



For media in Baltimore

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**For media outside
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***Wild Forms: Fauve Woodcuts* to Open in BMA's Ruth R. Marder Center for Matisse Studies**

BALTIMORE, MD (March 17, 2023)—This focus exhibition presents 14 woodcut prints produced early in the careers of French artists Henri Matisse (1869-1954), Maurice de Vlaminck (1876-1958), André Derain (1880-1954), Raoul Dufy (1877-1953), Othon Friesz (1879-1949), and Louis Valtat (1869-1952)—all members of or associated with the influential group of French artists known as the Fauves (Wild Beasts). Best known for their bold and brash use of intense color in their paintings, the Fauves experimented with woodcuts to create innovative and expressive works mostly in black and white. *Wild Forms: Fauve Woodcuts* shows their variations in design, color, line, and form with both figures and landscapes. Most of these examples were acquired by the BMA in the last two decades, and many have not been on view for some time, if ever. The exhibition is presented in the BMA's Jay McKean Fisher Gallery in the Ruth R. Marder Center for Matisse Studies from May 14 through October 15, 2023.

"We are delighted to showcase this selection of bold prints by some of the most groundbreaking artists of the early 20th century," said Asma Naeem, the BMA's Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director. "This is a rare opportunity to study a little-known aspect of their careers and, with the museum's collection of African art nearby, consider the influences from artists working in that continent."

One of the oldest printmaking techniques, woodcut printing had been practiced in Europe since the 14th century and became popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1906, a large retrospective held in Paris examined the work of Paul Gauguin (1848–1903), an artist whose compositions were very influential for the younger Fauve artists. Gauguin made woodcuts and may have spurred the Fauves' interest in the printmaking technique. For Matisse, Vlaminck, and Derain in particular, the appeal of producing woodcuts also coincided with their increasing fascination with African and Oceanic sculptures coming from regions colonized by France. This engagement with the work of African and Oceanic artists perhaps inspired them to create by carving into wood themselves. The Fauves' expressive woodcuts, ranging from spare and somewhat rough to the more elegant and decorative, provided an avenue for the artists to create a new pictorial space using a historic method.

This exhibition is curated by Katy Rothkopf, The Anne and Ben Cone Memorial Director of the Ruth R. Marder Center for Matisse Studies and Senior Curator of European Painting and Sculpture.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by Clair Zamoiski Segal.

Baltimore Museum of Art

Founded in 1914, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) inspires people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, programs, and collections that tell an expansive story of art—challenging long-held narratives and embracing new voices. Our outstanding collection of more than 97,000 objects spans many eras and cultures and includes the world’s largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse; one of the nation’s finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs; and a rapidly growing number of works by contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds. The museum is also distinguished by a neoclassical building designed by American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of modern and contemporary sculpture. The BMA is located three miles north of the Inner Harbor, adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University, and has a community branch at Lexington Market. General admission is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

Visitor Information

General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays until 9 p.m. The Sculpture Gardens are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to dusk. The museum and gardens are closed New Year’s Day, Juneteenth, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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