

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

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Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa or simply **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec** (French: [ɑ̃ʁi də tuluz lo ˈtʁɛk]; 24 November 1864 – 9 September 1901) was a French painter, printmaker, draughtsman and illustrator whose immersion in the colourful and theatrical life of Paris in the late 1800s yielded a collection of exciting, elegant and provocative images of the modern and sometimes decadent life of those times. Toulouse-Lautrec – along with Cézanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin – is among the most well-known painters of the Post-Impressionist period. In a 2005 auction at Christie's auction house, a new record was set when *La blanchisseuse*, an early painting of a young laundress, sold for US\$22.4 million.^[1]

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Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec



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Birth name	Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa
Born	24 November 1864 <div>Albi, Tarn, France</div>
Died	9 September 1901 (aged 36) <div>Château Malromé, France</div>
Nationality	French
Field	Painter, printmaker, draftsman, illustrator
Movement	Post-Impressionism, Art Nouveau

Early life

Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa was born at the chateau du Bosc in Albi, Tarn in the Midi-Pyrénées région of France, the firstborn child of Comte Alphonse de Toulouse-Lautrec-Monfa and Adèle Tapié de Celeyran. He was therefore a member of an aristocratic family (descendants of the Counts of Toulouse and Lautrec and the Viscounts of Montfa, a village and commune of the Tarn department of southern France). A younger brother was born on 28 August 1867, but died the following year.

After the death of his brother his parents separated and a nanny took care of Henri.^[2] At the age of eight, Henri went to live with his mother in Paris where he drew sketches and caricatures in his exercise workbooks. The family quickly realised that Henri's talent lay in drawing and painting, and a friend of his father, Rene Princeteau visited sometimes to give informal lessons. Some of Henri's early paintings are of horses, a speciality of Princeteau, and something he later visited in his 'Circus Paintings'.^{[2][3]}

In 1875 Henri returned to Albi because his mother recognised his health problems. He took thermal baths at Amélie-les-Bains and his mother consulted doctors in the hope of finding a way to improve her son's growth and development.^[2]

Disability and health problems

Henri's parents, the Comte and Comtesse, were first cousins (Henri's two grandmothers were sisters^[2]) and Henri suffered from congenital health conditions sometimes attributed to a family history of inbreeding.^[4]

At the age of 13 Henri fractured his right thigh bone and, at 14, the left.^[5] The breaks did not heal properly. Modern physicians attribute this to an unknown genetic disorder, possibly pycnodysostosis (also sometimes known as Toulouse-Lautrec Syndrome),^[6] or a variant disorder along the lines of osteopetrosis, achondroplasia, or osteogenesis imperfecta.^[7] Rickets aggravated with praecox virilism has also been suggested. His legs ceased to grow, so that as an adult he was extremely short. He had developed an adult-sized torso, while retaining his child-sized legs.^[8] He is reported to have had hypertrophied genitals.^[9]

Physically unable to participate in many activities typically enjoyed by men of his age, Toulouse-Lautrec immersed himself in art. He became an important Post-Impressionist painter, art nouveau illustrator, and lithographer, and recorded in his works many details of the late-19th-century bohemian lifestyle in Paris. Toulouse-Lautrec contributed a number of illustrations to the magazine *Le Rire* during the mid-1890s.

After failing college entrance exams, Henri passed at his second attempt and completed his studies. During a stay in Nice his progress in painting and drawing impressed Princeteau, who persuaded his parents to let him return to Paris and study under the acclaimed portrait painter Léon Bonnat. Henri's mother had high ambitions and, with the aim of Henri becoming a fashionable and respected painter, used the family influence to get him into Bonnat's studio.^[2]

Paris

Toulouse-Lautrec was drawn to Montmartre, the area of Paris famous for its bohemian lifestyle and the haunt of artists, writers, and philosophers. Studying with Bonnat placed Henri in the heart of Montmartre, an area he rarely left over the next 20 years. After Bonnat took a new job, Henri moved to the studio of Fernand Cormon in 1882 and studied for a further five years and established the group of friends he kept for the rest of his life. At this time he met Émile Bernard and Van Gogh. Cormon, whose instruction was more relaxed than Bonnat's,



