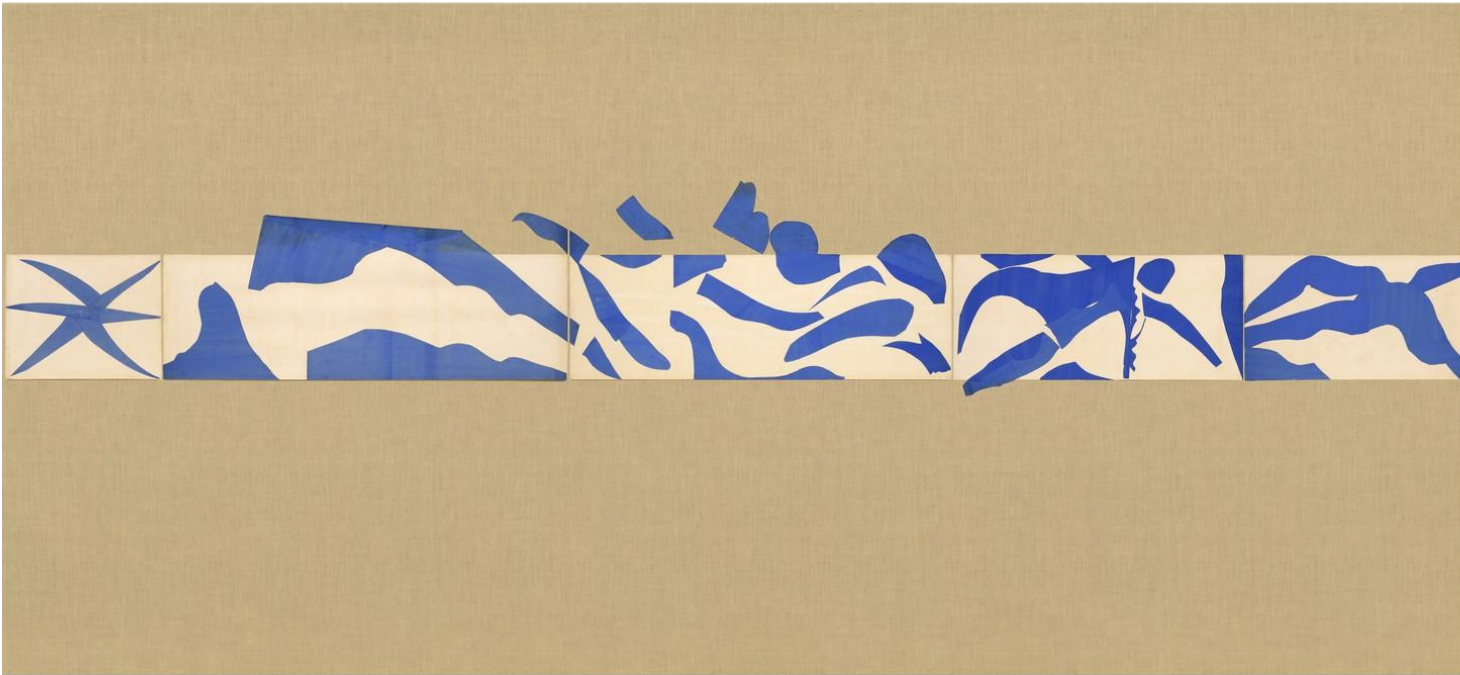


# **Mondays with MoMA**



**MoMA**

## Step 1 Look closely

To get a closer look, visit this website, then click on the image for a larger view:  
[moma.org/collection/works/79462](https://mom.org/collection/works/79462)

Questions:

1. What is happening in this artwork?
2. What shapes do you see?
3. How do you think the artist created this?

## Step 2 Learn more

Toward the end of his life, Henri Matisse invented a new form of art called the cut-out. He painted large sheets of paper with different bright colors and used scissors to cut them out into different kinds of shapes. He arranged these shapes into compositions.

This artwork is called *The Swimming Pool* and is the largest cut-out Matisse ever made. When the artist was no longer able to visit the ocean, he said, "I have always adored the sea, and now that I can no longer go for a swim, I have surrounded myself with it." This artwork is 54 feet long and was hung on the walls of Matisse's room so that he would feel like he was somewhere else.

## Step 3 Activity: Create a cutout

Watch a MoMA educator show how to make a cut-out inspired by Henri Matisse:  
[youtu.be/7yAXgCBKqgg](https://youtu.be/7yAXgCBKqgg)

Materials: colored paper, magazines, or any other colorful paper you can find, scissors, a blank piece of paper, glue (optional),

1. Collect magazines, flyers, or newspapers that have a lot of colorful pages and images. Or you can use colored paper if you have it.
2. Think of your favorite place to be and cut various shapes that remind you of that place.
3. Arrange the shapes on a blank piece of paper. Keep experimenting with different arrangements. Remember that you can use both the shape that you cut out and the paper that you cut it from (negative space).
4. Optional: When you are happy with your composition, you can glue it down or take a photo of it. Or, you can keep arranging the shapes into different compositions that represent different spaces.

## Step 4 Share!

Share your artwork with a friend or family member and ask them about their favorite place. Or, you can email it to us at MoMA:  
[schoolprograms@moma.org](mailto:schoolprograms@moma.org)



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Image: Henri Matisse. *The Swimming Pool, Maquette for ceramic* (realized 1999 and 2005). Nice-Cimiez, Hôtel Régina, late summer 1952. Gouache on paper, cut and pasted, on painted paper. Mrs. Bernard F. Gimbel Fund. Conservation was made possible by the Bank of America Art Conservation Project. © 2020 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York