



MAISON
Matisse

La Musique
collection

Press kit
January 2020

Maison
Matisse

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January
2020

La Musique collection





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The *La Musique* collection

Maison Matisse is launching its first collection in January 2020, in conjunction with the Maison & Objet and Paris Déco Home shows in Paris. Called *La Musique*, and inspired by Henri Matisse's iconic work painted in 1939 in homage to his passion for music, this collection of ceramic pieces has been produced in collaboration with the young Franco-Polish designer Marta Bakowski.



© Alice Cuvelier

La Musique
collection

Initiated by the fourth generation of Henri Matisse's family to celebrate, pass on, and share the boldness and values of this universal artist, Maison Matisse offers an interpretation of the painter's creative world, celebrating shapes and colors. With his open-mindedness, free of dogmatism, tireless talent for innovation, masterful use of color and layout to spark emotion, Henri Matisse is a never-ending source of inspiration for artists around the world.

Maison Matisse's launch was announced during the FIAC show in October, with presentation of its limited-edition collection arising from the carte blanche given to Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, Jaime Hayon and Alessandro Mendini in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Henri Matisse's birth.

Manifesto

«Our Maison has made the decision to give the work of our forebear Henri Matisse a lasting legacy and to promote it. A major 20th century painter, we support the artistic expression of an interpretation of his works, guided by his emotional and pictorial values.

Far from being a literal transcription, for the designers as much as for the artisan craftsmen (the creators of the 21st century) that we have selected, it's a matter of keeping his singularity, his joyous and soothing optimistic universe alive, with all the discernment and creativity required.

The foundation of this approach is guided by the desire to respectfully interpret Henri Matisse's personal values and artistic universe.

The mission of our Maison is to universally share the very particular emotion linked to delicate objects that convey the refreshing vision, both poetic and unique, of our great grandfather. For us, it's the occasion to show and to take another look at the inspiring force within his work, and we hope, to offer you a new reading of the paintings to which each of these objects refers. We desire therefore to give new generations all over the world the opportunity to discover this everlasting exultation and to enjoy it in their everyday lives».

Jean-Matthieu Matisse

Maison Matisse permanent collections

If the ideal of joy and harmony left behind by Henri Matisse is universal, this means that he continues to inspire, still today, entire generations of artists and designers across the world. With this powerful legacy bolstering it, Maison Matisse desires to pass on its message, varying its designs through two product lines. These are its limited editions and permanent collections, enhanced each year and introduced at the major international decor and design events. In 2020, Maison Matisse will be present at Maison&Objet in Paris in January, and at Salone del Mobile in Milan with its two brand-new collections.

In October 2019, the first carte blanche was inaugurated with Alessandro Mendini, Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec and Jaime Hayòn, revealing just as many personal interpretations of the artist's work.

Now, it's time to make room for the Maison Matisse permanent collections. Inspired each year by one of his works, Henri Matisse's artistic vocabulary will be taken up under the strokes of a specially-invited designer. These collections will be the opportunity to allow a painting "to speak" using its own words, whether they be shape, color, or pattern: like a story told through authentic objects produced by the best artisans in accordance with professional practices.

The Maison Matisse collections will expand every year, adding new pieces created by the studio or in collaboration with renowned and up-and-coming designers. Each collection will draw inspiration from one of Henri Matisse's emblematic paintings to conceive a series of original pieces, which will be produced according to a meticulous artisanal process. Particularly representative of his life's work, La Musique was chosen for this premier collection. Its colors and patterns are brought to mind by those reproduced by designer Marta Bakowski in the 14 pieces of tableware.

Henri Matisse and music

«The painter chooses his color in the intensity and the value that suits him, like the musician chooses the timbre and volume of his instruments»

A comparison made by Henri Matisse himself. It says a lot about the musicality that spans his work and brings his paintbrush to life, giving his stroke its full energy, while the colors on the palette have replaced the notes. Whether referring to *La Musique*, the *Violoniste à la fenêtre* or even *La Tristesse du roi*, these paintings are rhythm and harmony incarnate, well beyond the symbolic presence of the instruments. Before landing on these paintings, the violin already held a special place in Matisse's life, who dreamed of being a violinist from a young age. While

he imparted his passion to his children, he also had friends who were musicians, was an avid fan of jazz, inspired by Russian ballets, and always on the look-out for avant-garde... and this passion never left him. On the contrary, it was present in his everyday life until it became an integral part of his work. It was an essential component of his pictorial practice, day after day, in the style of a musician who rehearses his score unrelentingly.

