EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: Matisse as Printmaker: Works from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation

When: April 6–June 8, 2014

Description: Henri Matisse may be best known as a painter and sculptor, but this exhibition sheds light on his prolific and innovative career as a printmaker. Drawn from the extraordinary collection of Matisse prints that once belonged to the artist’s son Pierre, Matisse as Printmaker includes 63 etchings, monotypes, aquatints, lithographs, black and white linocuts, and two-color prints—examples of every printmaking medium that Matisse utilized.

Organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, Matisse as Printmaker sheds new light on an under-studied aspect of Matisse’s oeuvre and underscores the importance of printmaking for the artist.

Companion exhibition: Alexander Matisse: New Ceramics showcases the artist’s great-grandson, a gifted young potter working in the craft-rich Asheville (NC) area.

Related events: These include a members’ opening party (April 5), two lectures (April 6 and 17), a print collecting roundtable (May 1) and a teacher inservice (April 9). See attached release for details or visit mag.rochester.edu/calendar.

Sponsors: Matisse as Printmaker is sponsored in Rochester by the McDonald Family, Trudie & Ron Kirshner, and COMIDA, with additional support from Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, Deanne Molinari, and Ron & Cathy Paprocki. The media sponsor is the Democrat and Chronicle.

Alexander Matisse: New Ceramics is sponsored by the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund and Charlotte & Raul Herrera.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm. Open special school break hours 11 am–5 pm on Tuesday, April 15. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission: $12; senior citizens, $8; college students with ID and children 6–18, $5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. During the school break (April 12–20), free to age 18 and under if accompanied by an adult. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 is sponsored in part by Monroe County.

Press contacts: High resolution publicity images are available upon request from Meg Colombo, 585.276.8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu
Patti Giordano, 585.276.8932 / pgiordano@mag.rochester.edu

Images and artist photos for Alexander Matisse: New Ceramics are available at mag.rochester.edu/newsroom (password NEWS).
March 13, 2014

NATIONALLY TOURING EXHIBITION OF MATISSE PRINTS TO OPEN APRIL 6 AT THE MEMORIAL ART GALLERY

ROCHESTER, NY — Matisse as Printmaker: Works from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation opens April 6, 2014 at the Memorial Art Gallery and remains on view through June 8. Drawn from the extraordinary collection of Matisse prints that once belonged to the artist’s son Pierre, the exhibition includes 63 etchings, monotypes, aquatints, lithographs, black and white linocuts, and two-color prints—examples of every printmaking medium used by Matisse. With its rich variety of media and subject matter, Matisse as Printmaker sheds new light on an under-studied aspect of Matisse’s oeuvre and underscores the importance of printmaking for the artist.

Matisse as Printmaker is organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation.

SPONSORS
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COMPANION EXHIBITION
Alexander Matisse: New Ceramics (April 6–June 8) showcases Henri Matisse’s great-grandson, a gifted young potter working in the craft-rich Asheville (NC) area. This companion show to Matisse as Printmaker presents new works—many made specifically for MAG’s exhibition—that reflect Alexander Matisse’s marriage of Anglo-Asian forms and motifs with the clay traditions of the American South. Hear an illustrated lecture by the artist April 6 at 2 pm.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund and Charlotte & Raul Herrera.

Pictured: Charger (2013). Collection of Dr. and Mrs. William Eby.

MATISSE AS PRINTMAKER

Recognized foremost as a painter and sculptor, French master Henri Matisse (1869–1954) was also deeply engaged throughout his career in exploring other mediums and the unique possibilities they offered for creative expression. Matisse saw printmaking as an extension of drawing, which was integral to the whole of his art. As Jay Fisher, guest curator of Matisse as Printmaker, writes in the exhibition catalog, “Printmaking was Matisse’s primary means of demonstrating to his audience his working process, the character of his vision, and the way his drawing transformed what he observed.”

Matisse’s involvement with printmaking was both intense and innovative as he moved from one technique to the next, adopting new approaches to reflect the evolution of his artistic ideas. Almost all of his prints...
involve serial imagery, such as the development of a reclining figure, the integration of models within interiors, the study of facial expressions and features, and the transformation of a subject from a direct representation to something more abstract. Printmaking captured the phases of Matisse’s artistic process—a process that resulted in a refined image of his subject.

For Matisse, printmaking was also a practical means of disseminating his art among the many avid collectors of his work. Despite their relatively wide distribution, Matisse’s prints are remarkable for the aura of intimacy and immediacy they communicate. The relative ease with which the prints could be produced enabled Matisse to work freely and spontaneously, often creating casual portraits of family members and friends in his studio, where he had installed his own printing press.

