The Red Studio was painted in 1911, when Henri Matisse (1869–1954) was forty-one years old and still a highly controversial figure. The poet and art critic Guillaume Apollinaire had recently described him as among the "most disparaged" artists of the time. In creating *The Red Studio*, Matisse nevertheless undertook one of the most complex experiments of his career, a monochrome-but-not, flat-yet-deep composition that served as a proving ground for his radical rethinking of modern painting.

This exhibition unfolds in two parts. The first gallery reassembles the gathering of artworks that Matisse portrayed in *The Red Studio*. These works have not been together for more than a century, as they each departed the studio not long after the painting was completed. The second gallery documents *The Red Studio*'s circuitous journey from the place it depicted to the The Museum of Modern Art. The painting's early history of inscrutability and rejection illustrates that it was hardly assured, or even likely, that *The Red Studio* would ultimately become one of the most renowned and influential landmarks of modern art.

Organized by Ann Temkin, The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art, and Dorthe Aagesen, Chief Curator and Senior Researcher, SMK – National Gallery of Denmark; with the assistance of Charlotte Barat, Madeleine Haddon, and Dana Liljegren; and with the collaboration of Georges Matisse and Anne Théry, Archives Henri Matisse, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France.

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The exhibition is made possible by Natixis.

Leadership support is provided by the Eyal and Marilyn Ofer Family Foundation, the Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, and The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Major funding is provided by Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis, Jack Shear through The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, and by Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III.

Generous support is provided by Robert B. Menschel and by Emily Rauh Pulitzer.

MoMA Audio is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Generous funding for the publication is provided by the Jo Carole Lauder Publications Fund of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Discover how Henri Matisse's life and work continue to connect with people today. Enter the number on moma.org/audio.

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We invite you to explore the accompanying publication, *Matisse: The Red Studio*, which is available in the Museum Store.

For related content, programs, and audio, visit moma.org/theredstudio

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