Like a musician, Matisse plays, too, but he uses the paintbrush.



Henri Matisse,
La Musique 1939
© 2020 Succession
Henri Matisse

La Musique by Marta Bakowski

The work *La Musique* (1939) was chosen to make its mark on this premiere collection. In it, one can find a philodendron leaf, a woman's silhouette, and music: the themes that are so representative of Henri Matisse's works.

Designer Marta Bakowski has pulled these shapes from the painting's composition, full of curves and geometric lines, and transposed them onto the 14 earthenware pieces: 4 platters and serving bowls, 3 bottles, 6 plates and a pitcher. And so, the red, green, blue or ochre blocks

of color take shape and translate the visual language of the artist into three dimensions.

Born in Paris in 1986, Marta Bakowski studied design at Central Saint Martins College before completing her degree with the Royal College of Arts. Two years spent alongside Hella Jongerius capped off her training, leading the young designer to establish her own studio in 2013 in Paris. Her collaborations include: La Chance, Ligne Roset as well as Roche Bobois.



© Fabrice Gousset

La Musique
collection

The savoir-faire to create unique pieces

Echoing the artist's stroke, the collection is made entirely by hand, calling upon one of the oldest artisanal manufactories in Italy (a family-run business founded in Tuscany in 1921) whose expertise is considered among the best in Italian ceramics.

Poured into molds and then removed, the pieces first undergo two firings, allowing the design to be applied to the biscuit between these two steps. This is done using tissue paper pricked with a needle to create an outline, then pounced with graphite, following the spolvero technique. The decor is then painted, with the exception of the dessert plates that are engraved using a pen with a metal tip. The second firing thus fixes the colors, before the third which sets the matte enamel. A result of the handiwork that has ensured artisanal quality for centuries, and will continue to do so in the future, this meticulous process is what makes these pieces valuable and expresses their intrinsic worth. It leaves a trace of the movement of the hand that transforms each object into a unique piece.



© Jérôme Galland



© Jérôme Galland

La Musique collection

In the likeness of Matisse's works, these objects seek to stand the test of time: to be cherished, kept and passed on from generation to generation.





© Fabrice Gousset



© Alice Cuvelier



La Musique
collection

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Large serving bowl
Harmonie

M2019HMB001
Dimensions: Ø 47 cm
Height: 8 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Pitcher
Octave

M2019HMB008
Dimensions: Ø 21 cm
Height: 37 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Large platter
Canon

M2019HMB002
Dimensions: Ø 47 cm
Height: 7.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Bottle
Canon

M2019HMB005
Dimensions: Ø 11.6 cm
Height: 25 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Serving bowl
Sol

M2019HMB003
Dimensions: Ø 37 cm
Height: 5.6 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Bottle
Harmonie

M2019HMB006
Dimensions: Ø 11.6 cm
Height: 25 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Platter
Arpège

M2019HMB004
Dimensions: Ø 37 cm
Height: 7.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Bottle
Sol

M2019HMB007
Dimensions: Ø 11.6 cm
Height: 25 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Nuance

M2019HMB010
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Carré

M2019HMB011
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Clé

M2019HMB014
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Contrepoint

M2019HMB012
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Double point

M2019HMB013
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



Dessert plate
Variation

M2019HMB009
Dimensions: Ø 18 cm
Height: 2.5 cm
Hand-painted
earthenware



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Practical information and contact details

Maison Matisse Showroom

21 rue Bonaparte, 6th district of Paris
Open from Thursday, January 16
Monday January 20 from 9am to 7pm.
Sunday, January 19 from 11am to 6pm.

Or by appointment
contact@maison-matisse.com
Sneak preview for professionals on Thursday,
January 16 from 9am to 3pm.



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