

Press release
Zurich, 3 October 2013

Kunsthaus Zürich presents a major exhibition devoted to Edvard Munch

From 4 October 2013 to 12 January 2014, Kunsthaus Zürich is showing some 150 masterpieces by the Norwegian Expressionist Edvard Munch. The large-format works on paper, half of them in colour, comprise all of his most celebrated motifs: 'The Scream,' 'Angst' and 'Melancholy,' as well as 'Vampire,' 'Madonna,' 'Girls on the Bridge' and self-portraits. It is the first time this private collection, ranging from Munch's first drypoint to his final lithograph, has been shown in public in its entirety.

The Kunsthaus Zürich, which holds the largest collection of paintings by Edvard Munch outside Norway, was the venue in 1922 for the largest ever exhibition of graphic works by the world-famous artist – 400 in total. To mark the 150th anniversary of Munch's birth, the graphic highlights of his oeuvre are now to go on exclusive display in Zurich.

THE LONGING AND INSECURITY OF MODERN HUMANITY

Love, pain and death, passion, loneliness and sorrow: the entire oeuvre of Edvard Munch (1863–1944) revolves around the fundamental experiences of human existence and the lives of modern people. Munch is one of the precursors of the Expressionist currents that began to shape European painting at the start of the 20th century. The formal boldness of his imagery and the radicalism of his themes inspire artists to this day.

SYMBOLIST AND EXPRESSIONIST

Munch's graphic works are central to his oeuvre – from the early etchings through to the final lithograph executed just before his death. His masterpieces in printed form include many elaborations of his world-famous subjects, such as 'The Scream,' 'Madonna,' 'Melancholy,' and 'The Sin.' There are large-format colour lithographs, etchings and woodcuts, including hand-coloured plates and experiments in printing, that are striking in both the richness and subtlety of their colour palette and their rigorous reduction. In his graphic works Munch often condenses the expressive power of his central symbolist allegories in a way that is more compelling than his paintings. Many of them will be on display for the first time, and only for a limited period.

PAINTINGS: LANDSCAPES, PORTRAITS

The presentation in the large exhibition gallery also features the paintings by Munch from the Kunsthaus collection – full-length portraits, harbour scenes

and landscapes acquired by the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft from the 1920s onwards, some of them direct from the artist, others loaned or donated to the Kunsthaus at a later date. The motifs include members of Hanseatic merchant families, landscapes near Chemnitz and Lübeck harbour. His 1921 work 'Apple Tree' is based on a composition that harks back to the theme of Adam and Eve.

AUDIOGUIDE, TOURS AND CONCERT

The exhibition at the Kunsthaus Zürich offers the rare opportunity to get to know the complete Munch. An invaluable aid for this is the comprehensive catalogue edited by Gerd Woll. In this the author of the catalogues raisonnés of Edvard Munch's prints and paintings and former senior curator of The Munch Museum in Oslo makes a major contribution to the reception of Munch's work in Switzerland (207 pages, more than 150 images). The catalogue is available for CHF 55 from the Kunsthaus-Shop (Museum edition) and in book stores (published by Hatje Cantz).

Visitors can also take advantage of the audioguide (included in the admission price) with informative commentaries on several dozen works. Public guided tours in German are offered on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m., Fridays at 5 p.m., and Sundays at 11 a.m. Specific themes linked to the collections are addressed in tours on Saturdays at 3 p.m. Public guided tours in English will take place on 24 October at 5 p.m., 15 November at 6 p.m., and 8 December at 1 p.m. Private guided tours (including foreign languages) can be arranged on request by telephoning +41 (0)44 253 84 84 (Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–midday). A comprehensive art education programme with talks, workshops and tours designed for all ages is available and is already online.

Loneliness, despair and transience – these fundamental experiences of human existence are not just a central element of Edvard Munch's graphic work, they are also an abiding theme throughout the history of music, from Johann Sebastian Bach to Gustav Mahler. On Sunday, 3 November at 11 a.m. the Zurich Chamber Orchestra will be making a guest appearance in the Kunsthaus. Tickets are available at: www.zko.ch

Supported by Swiss Re and the Truus and Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation.

The wall colours in the exhibition were sponsored by Farrow & Ball.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel.: +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch.

Opening hours: Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m., closed on Mondays. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthaus.ch

KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

Admission including audioguide (E/D/F/I): CHF 20 / CHF 15 concessions, per head for groups of 20 or more. Children and young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by land line), www.sbb.ch/en/munch. Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservation and ticket sales available from the Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, hotel@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com. Magasins Fnac: sales points in Switzerland: Rives, Balexert, Lausanne, Fribourg, Pathé Kino Basel, www.fnac.ch; France: Carrefour, Géant, Magasins U, 0 892 68 36 22 (EUR 0.34/min), www.fnac.com; Belgium: www.fnac.be.

Food and drink: Kunsthaus Restaurant, www.kunsthausestaurant.ch, tel.: +41 (0)44 251 53 53, reservations for groups also available.

NOTE AND CONTACT FOR THE MEDIA

Visual material available to download at www.kunsthausestaurant.ch under Information > Press.

Contact: Kunsthaus Zürich, Press and Public Relations, Kristin Steiner
kristin.steiner@kunsthausestaurant.ch, tel.: +41 (0)44 253 84 13