

# Create

Matisse once said: "Color was not given to us in order that we should imitate nature, but so that we can express our own emotions." In this portrait he did not paint Madame Matisse's face as you might see it in real life; instead, he used colors expressively.

In the space below, create your own version of *Woman with a Hat* using colors that don't imitate nature.



Henri Matisse, *Femme au chapeau (Woman with a Hat)*, 1905, oil on canvas, 31 3/4 in. x 23 1/2 in. (80.65 cm x 59.69 cm), Collection SFMOMA, bequest of Elise S. Haas, © 2010 Succession H. Matisse, Paris/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York



## Family Guide

# HENRI MATISSE

(French, 1869–1954)



**SFMOMA**

*Femme au chapeau*  
(*Woman with a Hat*), 1905  
Oil on canvas  
Collection SFMOMA,  
bequest of Elise S. Haas

# Look

Look carefully at this painting for a moment.



A **portrait** is a picture of a person. This painting is a portrait of the artist's wife, Amélie.

Henri Matisse, *Femme au chapeau* (Woman with a Hat), 1905

## Fun Fact!

When this portrait was first exhibited in Paris in 1905, many people thought it was shocking. One art critic described Matisse and other artists who painted like him as "wild beasts."

Does this painting shock you as much as it shocked people when it was made more than one hundred years ago? Why or why not?

Are there other artworks at SFMOMA that shock or surprise you? If so, write their titles or draw them in the space below. What do you find shocking or surprising about these artworks?



# Explore

Matisse uses many vivid and unexpected colors.

How many different colors can you find in this portrait? Look for the colors listed below and circle the ones you see.



A collection of 12 colored circles arranged in a grid-like pattern, each containing a color name. The colors are: Orange, Teal, Blue, Turquoise, Violet, Brown, Yellow, Pink, Green, Burgundy, Purple, and Coral.