

11-30-2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****MEDIA ALERT****
**EDVARD MUNCH'S PHOTOGRAPHY: THE EXPERIMENTAL SELF
LANDMARK EXHIBITION RETURNS TO SCANDINAVIA HOUSE**
WHAT

The Experimental Self: Edvard Munch's Photography, an exhibition organized by American-Scandinavian Foundation with The Munch Museum in Oslo that first brought the photographic work of the master painter to NYC in 2017/18 before traveling worldwide, returns to Scandinavia House this winter with a newly conceived design and a section including vintage camera equipment alongside the release of the 2020 illustrated book *The Experimental Self: The Photography of Edvard Munch*, awarded with diploma as one of The Year's Most Beautiful Books, 2021 by Grafill, Norway's National Organization for Visual Communication.

OVERVIEW

Internationally celebrated for his paintings, prints, and watercolors, Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863–1944) also took photographs. In 2017/18, the exhibition *The Experimental Self: Edvard Munch's Photography* at Scandinavia House drew widespread acclaim for introducing audiences to his photographic and film work, emphasizing the artist's experimentalism and examining his exploration of the camera as an expressive medium. 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. 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. As a recent *Financial Times Magazine* review of the works states, "Munch's mercurial snapshots trace the survival of an artist obsessed with loss... his photographs remain tantalisingly opaque a century on."



Edvard Munch, *Self-Portrait on Beach with Brushes and Palette in Warnemünde, 1907*
Courtesy Munch Museum

Having since traveled to eight venues worldwide, including Seattle, Oslo, Stockholm, Fredrikssund (Denmark), and Bergen, the exhibition will be returning to Scandinavia House beginning December 10 in a new iteration, including photographic enlargements and a display of the amateur camera models similar to those he used in his work. The exhibition will also feature a "selfie station" for visitors to interact with Edvard Munch's experimental self-portraiture, as well as the opportunity to browse the new publication, which includes 120 fully illustrated pages alongside essays by curator Patricia G. Berman, Tom Gunning and MaryClaire Pappas, available for purchase in the Shop. On loan from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway, the approximately 50 copy prints in the exhibition and a continuous projection of Munch's films will be accompanied by contextualizing didactic panels as well as a video presentation. It has been organized by the American-Scandinavian Foundation in partnership with The Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway. It has been supported by the Inger and William Ginsberg Support Fund.

WHEN

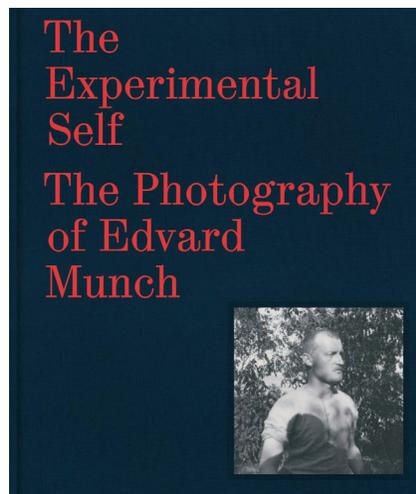
**On view Friday, December 10, 2021 through March 26, 2022
Tuesday through Saturday, 12 to 6 PM**

WHERE

**Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America
58 Park Avenue (at East 38th Street), New York City**

**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).



The Experimental Self: The Photography of Edvard Munch, book jacket courtesy of Munch Museum

PROGRAMMING

Exhibition-related programming will include a panel discussion, talks, and select gallery tour dates at Scandinavia House.

PUBLICATION

On view in the exhibition and available for sale in the Shop, *The Experimental Self: The Photography of Edvard Munch* which demonstrates the fundamentally experimental nature of the artist's photographic practice. Featuring 120 fully illustrated pages and edited by Heidi Bale Amundsen, the book includes images in this exhibition and more, and provides unique access to Munch's radical artistic vision studied through eminent essays by curator Patricia G. Berman, Tom Gunning and MaryClaire Pappas.

SUPPORT

The Experimental Self: Edvard Munch's Photography has been made possible in part by the generous support of DNB Bank ASA, Trond S. Jensen, Inger G. and William B. Ginsberg, Inger McCabe Elliott, Barbara and Bård Bunaes, Daphne L. Davidson and Bente L. Strong. The current presentation has been supported by the Inger and William Ginsberg Support Fund.

**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.

For more information: amscan.org

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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