

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

PRESS REVIEW MARCH 14, 1979 1 PM - 4 PM

THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH IN SPECIAL NEW YORK SHOWING

THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH, comprised of a specially selected group of the Norwegian artist's finest oils and a number of thematically related prints, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from March 15 through April 24, 1979, in the first-floor galleries.

After intensive negotiations earlier this year, Richard E. Oldenburg, Director of the Museum, obtained permission to bring these paintings which were drawn from an exhibition organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., to New York before their return to Norway. The paintings represent much of Munch's finest and best-known work, and are rarely seen outside Norway.

Lenders to THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH, which is being presented with the support of Mobil Corporation, include the National Gallery in Oslo, the Munch Museum, Oslo, the Rasmus Meyers collection in Bergen, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and two private collections in Norway. In addition, a selection of fifteen prints from The Museum of Modern Art's Collection which relate to the twenty-three paintings on view will be included in the exhibition.

Edvard Munch (1863-1944) expressed through his art the intricate and often despairing life of the emotions. In his artistic interpretation of the psychological and physical hardships of the human experience, Munch foretold during the last decades of the 19th century

the complexity and alienation of the 20th-century mind.

Considered one of Europe's foremost Expressionist artists, Munch translated the themes of love, obsession, sexuality, melancholy and death into compelling visual images. The years 1884 to 1910 are widely held to be the period of Munch's finest artistic achievement, and all the works in THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH were produced during this time. Among these are Inger on the Beach, Melancholy, Yellow Boat, Evening on Karl Johan Street, The Voice, The Scream, Ashes and The Vampire.

The exhibition, directed by John Elderfield, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at The Museum of Modern Art, will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated 64 page catalog which includes color reproductions of all the paintings represented in the exhibition. The prints are reproduced in black and white next to the paintings to which they relate. The catalog, which has an introduction by Mr. Elderfield and commentaries on the individual paintings by Arne Eggum of the Munch Museum, Oslo, is made possible by a grant from The Lauder Foundation.

In conjunction with THE MASTERWORKS OF EDVARD MUNCH, a lecture will be given on April 16, 1979, at 8 p.m., by Professor Robert Rosenblum of the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. Professor Rosenblum will discuss Munch's artistic roots from Romanticism through Impressionism. The lecture is being made possible by a generous grant from the Lauder Foundation.

March 1979

For further information, please contact Luisa Kreisberg, Director (212) 956-2648 or Sharon Zane, Associate Director (212) 956-7295, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Photographs available on request.