



## HENRI MATISSE /

As modern-era rivalries go, within the art world, Picasso and Matisse were it: two heavyweights, two geniuses, both spending their final years in the South of France (Matisse in Nice and Picasso in Aix-En-Provence). And though some art historians and fans will argue which is better, Picasso believed when it came down to it, "All things considered, there is only Matisse."

Henri Matisse, painter, sculptor, and lithographer revolutionized modern art near the end of his monumental career with his gouaches découpées (gouache cut-outs). Henri Matisse, Cut-outs. Drawing With Scissors, 2 Vol. (Taschen), by Gilles Néret and Xavier-Gilles Néret is a survey of his simple cut-out shapes on colored paper that were cut and pasted together and bring together works that began on a 1930 trip to Tahiti and ended in his final days in Nice. These works, which Matisse con-

sidered a new lease on life after his operation, were quickly dismissed by art-world critics as a joke in the mid 20th century, but are now a revelation ready to be properly appreciated. From master painter to painting with scissors, Matisse did it all.