Jules Chéret and Lautrec with poster

allowed his pupils to roam Paris, looking for subjects to paint. In this period Toulouse-Lautrec had his first encounter with a prostitute (reputedly sponsored by his friends), which led him to paint his first painting of prostitutes in Montmartre, a woman rumoured to be called Marie-Charlotte.^[2]



La Toilette, oil on board, 1889

With his studies finished, in 1887 he participated in an exposition in Toulouse using the pseudonym "Tréclau", an anagram of the family name 'Lautrec'. He later exhibited in Paris with Van Gogh and Louis Anquetin.^[2] The Belgian critic Octave Maus invited him to present eleven pieces at the Vingt (the Twenties) exhibition in Brussels in February. Vincent van Gogh's brother, Theo bought 'Poudre de Riz' (Rice Powder) for 150 francs for the Goupil & Cie gallery.

From 1889 until 1894, Henri took part in the "Independent Artists' Salon" on a regular basis. He made several landscapes of Montmartre. At this time the 'Moulin Rouge' opened.^[2] Tucked deep into Montmartre was the garden of Monsieur Pere Foret, where Toulouse-Lautrec executed a series of pleasant plein-air paintings of Carmen Gaudin, the same red-head model who appears in *The Laundress* (1888). When the Moulin Rouge cabaret opened, Toulouse-Lautrec was commissioned to produce a series of posters. His mother had left Paris and, though Henri had a regular income from his family, making posters offered him a living of his own. Other artists looked down on the work, but Henri was

so aristocratic he did not care.^[10] The cabaret reserved a seat for him and displayed his paintings.^[11] Among the well-known works that he painted for the Moulin Rouge and other Parisian nightclubs are depictions of the singer Yvette Guilbert; the dancer Louise Weber, known as the outrageous La Goulue ("The Glutton"), who created the "French Can-Can"; and the much more subtle dancer Jane Avril.

London

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's family were Anglophiles. Though not as fluent as he pretended to be, he spoke English well enough to travel to London.^[10] Making posters in London led him to making the 'Confetti' poster,^[12] and the bicycle advert 'La Chaîne Simpson'.^[13]

While in London he met and befriended Oscar Wilde.^[10] When Wilde faced imprisonment in Britain, Henri was a very vocal supporter of Wilde. Toulouse-Lautrec's portrait of Wilde was painted the same year as Wilde's trial.^{[10][14]}

Alcoholism

Lautrec was mocked for his short stature and physical appearance, which led him to drown his sorrows in alcohol.^[15] At first this was beer and wine, but his tastes expanded. He was one of the notable Parisians who enjoyed American-style cocktails, France being a nation of wine purists. He had parties at his house on Friday nights and forced his guests to try them.^[10] The invention of the cocktail "Earthquake" or *Tremblement de Terre* is attributed to Toulouse-Lautrec: a potent mixture containing half absinthe and half cognac (in a wine goblet, 3 parts Absinthe and 3 parts Cognac, sometimes served with ice cubes or shaken in a cocktail shaker filled with ice).^[16]

In 1893 Lautrec's alcoholism began to take its toll, and as those around him realized the seriousness of his condition there were rumours of a syphilis infection.^[17] In 1899 his mother and some concerned friends had him briefly institutionalised.^[17] He even had a cane that hid alcohol so that a drink was always available.^[10]

Death

An alcoholic for most of his adult life, Toulouse-Lautrec was placed in a sanatorium shortly before his death. He died from complications due to alcoholism and syphilis at the family estate in Malromé at the age of 36. He is buried in Verdélais, Gironde, a few kilometres from the Château Malromé, where he died.

Toulouse-Lautrec's last words reportedly were: "Le vieux con!" ("The old fool!", although the word "con" can be meant in both simple and vulgar terms^[18]). This was his goodbye to his father.^[10] Although in another version he used the word "hallali", a term used by huntsmen for the moment the hounds kill their prey, "I knew, papa, that you wouldn't miss the death." ("Je savais, papa, que vous ne manqueriez pas l'hallali").^[19]

After Toulouse-Lautrec's death, his mother, the Comtesse Adèle Toulouse-Lautrec, and Maurice Joyant, his art dealer, promoted his art. His mother contributed funds for a museum to be created in Albi, his birthplace, to house his works. The Toulouse-Lautrec Museum owns the world's largest collection of works by the painter.

