

**Press release**

**Zurich, 14 September 2016**

## **Kunsthhaus Zürich acquires new work by Edvard Munch**

**'Hanni Esche returns to her children.' Special presentation from 25 November 2016 until 26 February 2017. Works by Edvard Munch from the collection of the Chemnitz industrialist family Esche reunited at the Kunsthhaus Zürich.**

In 1905 Edvard Munch (1863–1944) painted six portraits of the family of Chemnitz textile industrialist Herbert Esche, most of which, centred around the large group portrait of the children, have since 1997 been part of the Herbert Eugen Esche Foundation, housed at the Kunsthhaus Zürich, and have hung as part of the collection there. Now the Foundation has been gifted the portrait of mother Hanni Esche as well, the counterpart to the children's portrait and a milestone in the development of Munch's strongly coloured mature style.

### RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ESCHE COLLECTION

The paintings hung originally in the imposing villa built for Herbert Esche by Henry van de Velde, but when Herbert Esche moved in with his daughter in Küsnacht in 1945, they were moved to the dining room there, also appointed by van de Velde. This is the situation the exhibition reconstructs, accompanied by documentation of the ground-breaking building and an account of how Munch's group came to be, and supplemented by some ten additional paintings from the family collection – among them works by Theo von Rysselberghe, Signac, Cross, Vuillard and others. Together they constitute an ensemble emblematic of the avant-garde taste of the turn of the 20th century, such as is rarely seen.

### MOTHER AND CHILDREN IN DIALOGUE

Visitors may be surprised by the interplay of the 'Portrait of Hanni Esche' and the 'Portrait of Children. Erdmute and Hans-Herbert Esche' (1905) – by the dialogue of a mother with her children. It is cause for celebration that the paintings have now been reunited after such a long separation, and restores to both masterpieces their original aura. The special presentation was organised by Christian Klemm, former Collection curator at the Kunsthhaus and member of the board of the Herbert Eugen Esche Foundation.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch).

Fri-Sun/Tues 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. For public holiday opening see [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch).

Admission incl. collection: CHF 15 / CHF 10 concessions and groups (valid until 31.12.16, whereupon CHF 16/11). Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.

Public guided tours of the exhibition (in German language):

Thursday, 1 December, 6.30 p.m., Sunday, 22 January, 11 a.m.

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/kunsthhaus-zuerich](http://www.sbb.ch/kunsthhaus-zuerich).

Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, [information@zuerich.com](mailto:information@zuerich.com), [www.zuerich.com](http://www.zuerich.com).

## NOTE TO EDITORS

This press release and select illustrations are available for download at [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch) > Information > Press.

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