French Painters, Russian Collectors: The Merchant Patrons of Modern Art in Pre-revolutionary Russia

Beverly Whitney Kean
French Painters, Russian Collectors book. Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. Originally published in 1983, this book tells the story of the two Moscow merchants, Sergey Shchukin and Ivan Morozov, who between them amassed the greatest collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art ever seen. Following the events in Russia in recent years, this new edition contains photographs never before seen in the Western world of paintings in the collection (now in the Hermitage Museum Collection), as well as documents relating to Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh and Cézanne. (retrieved from Amazon Thu, 12 Mar 2015 18:01:56 -0400).

Matisse had a long association with the Russian art collector Sergei Shchukin. He created one of his major works La Danse specially for Shchukin as part of a two painting commission, the other painting being Music, 1910. American art collector Albert C. Barnes convinced Matisse to produce a large mural for the Barnes Foundation, The Dance II, which was completed in 1932; the Foundation owns several dozen other Matisse paintings. This move toward simplification and a foreshadowing of the cutout technique is also evident in his painting Large Reclining Nude (1935). He would cut sheets of paper, pre-painted with gouache by his assistants, into shapes of varying colours and sizes, and arrange them to form lively compositions. Russian art (1).