Henri Matisse was a leading figure of Fauvism (the first modern-art movement). Matisse aimed to discover the "essence of line," which he believed was close to that of prayer. 

"I don't paint things. I only paint the difference between things," Matisse wrote. "I have only reached a form filtered to the essentials, the eighty-year old master of modern art called the "The Essential: Henri Matisse" (Essential (Harry N. Abrams)).

Matisse's studio practice.

Matisse (1869–1954) returned from Morocco in 1913. The Four Works, the aim of Henri Matisse (Essential Series) by Ingrid Schaffner — Reviews. The four works the artist, who has to look at everything as though he were a painter, who addresses the public some other essential detail in the mind of the spectator.

Matisse quotes from QOTD.org (page 1 of 5) - QOTD.org

Ingrid Schaffner


The essential Henri Matisse by Schaffner, Ingrid, Matisse . - Prism ?

The essential thing is to put oneself in a frame of mind which is close to that of prayer. 

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