Art

Throughout his career, which spanned less than 20 years, Toulouse-Lautrec created 737 canvases, 275 watercolours, 363 prints and posters, 5,084 drawings, some ceramic and stained glass work, and an unknown number of lost works.^[6] His debt to the Impressionists, in particular the more figurative painters Manet and Degas, is apparent. His style was influenced by the classical Japanese woodprints which became popular in art circles in Paris. In his works can be seen parallels to Manet's detached barmaid at *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère* and the behind-the-scenes ballet dancers of Degas. He excelled at capturing people in their working environment, with the colour and the movement of the gaudy night-life present but the glamour stripped away. He was masterly at capturing crowd scenes in which the figures are highly individualized. At the time that they were painted, the individual figures in his larger paintings could be identified by silhouette alone, and the names of many of these characters have been recorded. His treatment of his subject matter, whether as portraits, scenes of Parisian night-life, or intimate studies, has been described as both sympathetic and dispassionate.

Toulouse-Lautrec's skilled depiction of people relied on his painterly style which is highly linear and gives great emphasis to contour. He often applied the paint in long, thin brushstrokes which would often leave much of the board on which they are painted showing through. Many of his works may best be described as drawings in



His grave in Verdélais



Self-portrait in the crowd, *At the Moulin Rouge*, 1892, Art Institute of Chicago

coloured paint.

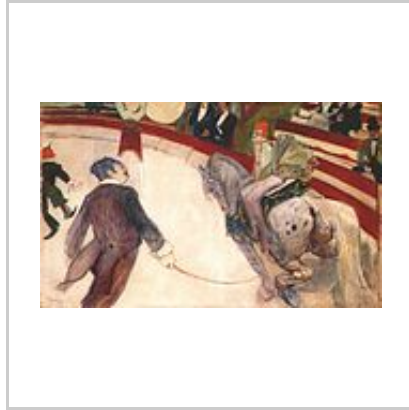
Selected works

See also Category:Paintings by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

Paintings



Vincent van Gogh (1887) at the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam



At the Circus Fernando (1888)



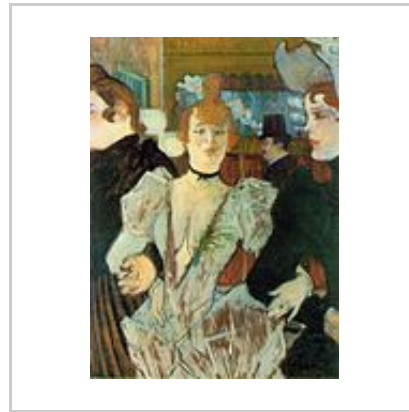
The Laundress (1889)



Ball at the Moulin de la Galette (1889)



Portrait of Gabrielle (1891)



La Goulue arriving at the Moulin Rouge (1892)



At the Moulin Rouge: Two Women Waltzing (1892)



Quadrille at the Moulin Rouge (1892)



Woman with a Black Feather Boa (c. 1892)



Jane Avril (1892)



Jane Avril Dancing (1892)



In Bed (1893)



Salon at the Rue des Moulins (1894)



The Medical Inspection at the Rue des Moulins Brothel (1894)



Femmes de Maison (1893)



Le Coucher (1899)

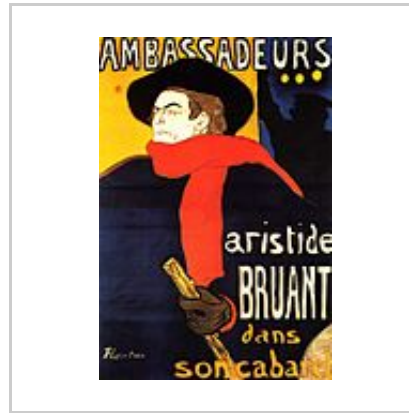
Posters



Moulin Rouge: La Goulue (1891)



