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Toulouse-Lautrec: the Moulin Rouge and the city of light

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Burleigh, Robert. *Toulouse-Lautrec: the Moulin Rouge and the city of light*. Harry N. Abrams Inc., 2005. ISBN 0810959678. \$17.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Lara M. Ackerman

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Toulouse-Lautrec, Henri de, 1864-1901--Juvenile literature; Artists--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

It is the year 1882; Paris is the center of entertainment and excitement for the whole Western world. Among the glitz and glamour of a new era of electricity and innovation, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec embarks on the great adventure of his life. Born into a life of privilege, Lautrec was expected to follow in the footsteps of his father, but a crippling illness and an unquenchable passion for drawing changed the direction of his dreams. Against the wishes of his family, he set off to work in Paris, where his innovative and lively artistic style revolutionized poster art and became an inspiration for generations of artists after him.

Illustrated with photos and full-color reproductions, this oversized book is an excellent introduction to the art, life, and times of Toulouse-Lautrec. Burleigh writes in a conversational style, making the book easy to read. The page layout uses typography, inserts, and side-bars, as well as Lautrec's own works in pencil, watercolor, oil and other mediums to provide a vibrant representation of Paris at the end of the nineteenth century. A bibliography and author's note also provide additional information not addressed in the text itself. All in all, the book provides a frank and accessible view of a man whose work has been lastingly influential on art history.