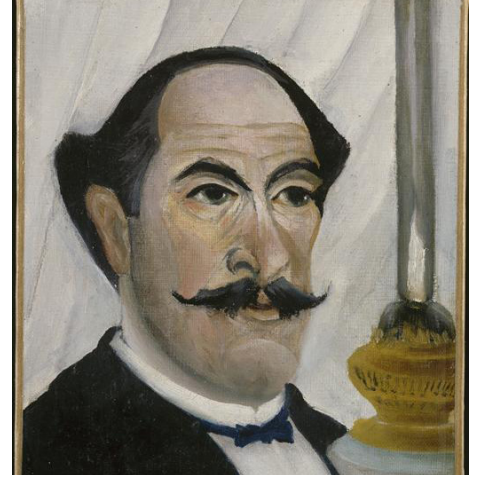


Henri Julien Rousseau

1844 – 1910



Henri Rousseau was born in Laval, Mayenne in France on 21st May 1844. Rousseau went to school in Laval and did particularly well in art and music lessons.

Once he left school, Henri worked as a lawyer before joining the army in 1863.

Rousseau's father (a plumber by trade) died in 1868 at which point Rousseau moved to Paris to take care of his mother. Here, he worked as a government official before becoming an import tax collector.

Rousseau married Clemence Boitard and they had six children together. Sadly, only one of their children survived past childhood. When Clemence died in 1888, Rousseau married his second wife, Josephine Noury a year later.

Rousseau was a self-taught painter and he did not become a full-time artist until

he turned 49. Some critics claim that his work is childish and immature; however, Pablo Picasso was a big fan of Rousseau's artwork and even held a banquet in his honour. Some of Rousseau's most famous paintings include Tiger in a Tropical Storm, The Sleeping Gypsy and The Hungry Lion Throws Itself on the Antelope. Although many of his paintings were jungle scenes, Rousseau never actually went to a jungle. He used pictures and illustrations in books as his inspiration instead.

Henri Rousseau died on 2nd September 1910 in Paris aged 66.