

Colourful Creations

INSTRUCTIONS



The Parakeet and the Mermaid. 1952. Gouache on paper, cut and pasted, and charcoal on paper.

Inspiration



This project is inspired by the work of French artist Henri Matisse.

Henri Matisse created some of his best known art in the final decade of his life, and he made it from the simplest materials: shapes cut from colourful sheets of hand painted paper. He

described these “cut-out” works as “drawing with scissors,” he used this technique to create a world of plants, animals, figures, and shapes.

For smaller works, the artist worked directly on a board using pins. For larger works, Matisse directed his studio assistants to arrange them on the wall of his studio.



What you need

- Coloured paper in a variety of colours – make your own using paint/textas/crayons or use coloured paper or wrapping paper
- Scissors
- Pencils
- A3 white paper or large piece of cardboard
- Scrap paper
- Glue stick

What to do

Step 1

Make your paper. You may like to paint your own brightly coloured sheets to use for this project the day before. If you prefer, use

crayon or texta to add bright colour to white paper.

Step 2

Design your shapes. Using the images of Matisse's cut outs for inspiration, draw some shapes on your scrap paper. You may like to draw shapes of plants, stars, people or make them abstract.

Step 3

Outline. Now that you have designed your shapes, carefully draw the outlines on the **BACK** of your coloured paper.

Step 4

Cut around your shapes. You may find the paper left behind is just as interesting see the artwork pictured.



Step 6

Glue. When you are happy with your work, glue the pieces down. Handy hint – spread some scrap paper such as newspaper or catalogues on the table and use these as a gluing station placing each piece down and spreading glue on the back.



Step 5

Arrange your cutouts on your A3 paper or piece of large cardboard. Spend some time moving the pieces around to create a composition or arrangement that you are happy with. Have some fun and create multiple compositions taking photos as you go.

Step 7

All done! Hang your work, take a photo and send it to us or make some more!

Want more? Take it a step further and create enough cutouts to cover a wall in your room!



These cutouts were created by the talented students in our Primary Art After School program.