



Art

Henri Rousseau 1844-1910 Post Impressionism/ Naïve

Year 3 Unit 1

Key Vocabulary:

Core Knowledge

Post Impressionism

Post-Impressionism is an art movement that developed in the 1890s. It is characterized by a subjective approach to painting, as artists opted to evoke emotion rather than realism in their work.

Naïve Art

Naïve art describes the work of an artist who did not receive formal education in an art school or academy, for example Henri Rousseau.

Technical Vocabulary

Complimentary Colours

Complementary colours are two colours that are on opposite sides of the colour wheel. As an artist, knowing which colours are complementary to one another can help you make good colour decisions.

Drawing Mediums

Materials to draw with such as ink, graphite, charcoal and pastel.

Tone

The lightness or darkness of something.

Shade

To add black to a colour to make it darker.

Decoupage

Decoupage is the art of decorating an object by gluing coloured paper cut-outs onto it in combination with other decorative elements.

Key Works of Art



Tiger in a Tropical Storm (1891)



Women Walking in Exotic Forest (1905)

Biography



Henri Rousseau
1844-1910

- Henri Julien Felix Rousseau grew up in Laval, a small town in north-western France.
- His family were poor, and their house was seized in 1851.
- Henri enrolled as a boarding student at Laval High School, which he attended until 1860. He was an average student, aside from receiving distinctions in music and drawing.
- The family moved to Angers in 1861 and Rousseau spent 7 years in the military.
- Rousseau married his first wife, Clemence Boitard, in 1868.
- The beginnings of his career as an artist are uncertain, but he claimed that he began to paint at the age of forty in 1884.
- He exhibited for the first time with the Groupe des Indépendants in 1885. In the following year, the Groupe des Indépendants established its own Salon, in which Rousseau participated nearly every year until his death.
- In 1893, Rousseau became a full-time painter.
- In 1898, ten years after the death of his first wife, Rousseau married Josephine Noury, a widow.
- Through the press, however, he came to realise that he had gained a reputation with his jungle paintings and returned to the subject with *Scouts Attacked by the Tiger* in 1904. Its inclusion at the Indépendants prompted numerous reviews, putting Rousseau back into the public eye.
- It was around this time that the younger generation of artists discovered Rousseau, whose work seemed closely related to the "primitive" art that was becoming popular among many members of the avant-garde. He quickly made friends with a number of these artists, including Pablo Picasso.
- Rousseau's first, though unsuccessful, solo exhibition in 1908.
- In the same year, Pablo Picasso purchased Rousseau's *Portrait of a Woman* (1895) that he found in a second-hand shop. To celebrate the purchase, Picasso hosted a now-legendary party that inspired colourful written accounts by many of the guests.
- Despite his popularity among his fellow artists, Rousseau continued to be seen as a figure of amusement in the art world and lived in poverty for the rest of his life, which ended with an infected leg wound in 1910.

