

Mrs Reeder's headteacher challenge for May:

Make and create: a collage inspired by Rousseau's 'Surprised!'

Henri Julien Rousseau (1844–1910) was a post- Impressionist painter. He was born at Laval, Mayenne in France. He worked a variety of jobs (saxophonist,toll_collector) before beginning to paint at age 40. So it's never too late to start!

He was known as *Le Douanier* ("the customs officer").



François Mathey wrote: "Rousseau is considered to be the greatest master of naïve painting, for his art combines a spontaneous vision of reality with an imaginary universe of great plastic and poetical power, in which he allied audacity with innocence, monumental composition with minute detail".

(Goodness knows what that all means but there's a powerful word puzzle for you to solve if you are feeling brave!)

Some critics ridiculed Rousseau for his style, but he came to be recognised as a self-taught genius. Rousseau's work had a great influence on many avant garde artists.

Here is the painting and I've found a clip on facebook from an educator in the National Gallery to get you going. Click here to see how Bethan creates a jungle-inspired work of art using just the materials you can find at home:

<https://www.facebook.com/83395535556/posts/10163272474165557/>

<https://bit.ly/2y0CXQs> (national gallery website where you can zoom into the picture and download it etc.)

Here's the painting!



Have fun with the challenge. Maybe you could invent your own jungle plants and change the surprise?

Mrs Reeder