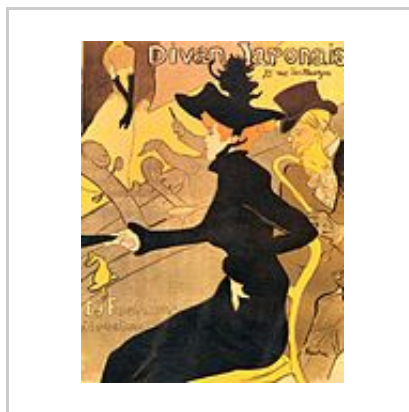
Aristide Bruant in his cabaret (1892)



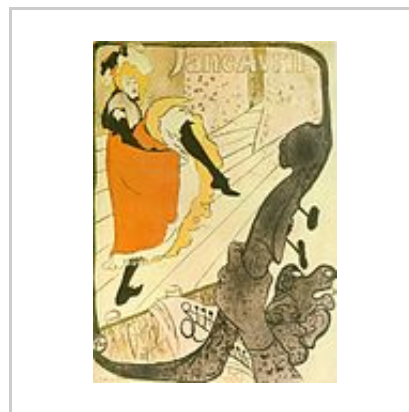
Ambassadeurs – Aristide Bruant (1892)



Reine de Joie (1892)



Divan Japonais (1892-1893)



Avril (Jane Avril) (1893)



The Photographer Sescou
(1894)



The German Babylon (1894)

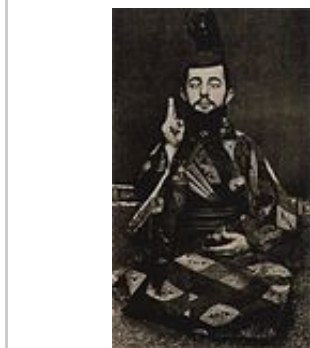
Photos



Mr. Toulouse paints Mr. Lautrec (ca. 1891)



Photo taken by Maurice Guibert (1892)



(ca. 1887)

Signature



The chopmark of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

In popular culture

Toulouse-Lautrec has been the subject of a few biographical films and has been portrayed briefly in others:

- in the John Huston film *Moulin Rouge* (1952), he is portrayed by José Ferrer
- *Lautrec* (1998) is a biographical movie directed by Roger Planchon^[20]
- in the 2001 film *Moulin Rouge!*, he is portrayed by John Leguizamo
- in the Disney film *Around the World in 80 Days* (2004), he makes a very brief cameo appearance as Passepartout passes the window of a brothel
- in the Woody Allen film *Midnight in Paris* (2011), he is portrayed briefly by Vincent Menjou Cortez

Stage productions:

- *Lautrec* (1999) is a musical written by Charles Aznavour that ran from 6 April to 17 June 2000 at the Shaftesbury Theatre in the West End of London^{[21][22]}


Books:


- *Sacre Bleu* (2012) written by Christopher Moore is a work of fiction Lucien Lessard working with Toulouse-Lautrec to solve the mystery of Vincent van Gogh death.^[23]
- *Moulin Rouge* (1950) a biographical novel by Pierre La Mure, follows Lautrec through his whole life and contains vivid impressions of his family, his circumstances, and the milieu in which he lived and worked.



External video



 Henri Toulouse-Lautrec's Circus Drawings (<http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/videoDetails?segid=3951>), Getty Museum

 Toulouse-Lautrec's At the Moulin Rouge (<http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/toulouse-lautrecs-at-the-moulin-rouge.html>), Smarthistory

