

Golden Road Arts

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec – French Post-Impressionist Artist

1. Overview

a. In this lesson, artist and printmaker Barbara Mason discusses the work of artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, who was born in Albi, France in 1864. His family lived in the South of France, and they were very wealthy. And his dad anticipated that his son would follow in his footsteps and manage the properties. But when Toulouse-Lautrec was thirteen, he began to break bones in his legs. His family had a genetic problem that caused his legs to not grow. His upper body grew like a normal person, but his legs were very short – he was less than five feet tall. Physically unable to participate in most of the activities typically enjoyed by men of his age, Toulouse-Lautrec immersed himself in his art, and became a talented. He was very friendly, and everybody liked him – plus he could draw a well. One of the things he drew were caricatures – images of people with noses, mouths, ears, or body parts that are more pronounced (we call them exaggerated). He enjoyed the night life in Paris that grew during his time because of the electric light, and he often spent the nighttime drawing people who worked in clubs. Because of this, his artwork was used to promote their performances. Many of his final artworks, originally created in paint or pastels, then were reproduced as large and famous commercially printed posters and advertisements of the Moulin Rouge club. Many of his paintings were of women who worked in the clubs, captured in their private time.

b. Grade level: Kindergarten-5th Grade

c. Vocabulary

- i. Draftsman/Drawing
- ii. Caricature/Cartoon
- iii. Illustrator
- iv. Advertising Posters
- v. Moulin Rouge
- vi. Commercial Printing
- vii. Lithography/Printmaking

d. Art Medium

- i. Watercolor paper
- ii. Computer paper
- iii. Watercolors and brushes
- iv. Water-soluble markers

- v. Water-based pastels
- vi. Crayons
- vii. Colored Pencils
- viii. Water
- ix. Printed outlines from website (download and print)

2. Fun Facts

- a. Throughout his career, which spanned less than 20 years, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec created 737 canvases, 275 watercolors, 363 prints and posters, 5,084 drawings, some ceramic and stained glass work, and an unknown number of lost works.
- b. During a stay in Nice, France, his progress in painting and drawing impressed the painter René Princeteau, who persuaded Toulouse-Lautrec's parents to let him return to Paris and study under the portrait painter Léon Bonnat. Toulouse-Lautrec moved to the studio of Fernand Cormon in 1882 and studied there five years. At this time, he met Émile Bernard and Vincent van Gogh. Cormon allowed his pupils to roam Paris, looking for subjects to paint.
- c. Toulouse-Lautrec's paintings were similar to impressionists of the time, expressively depicting his experience of his subjects at play or rest and exploring the use of light, color, composition, and movement in his work. Unlike many impressionists, he painted mostly in-doors, but often could paint his subjects from memory.

3. Lesson Plan

- a. Elements of Art
 - i. Line
 - ii. Shape
 - iii. Form
 - iv. Composition
 - v. Space
 - vi. Color

- b. Principles of Art
 - i. Rhythm
 - ii. Balance
 - iii. Emphasis (contrast)
 - iv. Proportion
 - v. Gradation
 - vi. Harmony
 - vii. Variety
 - viii. Movement
 - ix. Composition

- c. Visualization
 - i. How does Toulouse-Lautrec create movement in his art?
 - ii. Would you like to create images that are more like the caricatures of Toulouse-Lautrec?
 - iii. Do you like the bright colors and thick lines in Toulouse-Lautrec's Posters?
 - iv. Do you see how someone called an "illustrator" is also an artist?
 - v. What did you see and feel about the art you created?
- d. Goals and Objectives
 - i. Students will understand the concept of caricature or exaggeration in creating art.
 - ii. Students will understand the variety/difference in the art created by Toulouse-Lautrec.
 - iii. Students will see how art and life meet by considering the promotional posters of Toulouse-Lautrec.
 - iv. Students will appreciate how investing time in the study of models/subjects/settings provides experience in capturing light, form, posture, and movement.
 - v. Student can see how someone with a disability may still be successful as an artist.
- e. Students Critique Questions
 - i. What do you like about your art project?
 - ii. What do you like about your classmates' art projects?
 - iii. How does your art you have created differ from realism.

4. Standards Met

- a. To meet standards, students should be encouraged to watch the following videos
- b.
 - i. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
<https://youtu.be/dY30y0RzkSo>
 - ii. Discussion of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec Poster for Mademoiselle Eglantine's troupe/Jane Avril (1896)
<https://youtu.be/7bw85pdXsVk>

COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (PER GRADE)

Kindergarten

VA.1.CR1.K #1. & #2., VA.2.CR2.K #1 & #3., VA:CR3.K #1. & #2.,
VA.8.RE2.K #1., VA.9.RE3.K #1., VA.10.CO1.K #1. & # 2., VA.11.CO2.K #1.,
VA:C1.1.Ka, VA:Cr1.2.Ka, VA:Cr2.1.Ka, VA:Cr3.1.Ka, VA:Re9.1.Ka

1st Grade

VA.1.CR1.1 #1., #2., & #3., VA.2.CR2.1 #1., VA.3.CR3.1 #1. & #2.,
VA.8.RE.2.1 #1., VA.9.RE3.1 #1., VA.10.CO1.1 #2., VA.11.CO2.1 #1. & #2.,
VA:Re8.1.1a, VA:Re9.1.1a, VA:CR1.2.1a,VA:CR2.1.1a, VA:CR3.1.1a

2nd Grade

VA.1.CR1.2 #1. #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.2 #1., VA.3.CR3.2 #1. #2. & #3.,
VA.8.RE2.2 #1., VA.9.RE3.2 #1., VA.10.CO1.2 #2., VA:Cr1.1.2a, VA:Cr1.2.2a,
VA:Cr2.1.2a, VA:Cr3.1.2a, VA:Re.7.2.2a, VA:Re8.1.2a, VA:Re9.1.2a

3rd Grade

VA.1.CR1.3 #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.3 #1., VA.3.CR3.3 #2. #3.,
VA.7.RE1.3 #2., VA.8.RE2.3 #1. & #2., VA.9.RE3.3 #1., VA:Cr1.1.3a,
VA:Cr1.2.3a, VA:Cr2.1.3a, VA:Re.7.1.3a, VA:Re8.1.3a, VA:Re9.1.3a,
VA:Cn11.1.3a

4th Grade

VA.2.CR2.4 #1., VA.3.CR3.4 #1. #2. #3., VA.7.RE1.4 #2. & #3.,
VA.8.RE2.4 #1., VA.9.RE3.4 #1. & #2., VA:Cr1.1.4a, VA:Cr1.2.4a,
VA:Cr2.1.4a, VA:Cr3.1.4a, VA:Re.7.1.4a, VA:Re8.1.4a, VA:Re9.1.4a,
VA:Cn11.1.4a

5th Grade

VA.CR1.5 #2. & #3., VA.2.CR2.5 #1., VA.3.CR3.5 #2. & #3.,
VA.7.RE1.5 #1. & #2., VA.8.RE2.5 #1., VA.9.RE3.5 #1 & #2.,
VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr1.2.5a, VA:Cr2.1.5a, VA:Cr3.1.5a,
VA:Re.7.1.5a, VA:Re8.1.5a, VA:Re9.1.5a, VA:Cn10.1.5a, VA:Cn11.1.5a