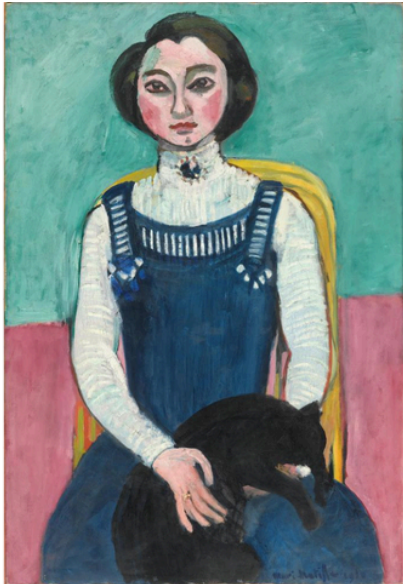


# Matisse and Marguerite

## *Through Her Father's Eyes*

4 April – 24 August 2025



*"In my father's time, we lived with his daily drama, which was painting."*  
– Marguerite Duthuit-Matisse, 1970

The Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris is staging a groundbreaking exhibition of works by Henri Matisse (1869-1954), one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Bringing together more than 110 works – paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and ceramics – the exhibition shows Matisse's view of his eldest daughter, Marguerite Duthuit-Matisse (1894-1982), an essential but discreet figure in his family circle.

The exhibition features numerous drawings rarely, if ever, shown to the public, as well as major works from American, Swiss and Japanese collections, now on view in France for the first time. Photographs, archival material and paintings by Marguerite herself fill out the portrait of this little-known personality.

From Matisse's images of her childhood to the end of the Second World War, Marguerite remained his most constant model and the only one to have featured in his work over several decades. Remarkably frank and intense, his portraits of her convey an emotion that reflects the depth of the artist's affection for his daughter. Matisse seemed to see in her a kind of mirror of himself, as if in his depictions he was finally achieving the "almost complete identification of painter and model" to which he aspired.

This chronologically organised exhibition bears witness to the strength of the bond between the artist and his daughter. Revealing an immense mutual trust and respect, it also offers an insight into the fascinating destiny of a highly singular woman who played a leading role in her father's career.

## PRESS RELEASE

### Museum Director

Fabrice Hergott

### Curators

Isabelle Monod-Fontaine, Honorary  
General Heritage Curator

Hélène de Talhouët, PhD in  
contemporary art history,  
teacher-researcher

Charlotte Barat-Mabille,  
curator at the Musée d'Art  
Moderne de Paris

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Henri Matisse  
*Marguerite with a Black Cat*  
Issy-les-Moulineaux, 1910  
Oil on canvas  
94 x 64 cm  
Paris, Centre Pompidou, Musée national  
d'art moderne / Centre de création  
industrielle  
Gift of Mrs Barbara Duthuit in memory of  
Claude Duthuit, 2013  
Credits : © Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI,  
Dist.GrandPalaisRMN / Georges  
Meguerditchian

### Visitor information

Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris  
11 Avenue du Président Wilson  
75116 Paris  
Tel. 01 53 67 40 00  
[www.mam.paris.fr](http://www.mam.paris.fr)

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to  
6pm

Late opening: Thursdays until  
9.30pm

### Cultural activities Information and bookings

Tel. 01 53 67 40 80

### Admission

Full rate: 17€  
Concessions: 15€

### Press officer

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In 1923, Marguerite married the writer Georges Duthuit and was no longer to be seen in her father's paintings. She nonetheless remained very close to him, acting as intermediary between Matisse, now settled in Nice, and the countless demands from collectors, historians, curators and art dealers. Fiercely meticulous and exacting, she supervised the printing of her father's engravings in Paris. Dedicated to defending his art, she oversaw exhibitions in Berlin and London and went on to direct the catalogue raisonné of his work, a task that was never completed. One room of the exhibition is devoted to her key role in Matisse's career, as well as her own forays into painting and fashion.

"I am made of the stuff of warriors, of the zealous," she wrote in 1943. Her indomitable courage and integrity shone through during the Second World War, when she was arrested and tortured for her part in the Resistance. The last portraits date from 1945, when Matisse discovered the tremendous dangers and suffering she had endured. This final, poignant series of drawings and lithographs echoes a group of equally moving portraits Matisse drew of his grandson Claude, Marguerite's only child, during those dark years.

The video projection by director Elisabeth Kapnist that closes the exhibition uses dozens of archival photographs to trace Marguerite's life alongside her father's art and career. Educational activities will also be offered in a family space where young and old alike can enjoy creative workshops.

With a preface by Barbara Duthuit, whose support was decisive, the catalogue – based on several years' research in the Matisse Archives – complements the exhibition with further in-depth information on Marguerite's life and Matisse's work, as well as previously unpublished extracts from the correspondence between father and daughter. To coincide with the exhibition, the first biography of Marguerite, written by world-renowned Matisse specialist Isabelle Monod-Fontaine and Hélène de Talhouët, will be published by Éditions Grasset.

In addition, a virtual reality experience produced by TSVP and Lucid Realities focuses on Matisse's *La Danse*, a masterpiece from the collection of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.

With the backing of Forvis Mazars **forvis  
mazars**



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Henri Matisse  
*Portrait of Marguerite*  
Issy-les-Moulineaux, 1918  
Oil on wood  
46 x 37.8 cm  
West Palm Beach, Florida, Norton Museum of Art  
Gift of Jean and Martin Goodman of West Palm Beach, Florida  
Credits : Norton Museum of Art