

Artwork Focus

Henri Matisse

Tiari (Le Tiaré), 1930

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This work was inspired by artist Henri Matisse's five month stay in Tahiti in 1930. The title, *Tiari* refers to the [Tahitian gardenia](#), a tropical flower often worn by women in their hair.

Tiari marks a turning point in Matisse's career as he became more experimental and innovative in his art. Matisse's time in Tahiti provided him with new inspiration, leading him to create works that were more abstract and in style.

Have you ever found new inspiration from a trip that you took?

Where did you go?

How did your trip inspire you?

Matisse associated the shape of the flower petals with the face, nose, and elaborate hairstyle of a woman. He used soft, rounded forms to create a sculpture that is half flower and half human.

When you look at this sculpture, do you see the flower or the woman first?

Sketch your own sculpture that is half human and half something else. It can be half human and half animal or half human and half object. What sort of shapes and lines will you use?



Henri Matisse, *Tiari (Le Tiaré)*, 1930. Bronze, 9 5/8 x 7 7/8 x 5 5/8 in. (24.4 x 20 x 14.3 cm.). Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas.

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