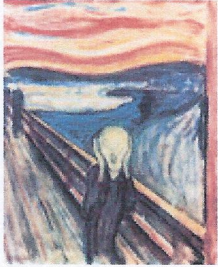


## Edvard Munch

Britannica Student Encyclopedia



*The Scream* was painted by Edvard Munch in tempera and casein on ...

Courtesy of the Nasjonalgalleriet, Oslo, O. Vaering

(1863-1944). The Norwegian painter and printmaker Edvard Munch not only was his country's greatest artist, but he also greatly influenced the development of the artistic style known as German expressionism. In that style, the artist seeks to portray subjective emotions and responses to the world, rather than realistic depictions of its objects and events. His work often included the symbolic portrayal of such themes as misery, sickness, and death. *The Scream*, or *The Cry* (1893), probably his most familiar painting, is typical in its anguished expression of isolation and fear.

Munch was born on Dec. 12, 1863, in Løten, Norway. He grew up in Christiania (now Oslo) and studied art under Christian Krohg, a Norwegian naturalistic painter. Munch's parents, a brother, and a sister died while he was still young, which probably contributed to the bleakness of much of his work. Paintings such as *The Sick Child* (1885-86), *Vampire* (1893-94), and *Ashes* (1894) show his preoccupation with the darker aspects of life.

Munch traveled to Paris in 1885, and his work began to show the influence of French painters—first, the impressionists, and then the postimpressionists—as well as art nouveau design. In 1892 he took part in an exhibit in Berlin; the violent emotion and unconventional imagery of the paintings he displayed in it stirred a great controversy. The scandal helped him to become more widely known.

Munch's circle of friends included several writers, one of whom was the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Munch designed the sets for several of Ibsen's plays.

Between 1892 and 1908, Munch spent much of his time in Paris and Berlin, where he became known for his prints—etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts. After 1910 Munch returned to Norway, where he lived and painted until his death. In his later paintings Munch showed more interest in nature, and his work became more colorful and less grim. Munch died in Ekely, near Oslo, on Jan. 23, 1944. He left many of his works to the city of Oslo, which built a museum in his honor.

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