.
- Glue sticks capped between uses. Water jars away from the edge.
- The jar is glass. Water goes in at the very end, by you.

The room

- Name tags written before slide 1.
- Scrap paper on every seat for the warm-up.
- Good colours within reach of every child, not one shared pile.
- Bin for offcuts, but say out loud that nothing is waste.

The three things that make it land

- **Cut before you teach.** They meet the tool before they meet the man. When you later say a sick man in a bed invented a new art form with those same scissors, their hands already understand it.
- **Say the rule out loud, often:** colour does not have to be correct, it has to be alive. Every child who asks "is this allowed?" gets the same answer.
- **Protect show and tell.** Eight minutes, every child, a title for their work and one brave choice named. This is the bit the parent hears about in the car.

Links you will need

- **Tate Kids "Meet Matisse" film** — slide 9. Cue it full screen and test the sound before the room fills.
- **NGA cut-out demo** — slide 16.
- **Jazz track for the cutting warm-up** — slide 4. Have it playing as they walk in.