Apart from his book illustrations, Matisse was mostly faithful to the tradition of black-and-white prints; but in his last years, he made two prints in color, both included in the exhibition.

Moving from one medium to another, Matisse made prints fairly consistently from 1900 until his death in 1954. During the course of his career, he produced more than 800 images, often in editions of 25 or 50. This great profusion of images expanded the reach of his art and has helped cement his position as one of the pre-eminent artists of the 20th century.

Although Matisse was deeply engaged in the practice of printmaking, most of the exhibitions and research on the artist’s work to date have focused on his paintings and sculpture. With its diverse selection of works from different periods in Matisse’s career, Matisse as Printmaker provides a comprehensive examination of the artist’s relationship with the printmaking medium and the role it played in the evolution of his visual ideas. The exhibition offers a persuasive argument that Matisse’s prints merit appreciation and consideration not only in relation to his painting but in their own right.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
These include a members’ opening party (April 5), two lectures (April 6 and 17), a print collecting roundtable (May 1) and a teacher inservice (April 9). See next page for details.

CATALOG
Published by the American Federation of Arts, the fully-illustrated, 88-page exhibition catalog includes an essay by guest curator Jay McKean Fisher of the Baltimore Museum of Art. Available in softcover at the Gallery Store, $30.

NATIONAL TOUR
Matisse as Printmaker opened at the Baltimore Museum of Art in October 2009 and traveled to the Tampa Museum of Art, the Blanton Museum of Art (University of Texas at Austin), the Art Gallery of Alberta and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum (Rollins College, FL). From MAG, the exhibition continues its tour at the Paine Art Center and Gardens (Oshkosh, WI).

PRESS CONTACTS / IMAGE REQUESTS
High resolution publicity images for Matisse in Rochester are available upon request from Meg Colombo, 585.276.8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu
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MEMBERS' OPENING PARTY
Saturday, April 5, 8 to 11 pm / free to MAG members*
Celebrate Matisse as Printmaker with live music and entertainment. Dance to the distinctive vibe of Woody Dodge and his four-piece band (pictured), performing a blend of folk, rock and country. Relax to the rich, soulful sounds of singer-songwriter Teagan Ward. Celebrate Matisse’s love of music and dance at a special program of works by Debussy, Fauré and others, performed by the Telos Trio, faculty members at the Hochstein School of Music. Enjoy nibbles and beverages for purchase from our party sponsor, Max at the Gallery (also serving dinner 5 to 9 pm).
*Reservations required. For more information, call 585.276.8938.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Lecture: Alex Matisse
Sunday, April 6 at 2 pm / included in Gallery admission
Alex Matisse, great-grandson of Henri Matisse, gives an illustrated lecture on his ceramics, which are featured in a companion show to Matisse as Printmaker. We anticipate a sell-out crowd for this lecture, so please plan to arrive early.

Matisse as Printmaker: A Conversation
Thursday, April 17, 7 pm / included in Gallery admission
Two experts from Sotheby’s New York—Mary Bartow, senior vice president and head of the prints department, and Jeremiah Everts, vice president and specialist in Impressionist and modern art—discuss Henri Matisse’s works on paper.

Print Club of Rochester Event
Thursday, May 1, 7 pm / included in Gallery admission (free to MAG and Print Club members)
“You Don’t Know Print.” Gallery owner Warren Phillips, educator Jeffery Sherven and artist Adam Werth share their very different points of view on print collecting—the joy of those precious finds; and the triumphs, perils and pitfalls of buying and preserving prints.
Cosponsored with the Print Club of Rochester and made possible by the Sandra G. Dreyfuss Education Endowment Fund.

DIY: Drawing Made Easy
Sunday, June 8, 1–4 pm / $45 (MAG members $40), includes all materials; preregistration required*
Join artist Gina Zanolli and museum educator Marlene Hamann-Whitmore for a trip into “Matisse as Printmaker,” then head into the Creative Workshop for an introduction to a variety of approaches to drawing the human figure. All levels are welcome and encouraged to attend!
*Contact Kerry Donovan at kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu or 585-276-8971.
GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS
Dates below / included in Gallery admission
Sunday, April 6 @ 1 & 3 pm
Fridays, April 11–June 6 @ 2 pm
Sundays, April 18–June 8 @ 1 pm

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS
Wednesday, April 9, 4:30–7 pm / free, but preregistration required*
“Figure Drawing for all Ages.” Creative Workshop instructor Gina Zanolli shows you how to incorporate figure drawing into your art room curriculum for any grade level.
*Contact Kerry Donovan at kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu or 585-276-8971.