"ICARUS"

by Henri Matisse



Lesson for Elementary Grades

- Henri Matisse was born in France in 1869.
- At the age of 20 Henri was studying to be a lawyer when he became very ill and was bedridden.
- Henri was very bored just lying around so his mother gave him a box of paints and brushes so he would have something to do. When he recovered, he did not want to go back to law school, instead he went straight to art school!
- He used rich colors and shapes and loved to paint people too.
- Henri was also known for trying a new style by painting paper and then cutting it out and pasting it into the painting.
- “Icarus” artwork by Henri Matisse was completed by 1947 and included in his famous book Jazz.
- For Matisse, this piece relates to the Greek myth of Icarus who "with a passionate heart, falls out of the starry sky".
- Henri created a new art form by cutting and pasting colored pieces of paper, which he used to create “Icarus.” He described this “cut-outs” as “drawing with scissors.”

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Art Project

Materials:

- Construction paper (1 blue, 1 black, 1/2 yellow, small piece of red).
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cardstock (for printing Icarus final image or template)
- Pencil or Black Permanent marker (i.e. Sharpie)

Instructions:

- Use the included .svg file to upload into a smart cutting machine such as Cricut. Pre-cut templates of the Icarus for young artists to trace on the black construction paper and cut. Tip: place the template reversed on top of the black construction paper, so the line used to trace it will be in the side of the image that will be glued on the blue construction paper. This way avoids seeing the traced line on the final artwork.
  OR
  Use the printed image in this file for students to cut and no need to trace. Tip: I recommend printing it on cardstock.

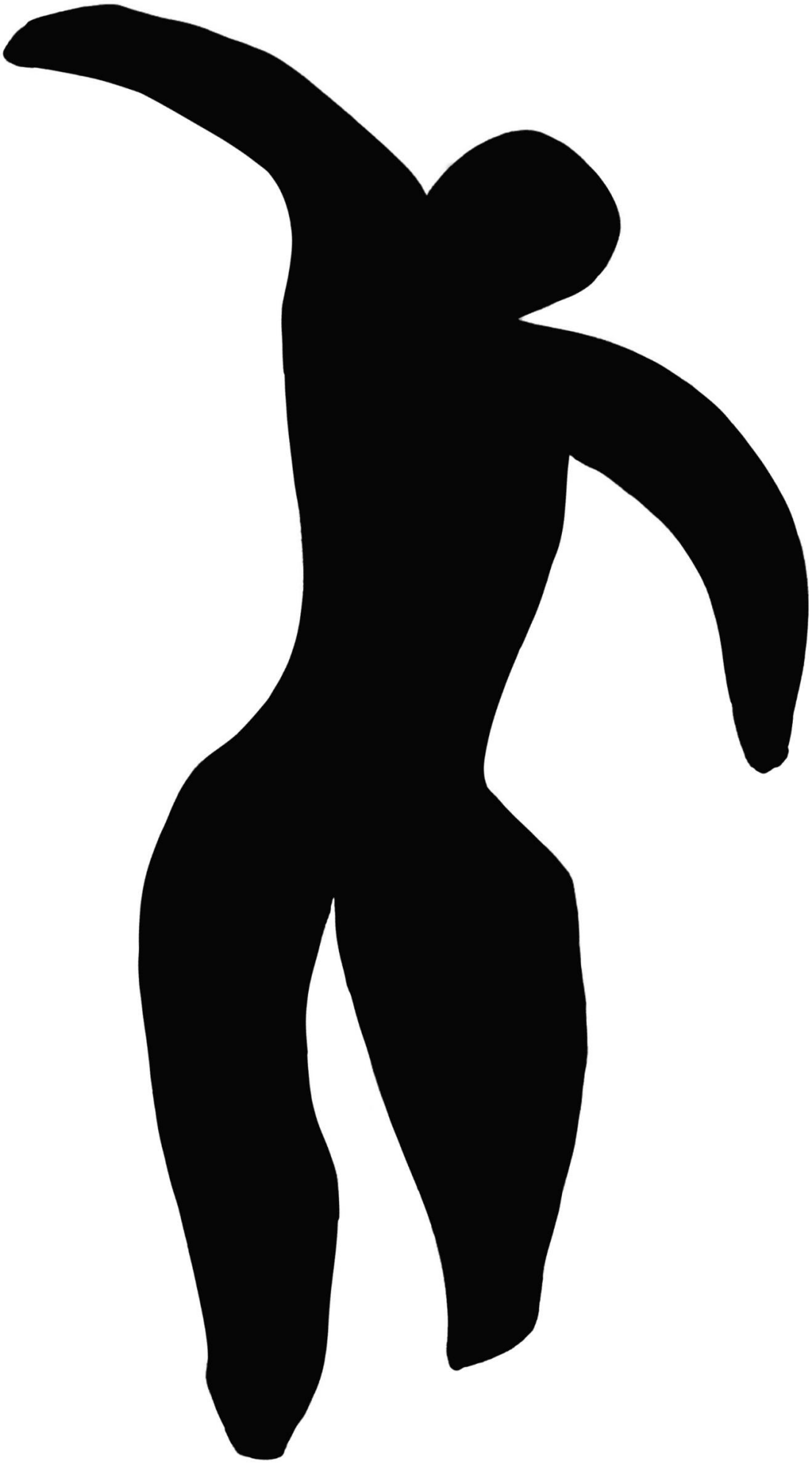
- Glue the Icarus image on top of the blue construction as shown on the original artwork from Matisse.

- Cut a small circle from the red construction paper and glue on top of the Icarus where the heart might be.

- Cut 6 stars from the yellow construction paper. Leave it to the artist to decide how many points on the star and where to glue them.

- Done!

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Artwork from young artists.

Resources

- http://www.matissepaintings.org/icarus/
- https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/337069
- https://www.moma.org/collection/works/105386

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