

MEDIA RELEASE

HENRI MATISSE ROBERT MOTHERWELL

Opening Night

Tuesday 18 November 6pm – 8pm

Exhibition Dates

18 November – 6 December 2025

28 & 35 Derby Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Open 7 days 10am to 6pm

Australian Galleries is delighted to present an exhibition of original prints by Henri Matisse and Robert Motherwell, held in collaboration with Annandale Galleries, Sydney. This exhibition brings together an array of etchings, lithographs, linocuts, aquatints, drypoints, woodcuts, and screenprints, celebrating the mastery and innovation of two of the 20th century's most influential printmakers.



“Henri Matisse’s (1869 – 1954) influence on art is so pervasive one might compare it to oxygen: we breath without thought, but cannot live without it. His work remains a building block of contemporary art, affecting the work of artists to this day, whether consciously or subliminally.

Dedicated printmakers such as Matisse intuitively understood that the various media of printmaking would allow them to explore their artistic vision in new, unexpected ways. The images achieved through lithography and etching and simply not possible through conventional painting and drawing.

Matisse invites us into his work and encourages us to dwell in the present. Continually sobered by global unrest and buffeted daily by uncertainty, perhaps the cool, Timeliness hand of Matisse is more relevant than ever.”

– Bill Gregory, Director Annandale Galleries, 2025

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“Robert Motherwell (1915 – 1991), a titan of abstract expressionism, came to prominence in New York in the late 1940’s – a time when it could make a legitimate claim to being the art capital of the world. Like other printmakers before him such as Matisse and Picasso, Motherwell put great emphasis on collaboration. I can think of no other visual artist who packs as much of a visceral punch.

The variety from aquatint, lift-ground etchings to lithographs and collage is comprehensive. He does not work from a pre-conceived notion of the final product, but rather allows for collaboration with the printers when working out the final image. Motherwell claims that the ‘subject does not pre-exist’ but comes from the interaction between the artist and the medium.”

– Bill Gregory, Director Annandale Galleries, 2025

Excerpts from exhibition catalogue essay for HENRI MATISSE / ROBERT MOTHERWELL held at Annandale Galleries May – June 2025, presented in collaboration with Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London.

Above left: Henri Matisse *Tête de femme en mascarón* (Woman's head in mask) 1938 linocut in black and red on G. Maillol paper 19.2 x 17.3 cm edition 25 HM37

Above right: Robert Motherwell *Red Sea I* 1976 colour etching and aquatint on Arches 105.4 x 74 cm edition 100 RM80