



Edvard Munch, *The Scream*, 1895, Courtesy the Gundersen Collection, Oslo, © Munch Museum, Oslo

## **EDVARD MUNCH: GRAPHIC WORKS FROM THE GUNDERSEN COLLECTION**

**7 April – 23 September 2012**

**Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, 73 Belford Road, Edinburgh**

Telephone 0131 624 6200

**[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)**

*Admission £7 / £5*

An outstanding private collection of lithographs and woodcuts by the celebrated Norwegian artist Edvard Munch will be shown in the UK for the first time this spring at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

*Edvard Munch: Graphic Works from The Gundersen Collection* – which opens on April 7 – will feature over fifty of Munch's most important prints including a number of unique, hand-coloured impressions by the artist, among them an extraordinary version of the world-famous *The Scream*. This rare work is one of only two hand-coloured versions of the iconic print – the other is held in the Munch Museum, Oslo.

Pål Georg Gundersen was inspired to build his collection following his encounter with the artist's painting *The Sick Child* in the National Gallery of Norway and several impressions of the related print will be included in the show in Edinburgh. By focusing on prints, the Gundersen collection introduces the intensity and directness of Munch's work and provides an insight into his pioneering exploration of universal concerns that made him one of the most influential artists of his day.

*Graphic Works from The Gundersen Collection* draws out the themes of love, human relationships, death, melancholy and anxiety that preoccupied Munch throughout his career. Through multiple versions of many of the images, the exhibition investigates Munch's rigorous experimentation as he revisited and reworked subjects to heighten their emotive impact and to explore colour, texture and techniques. This unique collection shows the working processes behind some of the most startling and iconic images of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. For example, visitors will be able to compare three different versions of *Madonna* and five examples of *Vampire II*.

Edvard Munch was born in Norway in 1863. Many of the artist's most poignant and arresting pieces are the prints he made throughout his long career, and these works express both Munch's technical mastery and artistic vision. Print-making appealed to Munch for the opportunity they gave in disseminating his images to a wider public, and he was innovative in the different processes and methods that he employed to create such works. As well as frequently printing his own subjects, Munch also worked with master printers in Paris and Berlin, where he spent much of his time over the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and where his work was regularly exhibited.

The exhibition will be supplemented with additional prints by Munch that are held on long-term loan by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art from two further private collectors. It will also feature a special display focusing on the legacy of the artist's first solo exhibition in the UK, staged in Edinburgh in 1931, that will explore how Munch's work has been experienced and received in Scotland. Works by other artists from the Gallery's permanent collection will be shown on the ground floor at Modern Two, in displays introducing the European context in which Munch was active and highly influential, particularly in the realms of Symbolism and Expressionism.

Ends.

For Further press information and images, please contact:

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