

Media release, 7 January 2025

Last days: extended opening hours for "Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage" at the Fondation Beyeler



Until 26 January, the Fondation Beyeler presents the first Henri Matisse retrospective in Switzerland and the German-speaking world in almost 20 years. 200,000 visitors have viewed the exhibition to date. Henri Matisse (1869–1954) ranks among the most celebrated exponents of modern art. His groundbreaking work has profoundly influenced generations of artists, from his contemporaries up to the present day. Due to the continued visitor interest, the Fondation Beyeler is extending its opening hours for the remaining duration of the exhibition. On 9, 16 and 23 January, the museum will remain open to visitors until 8pm. The Museums' Night on 17 January will further provide an opportunity to enjoy the exhibition into the early morning hours.

"Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage" spans the full extent of Henri Matisse's career. Beginning with the early works produced around 1900, it moves on to the revolutionary paintings of Fauvism and the experimental works of the 1910s, the sensual paintings of the Nice period and the 1930s, before culminating in the legendary late cut-outs of the 1940s and 1950s.

Curated by Raphaël Bouvier, the exhibition brings together iconic as well as seldom displayed works, on loan from renowned museums and private collections. It features masterpieces such as *La desserte* (The Dinner Table), 1896/1897; *Luxe, calme et volupté*, 1904; *La fenêtre ouverte, Collioure* (The Open Window, Collioure), 1905; *Le luxe I*, 1907; *Baigneuses à la tortue* (Bathers with a Turtle), 1907/1908; *Poissons rouges et sculpture* (Goldfish and Sculpture), 1912; *Figure décorative sur fond ornemental* (Decorative Figure on an Ornamental Ground), 1925/1926; *Grand nu couché (Nu rose)* (Large Reclining Nude [The Pink Nude]), 1935; *L'Asie* (Asia), 1946; *Intérieur au rideau égyptien* (Interior with an Egyptian Curtain), 1948; and *Nu bleu I* (Blue Nude I), 1952. This wealth of significant paintings, sculptures and paper cut-outs will hold up to view the development and the range of Matisse's unique body of work.

The exhibition takes as its starting point the poem *Invitation to the Voyage* by Charles Baudelaire (1821–1867), which Matisse repeatedly referred to. Its poetic leitmotifs of richness, serenity and pleasure («luxe,

calme et volupté») are also guiding themes of Matisse's work and form the very essence of his art. Following Baudelaire's poem, the exhibition at the Fondation Beyeler thus invites viewers on a journey through Matisse's work, in which travel also played an important part.

"Matisse – Invitation to the Voyage" is on view through 26 January 2025. In order to avoid waiting times on site, we recommend purchasing online tickets: fondationbeyeler.ch/tickets

Events schedule:

Museums' Night

Friday, 17 January, 6 p.m.–2 a.m.

During Museums' Night, brief «spotlight» tours will allow for fascinating encounters with selected works by Henri Matisse and the «Matisse Studio» will invite visitors to give free rein to their creativity:

- Light Painting Workshop: Use projections to turn flowers and plants into wall decorations.
- Colour Carrier Workshop: Print textile bags with ornaments for your next trip.
- Art Lab x OFFCUT: Develop creative reuse ideas with Art Lab and OFFCUT Basel

«New Year Clarity» – The Art of Meditation with Alex Frei

Thursday 16 January, 9 a.m.–9.45 a.m.

Early risers are invited to experience the morning quiet at the museum and begin their day with a guided meditation in the large exhibition room displaying Matisse's cut-outs. The exhibition may be visited after the session. The meditation will be led in German. Doors open at 8.45 a.m.

In partnership with Sutra House: www.sutra-house.com

Coffee & Conversation – Invitation to the Voyage

Tuesday 14 January, 2.30 p.m.–4 p.m.

Taking the works of Henri Matisse as their starting point, participants will share their own small and large, inner and outer (life) journeys. Coffee & Conversation is a temporary community established at the Fondation Beyeler, in which participants are invited to narrate personal experiences and anecdotes relating to a specific theme. Listening is key. Narrating is encouraged, but wholly optional.

Coffee & Conversation will be held in German and moderated by Monika Hungerbühler.

More events: www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/program/calendar

The exhibition is generously supported by:

Beyeler-Stiftung

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Friends and Art Club of the Fondation Beyeler

as well as further foundations and private patrons who wish to remain unnamed.

The art education programme and the free admission scheme for children and young adults up to 25 are supported by the Thomas and Doris Ammann Foundation.

Press images are available under www.fondationbeyeler.ch/en/media/press-images

Fondation Beyeler

The Fondation Beyeler in Riehen near Basel is internationally renowned for its high-calibre exhibitions, its significant collection of modern and contemporary art, as well as its ambitious schedule of events. The museum building was designed by Renzo Piano in the idyllic setting of a park with venerable trees and water lily ponds. It boasts a unique location in the heart of a local recreation area, looking out onto fields, pastures and vineyards close to the foothills of the Black Forest. In collaboration with Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the Fondation Beyeler is constructing a new museum building in the adjoining park, thus further enhancing the harmonious interplay of art, architecture and nature.

Further information:

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**Fondation Beyeler opening hours: 10am to 6pm daily, Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
On Thursday 9, 16 and 23 January, the museum will remain open until 8 p.m.**