

A black and white portrait of the artist Henri Émile Benoît Matisse. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a striped tie. He has a full white beard and mustache and is wearing round-rimmed glasses. His right hand is raised to his forehead, with his fingers spread. The background consists of a patterned fabric, possibly a curtain or a piece of art, with a repeating floral or geometric motif. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his beard and the details of his glasses.

HENRI ÉMILE

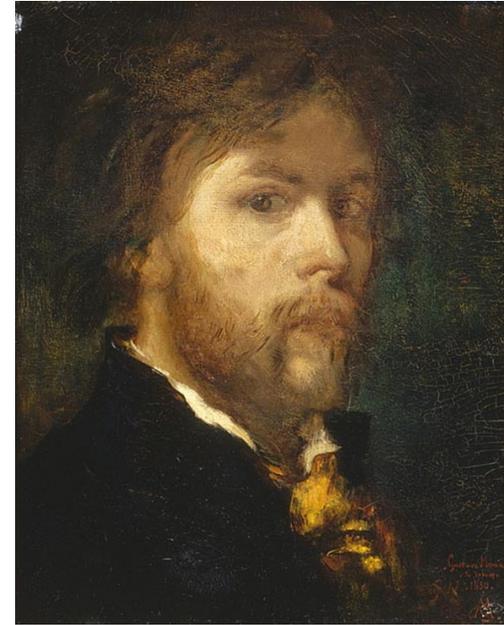
BENOÎT MATISSE

WHO IS HENRI MATISSE?

France has given the world a huge number of outstanding artists. One of them is a father of such movement as Fauvism, Henri Matisse. His career began in 1892, when the future artist successfully passed the exams at the Académie Julian in Paris. There he attracted the attention of Gustave Moreau, who predicted a bright career for Matisse in the artistic field.



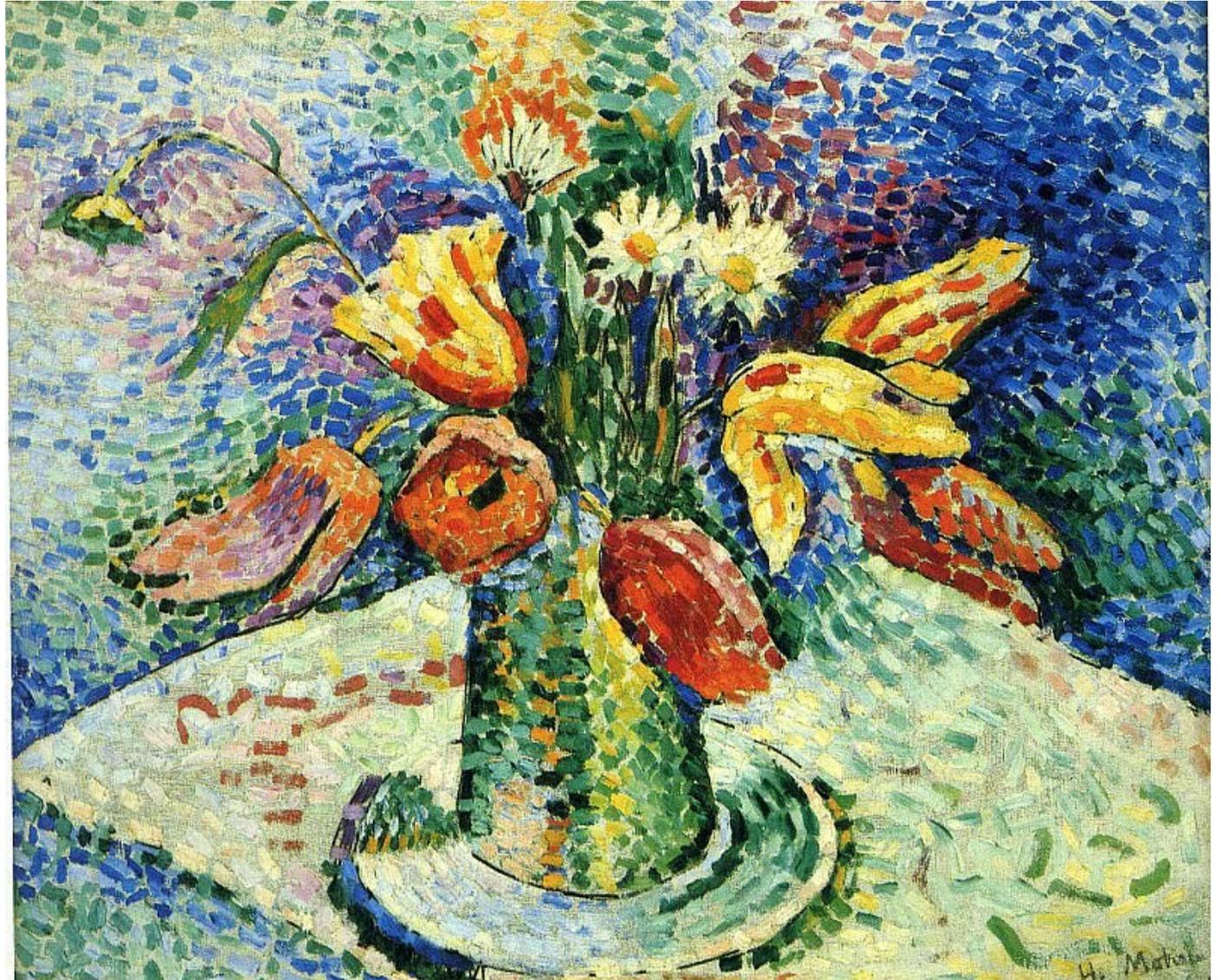
Henri Matisse



Gustave Moreau

THE START OF CAREER.

