

Toulouse-Lautrec

Matthias Arnold

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Master of Montmartre: A world of music, dance, and the Moulin Rouge

In our imaginings of Paris, painter and graphic artist **Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec** (1864—1901) has no small role to play. In his prints, posters, paintings, and drawings, the artist **immortalized the city's Belle Époque nightlife** and **put the northern neighborhood of Montmartre on the global map of creative-hedonist hotspots**.

The son of old French nobility, Toulouse-Lautrec seems to have been drawn early on to visions of a demimonde, centering his attention on the **dance halls, cabarets, and brothels** of Montmartre and adopting **famed dancers and singers** as his subjects, most notably Jane Avril. His works include both lively performance scenes and quiet, tender "after-hours" portraits such as *The Sofa* and *In Bed*. Stylistically, he mastered both **bold graphics, as celebrated in his promotional posters of Jane Avril, and a loose yet evocative sketchwork.**

Though he died aged just 36, due to complications from alcoholism and syphilis, Toulouse-Lautrec's cultural influence was immense. This introductory book takes a walk through his world of singers, dancers, musicians, and prostitutes to reveal an artist of **great humanity**, **striking figurative skill**, **and a pronounced sense for the energy and stories of a city**.

About the series:

Each book in TASCHEN's Basic Art series features:

- a detailed chronological summary of the life and oeuvre of the artist, covering his or her cultural and historical importance
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