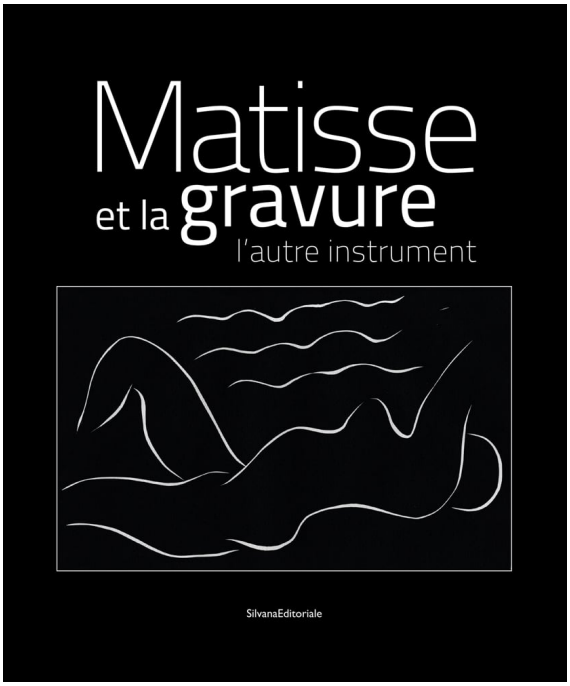
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Matisse et la Gravure

The Other Instrument

Patrice Deparpe

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- Marguerite, Henri Matisse's daughter, and her son Claude Duthuit, are the authors of this catalogue of Matisse's engravings

Who other than Henri Matisse's daughter Marguerite could describe his engraving in this way? Responsible for validating her father's press-proofs, she is, along with her son Claude Duthuit, the author of this catalogue raisonné of his engravings. She has devoted a large part of her life to allowing this 'unknown continent' to be discovered which is nevertheless essential in understanding the progression of an artist known above all for his mastery of colour.

The Matisse Departmental Museum, with the help of the Matisse family, Barbara Duthuit, and some most prestigious institutions, explores in this catalogue all of the engraving techniques used by Matisse from 1900 up to the end of his life. For him, engraving, drawing, painting, and sculpture all had the same importance, and in this work all the key themes that led him to build his research around the human figure, are represented.

For the very first time the matrices (woodcut, lithograph, drypoint, etching, linocut…) accompany the works and help us to understand that high standards and hard work, along with an economy of means, led Matisse to transform black into a colour that he used to serve the purity of line.

Text in English and French.

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