At the Moulin Rouge



At the Moulin Rouge (1892/5) Henri Marie Raymond de Toulouse-Lautrec

OK, now the painting we are looking at now is by the French painter Toulouse-Lautrec.

The painting is called At the Moulin Rouge. As you probably know, The Moulin Rouge is a nightclub in Paris. Maybe some of you remember the film Moulin Rouge? In the 19th century, the nightclub was very famous for its beautiful dancers and singers.

Toulouse-Lautrec did a lot of paintings and posters of the Moulin Rouge. He especially loved painting the dancers. And in these paintings he sometimes included his friends too.

In the middle of the picture there are five people who are sitting at a table

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having a drink. The woman who's wearing a hat is a dancer - her name is la Macarona - and the man sitting next to her on the right is a friend of Toulouse-Lautrec. He was a photographer. On the right, here, there's a woman with fair hair, blue eyes, and very red lips. Her face looks very white. That's another famous dancer called Jane Avril. At the back of the picture, on the right, there are two women who are standing together. One of them is touching her hair. That's La Goulue and she was one of the most famous singers at the Moulin Rouge at that time.

Now this is very interesting. If you look carefully to the left of the two women, there are two men walking out of the nightclub. One of them is very tall and the other one is very short. The very tall man is ToulouseLautrec's cousin Gabriel, and the other man is Toulouse-Lautrec himself. Toulouse-Lautrec was only 1 metre 50 centimetres tall. He had very short legs and couldn't walk very well. Some people think that this is why he loved painting the dancers of the Moulin Rouge... because they all had beautiful, long legs.

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