

Artist Resources – Henri-Edmond Cross (French, 1856-1910)



Cross, *Self-Portrait with Cigarette* 1880

[Cross artist's website](#)

[Cross at MoMA](#)

[Cross at Thyssen-Bornemisza](#)

Flip through Cross's twenty-two-page [sketchbook](#) from 1897, now at the Harvard Art Museums.

In 2012, the [Marmottan Monet Museum](#) presented *From Seurat to Matisse, Henri-Edmond Cross and Neo-Impressionism* to trace the artist's work in context of work by other members of the Neo-Impressionist movement. The exhibition later traveled to [Le Cateau Cambrésis, Musée Départemental Matisse](#). Both exhibitions take a close look at Cross and his network, as the artist has been largely ignored in this history.

Cross was included in the exhibition [Gauguin, Cézanne, Matisse: Visions of Arcadia](#) at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2012. The addition of Cross's artwork in the exhibition was meant "to suggest the vitality of this subject [of earthly paradise] outside the canonical French definitions.

The artist was known for his utopic and anarchist leanings. Read an essay, "[Henri Edmond Cross: Painter of Utopia](#)" by Nick Heath about Cross's intersections with the late-nineteenth century anarchist movement.

The 2018 exhibition, *Color and Light. The Neo-Impressionist Henri-Edmond Cross*, was one of the first retrospective exhibitions to fully explore the artist's impact on Neo-Impressionism. The exhibition was a collaboration between [Museum Barberini](#) in Potsdam, Germany and [Musée des impressionnismes](#) in Giverny, France. The German leg of the exhibition was the first retrospective of Cross's work in the country.

[Watch this video](#) posted by Learn From Masters. The video compiles 170 works by Cross that span his career.

In 2020, the Barnes Foundation posted a [short lecture](#), "Barnes Takeout: Art Talk on Henri Edmond Cross's *Two Women by the Shore, Mediterranean*," with collection research associate Amy Gillette.



Portrait of Cross by Maximilien Luce (1858-1941), 1898



Henri-Edmond Cross (French, 1856-1910)

Le faux poivrier (Provence), 1907

Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2021:109.1

Henri-Edmond Cross moved to the remote Southern French hamlet of Saint-Clair in 1891 to mitigate his symptoms of rheumatism. At his seaside home and studio, the artist was enchanted by light conditions in the nearby countryside and waters of the Mediterranean. **Le faux poivrier (Provence)** depicts Cross's garden in high summer growth. The artist's studio was in the garden, which became both a frequent subject in his work and a space for gatherings with fellow Neo-Impressionist artists in Southern France. In a letter to a friend in 1901, Cross reflected on his fascination with the region, writing: "In summer... the light streaming profusely down on everything attracts you, stupefies you, drives you mad."

On view October 13, 2021 – January 16, 2022