

THE EXPERIMENTAL SELF: EDVARD MUNCH'S PHOTOGRAPHY

An exhibition of photographs, prints, and film by the master painter and printmaker, on view at Scandinavia House on November 21, provides a new perspective into his experimentalism

WHAT *The Experimental Self: Edvard Munch's Photography*, opening November 21, 2017 at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America, brings the photographic work of the master painter to NYC for its first showing in the U.S.

OVERVIEW Internationally celebrated for his paintings, prints, and watercolors, Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863–1944) also took photographs. This exhibition of photographs, prints, and films by Edvard Munch emphasizes the artist's experimentalism, examining his exploration of the camera as an expressive medium. By probing and exploiting the dynamics of "faulty" practice, such as distortion, blurred motion, eccentric camera angles, and other photographic "mistakes," Munch photographed himself and his immediate environment in ways that rendered them poetic. In both still images and in his few forays with a hand-held moving-picture camera, Munch not only archived images, but invented them.



Edvard Munch, *Self-Portrait 'à la Marat,' Beside a Bathtub at Dr. Jacobson's Clinic, 1908-09*
Munch Museum

On loan from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway, the approximately 50 copy prints in the exhibition and the continuous screening of the DVD containing Munch's films will be accompanied by a small selection of prints from private collections. It will also include contextualizing panels, one of which will be historical and biographical, and others that will examine Munch's photographic exploration. Similar to the ways in which the artist invented techniques and approaches to painting and graphic art, Munch's informal photography both honored the material before his lens and transmuted it into uncommon motifs. This exhibition includes Munch's experimental portraiture of friends and family as well as his self-portraiture, including images from what he termed his "Fatal Destiny" portfolio, staged between 1902 and 1908. It will coincide with, and complement, the exhibition *Edvard Munch: Between the Clock and the Bed*, on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It has been organized by the American-Scandinavian Foundation in partnership with The Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway.

WHEN **Tuesday, 11-21-2017** through **Monday, 3-5-2018**

PRESS PREVIEW **Thursday, 11-16-2017**
4 PM to 6 PM

WHERE Scandinavia House
58 Park Avenue
New York City

GALLERY HOURS & ADMISSION **Tuesday—Saturday, 12-6 PM** free
Wednesday, 12-7 PM free

CURATORIAL CREDIT

The exhibition curator is Dr. Patricia Berman. A professor of art history at Wellesley College, Dr. Berman is a leading specialist in early modern Scandinavian art and the author of numerous important scholarly publications in the field. From 2010-2015, she held a faculty position at the University of Oslo, Norway, where she continues to be part of a research project entitled “Edvard Munch, Modernism, and Modernity.” Her curatorial work has included *Munch|Warhol and the Multiple Print* (2013, New York and Ankara, Turkey); *Luminous Modernism: Scandinavian Art Comes to America, A Centennial Retrospective 1912|2012* (2011, American-Scandinavian Foundation); *In Munch’s Laboratory: The Path to the Aula* (2011, Munch Museum, Oslo), *Edvard Munch and the Modern Life of the Soul* (2006, Museum of Modern Art, NY).



Ragnvald Vaering, *E. Munch in the Winter Studio, 75 Years Old*, Ekely 1938, Munch Museum

PROGRAMMING

The exhibition will open on the weekend of the upcoming symposium *Marketing the North: The “Munch, Modernism, and Modernity” Annual Conference*, which takes place Friday, November 17 through Saturday, November 18. The conference is organized by the “Munch, Modernism, and Modernity” research network in Oslo, and is co-sponsored by the University of Oslo, the Munch Museum, the National Museum of Norway and the American-Scandinavian Foundation. Keynote speakers include Mieke Bal, University of Amsterdam, and Robert Jensen, University of Kentucky. Panels will be led by Patricia Berman, Wellesley College; Ute Kuhlemann-Falck, Munch Museum; and Øystein Sjøstad, University of Oslo.

SUPPORT

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AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) promotes firsthand exchange of intellectual and creative influence between the United States and the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. A publicly supported American nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, ASF has an extensive program of fellowships, grants, intern/trainee sponsorship, publishing, and cultural activities. Headquartered in New York City, ASF has members throughout the United States, and alumni and donors worldwide.

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SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

Scandinavia House was created by the American-Scandinavian Foundation to promote the artistic and intellectual influence of the Nordic countries. As the leading center for Nordic culture in the United States, Scandinavia House offers enriching programs that illustrate and illuminate the culture and life of the Nordic countries. The diverse programs include exhibitions, film series, concerts and other performances, readings, lectures, language courses, and activities for kids and families.

For more information: scandinaviahouse.org | Facebook | Twitter @ScanHouse

To request visual materials and further press information, please contact:

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