

HARMONY IN RED, by Henri-Émile-Benoît Matisse

Although he was initially labeled as a Fauve by the 1920s, he was renowned as an upholder of the classical style in French painting. Matisse's mastery of expressive color and drawing won him recognition as a leading figure in modern art.

- Painted from 1908-1909, at the end of the Fauvist movement.
- Oil on canvas, 180 x 220 cm.
- Matisse was more concerned with the beauty of organic shapes than with direct representation of life.
- Abstracts ordinary items (such as the trees and fruits) to cherish their beauty in a different fashion.
- Painter uses the same vibrant red coloring and the purple ornate design on both the walls and the table to make them seem like one being.
- Matisse creates a difficult-to-distinguish atmosphere in order to give the viewer different out-looks on day-to-day items.
- Due to the development of photography in the late 1820's, Matisse is able to create a "cut off" image of a chair, as well as the landscape in the background.