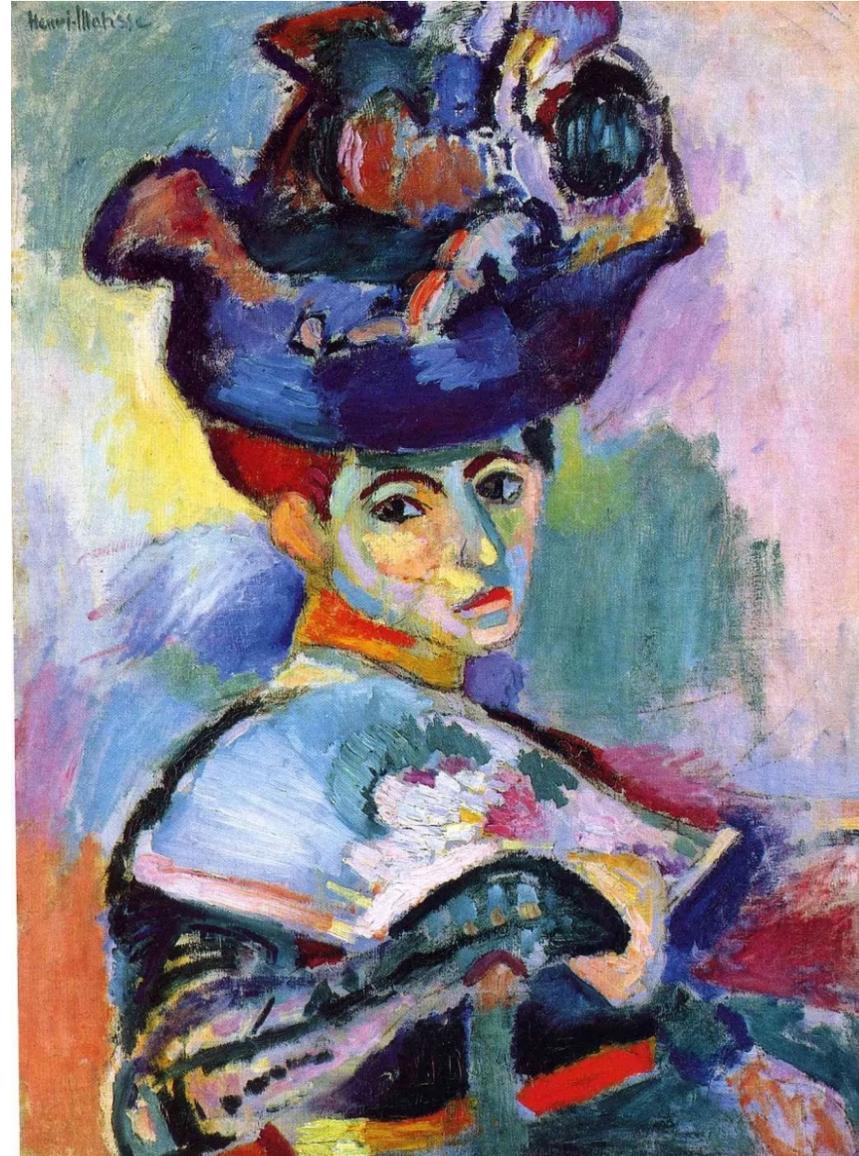
Matisse begins gets carried away with pointillism, a type of impressionism that uses numerous dots to convey an image. This style helped the artist finally choose Fauvism as the most suitable way for him to reflect the surrounding reality.



Henri Matisse. Parrot tulips. 1905

FAUVISM

In fact, Matisse was the actual founder of Fauvism. The French translation of this term is "wild". This word correlates with the concept - "free", that is, not subject to generally accepted rules. The beginning of the triumph of Matisse can be considered his painting "Woman in a Green Hat", exhibited by the artist in 1904. On the canvas, the viewer saw an almost flat image of a woman with a face separated by a green stripe. Thus, Matisse simplified the image as much as possible, allowing only one color to dominate. It was the prevalence of color over form and content that became the main principle of Fauvism.



THE MOST OUTSTANDING WORK

Moscow collector Sergei Shchukin visited the artist's Paris studio in 1906 and commissioned three decorative panels from him for the front staircase in his mansion. Two canvases from this series - "Dance" and "Music" - are now in the Hermitage, the panel "Bathing, or Meditation" remained unfinished, only the artist's sketches have survived. Before sending the canvas to Russia, it was exhibited at the Autumn Salon of 1910 at the Grand Palais and caused a scandal. The customer was called a madman and a collector of rubbish.