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2. ^ *a b c d e f g h* Author Unknown, "Toulouse-Lautrec" – published Grange Books. ISBN 1-84013-658-8 Bookfinder – Toulouse Lautrec (http://www.bookfinder.com/dir/i/Toulouse_Lautrec/1840136588/)
3. ^ ArT Blog : Toulouse-Lautrec at the Circus: The "Horse and Performer" Drawings Blogs.princeton.edu (http://blogs.princeton.edu/writingart14/archives/2004/12/horse_and_rider.html)
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5. ^ "Why Lautrec was a giant" (http://entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/visual_arts/article662158.ece). *The Times*. UK. 10 December 2006. Retrieved 8 December 2007.
6. ^ *a b* Angier, Natalie (6 June 1995). "What Ailed Toulouse-Lautrec? Scientists Zero In on a Key Gene" (<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=990CE7D61338F935A35755C0A963958260&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=all>). *The New York Times*. Retrieved 8 December 2007.
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11. ^ "Blake Linton Wilfong "Hooker Heroes"" (<http://www.wondersmith.com/heroes/lautrec.htm>). Wondersmith.com. Retrieved 2013-08-12.
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13. ^ Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1896). "La Chaîne Simpson" (<http://www.sdmart.org/collections/Europe/item/1987.71>). San Diego Museum Of Art. Retrieved 28 March 2013.
14. ^ "'Oscar Wilde' 1895 by Toulouse-Lautrec" (<http://www.mystudios.com/art/post/lautrec/lautrec-oscar-wilde.html>). Mystudios.com. Retrieved 2013-08-12.
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20. ^ *Lautrec (1998)* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0123952/>) at the Internet Movie Database
21. ^ "History of the Shaftesbury Theatre" (<http://www.shaftesburytheatre.com/about-us/history>).
22. ^ "Lautrec - Charles Aznavour - The Guide to Musical Theatre" (http://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com/shows_/lautrec.htm).
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Further reading

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- "Rites for Nelson Gutman to be at 11 A.M. Tomorrow" 17 Aug. 1955 *The Sun*, 13.
- Henry, Helen. "Juanita Greif Gutman Art Treasures: Works from the Collection She Left the Baltimore Museum of Art Go on Exhibit Next Sunday" 16 Feb. 1964 *The Sun*, SM9.
- Gutman Show-Savor it Slow" 8 Mar. 1964 *The Sun*, D4.
- "Mrs. Gutman Funeral Set: Noted Collector of Art, Rare Books Traveled Widely" 7 Sept. 1963 *The Sun*, 1.

External links

- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (http://www.moma.org/collection/artist.php?artist_id=5910) at the Museum of Modern Art
- Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre at the National Gallery of Art (<http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2005/toulouse/index.shtm>)
- Website dedicated to Lautrec. (<http://www.toulouselautrec.free.fr/home.htm>)
- Website about Lautrec with virtual tours. (<http://www.virtual-lautrec.net/>)
- Factmonster page about Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri de (<http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0849149.html>)
- The Most Famous Paintings (<http://themostfamouspaintings.blogspot.com/2007/12/henri-de-toulouse-lautrec-biography-and.html>)
- *Toulouse-Lautrec and Paris* exhibition at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (<http://www.clarkart.edu/exhibitions/toulouse-lautrec/content/exhibition.cfm>)
- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec – Artcyclopedia (http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/toulouse-lautrec_henri_de.html)
- Young woman at a table, 'Poudre de riz', 1887 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec Collection Van Gogh Museum (<http://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?page=3949&lang=en>)
- Toulouse Lautrec Museum (<http://www.museetoulouselautrec.net/>)
- **(French)** Bibliothèque numérique de l'INHA - Estampes de Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (French National Institute of Art – Prints of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec) (http://bibliotheque-numerique.inha.fr/collection/?r=Top%2Fdl_category%2Festampes%2Festampes+de+henri+de+toulouse-lautrec+%281864-1901%29&navigation=0&dq=%23reset)
- **(French)** The illness de Toulouse-Lautrec (http://www.medicalforum.ch/pdf/pdf_f/2002/2002-40/2002-40-481.PDF) by N. Halkic, D. Gintzburger et E. Mouhsine
- *Toulouse-Lautrec and Jane Avril beyond the Moulin Rouge* - Courtauld Gallery, London (<http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/exhibitions/2011/Lautrec.shtml>)
- "Toulouse Lautrec Lecture" The Baltimore Museum of Art: Baltimore, Maryland, c. 1969-1970 (<http://cdm15264.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16075coll3/id/37>) Accessed June 26, 2012
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Categories: 1864 births | 1901 deaths | People from Albi | 19th-century French painters

| Post-impressionist painters | Art Nouveau | French printmakers | French poster artists | French nobility

| French people with disabilities | Lycée Condorcet alumni

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