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| **Artist** | Matisse |
| **Title** | Luxe Calme et Volupte  |
| **Date** | 1904 |
| **Medium** | Oil on canvas |
| **Scale** | 98 x 118cm |
| **Scope** | Landscape |
| **Style** | Proto Fauvist |
| **Patron** | Work was given to Signac |
| **Location** | St Tropez |
| **Function** | To challenge the conventions of traditional painting, to explore how far colour could become a subject in its own right.  |

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| Formal features |
| Composition | Simple, asymmetric composition. Reduced, flat shapes create a Arrangement of figures recalls Cezanne’s ‘Bathers’  |
| Colour or texture | Colour independent from subject matter- unnaturalistic and used for experimentation. Colours used from across spectrum- ie bold red ground and blue hills in distance  |
| Light & tone | No concern for traditional use of light/ tone. Highlights replaced by colour: woman on right has ‘highlights’ on her leg in red and purple.  |
| Space & depth or relief | Flattened perspective, emphasised by reduced flat forms of figures. Horizon line emphasised by the hills in the distance but no aerial perspective. Scale of boat does not fit figures but creates an opportunity for change of brushstroke direction.  |
| Line or brushwork | Small, energetic brushwork shows the influence of pointillism Figures are boldly outlined to emphasise their flat forms  |

**Stylistic comment or influence:** Rejecting the traditional ideals of Ingres, Delacroix and the French Salon tradition, M was keen to experiment with colour and canvas.

**Influence from political factors:** N/A – Matisse was not influenced by political factors- instead, this work aimed to show the beauty of serenity and relaxation.

**Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:** Development of pointillist styles of Signac and Seurat- using larger brushstrokes to create bold radical new style of painting.

**Influence from cultural/social factors:**

Social factors: Matisse worked with Signac and Henri Edmond Cross in St Tropez and was influenced by their divisionist style of painting (and Chrevreul’s theories) Mhad his first solo exhibition at Vollard’s gallery in 1904, but it wasn’t very successful, forcing him to be more provocative with this work.

Title is the last line of a poem by Baudelaire. A subject matter that did not aim to be ‘real’ or ‘ideal’ but instead offered a vehicle for the expressionistic use of colour and an escape to an imaginary refuge.

**Critical text quotes:** TG Clark “ Colour is a cage in Matisse, a kind of armour” Matisse: “What I dream of is an art of balance, of purity and serenity”

**Influence from technological factors:** During this time, the development of photography had meant artists needed to deviate from a naturalistic/realistic representation of subject to more experimental forms of painting that would interest audiences. As photography was black and white and very static, it is not surprising that the search for a new style began with colour and movement.

