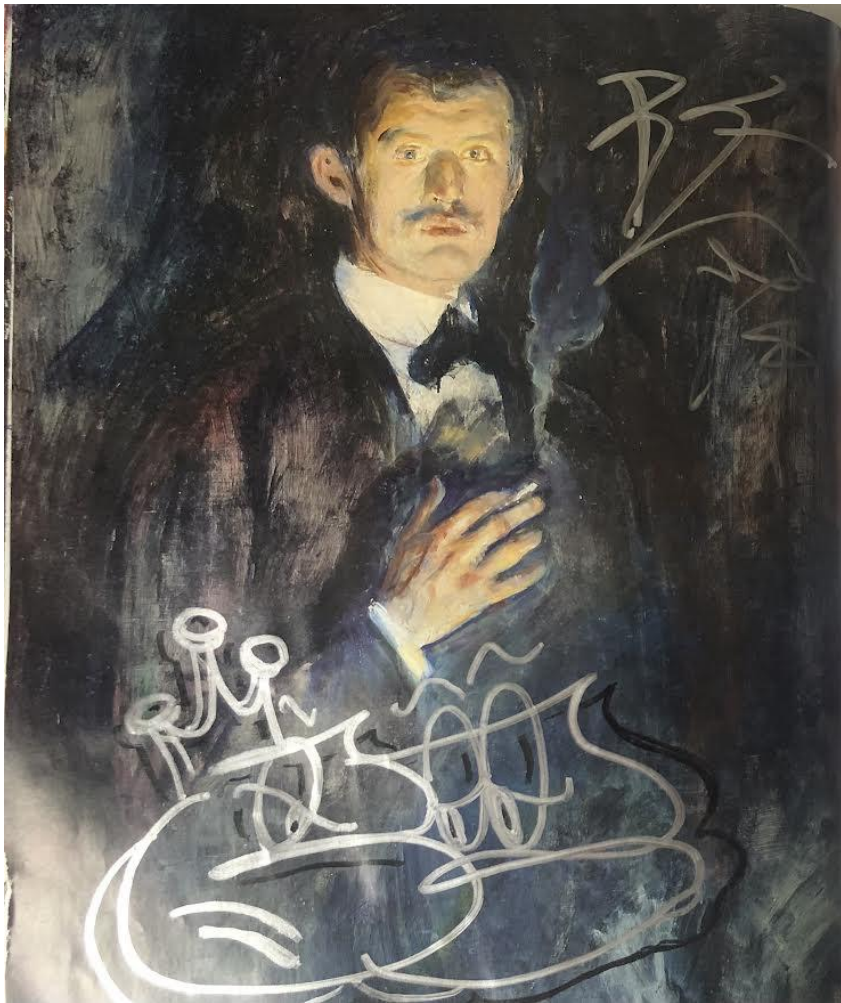




263

# Edvard Munch

1863-1944, NORWEGIAN

Munch is considered one of Norway's greatest artists. His most intense works made him a leading figure of the symbolist movement and provided a powerful source of inspiration for the expressionists.

**On December 12, 1863,** Edvard Munch was born in Læren, a rural district in southern Norway. His father had been an army doctor, but was in the process of becoming a general physician. The family moved to Kristiania (renamed Oslo in 1925), where Dr. Munch served the poorest parts of the city. His presence there took a heavy toll on his own family: his wife died of tuberculosis in 1868 and, a few years later, his daughter Sophie perished from the same disease.

These successive tragedies unburied the doctor, who turned to religion with obsessive zeal and became prone to violent outbursts, which affected the young Munch. He was a sensitive, sensitive child, and his father's religious fervor and his mother's emotional distress were his early influences. The family moved to Kristiania in 1877, where Dr. Munch served the poorest parts of the city. His presence there took a heavy toll on his own family: his wife died of tuberculosis in 1868 and, a few years later, his daughter Sophie perished from the same disease.

**THE SICK CHILD, 1907**  
Munch returned repeatedly to the subject of his sister's illness and death from tuberculosis. This is his fourth version of the painting, inspired by those events.

**THE PORTAL WITH CIGARETTE, 1915**  
Like most of his work, Munch's painting is a study of human psychology. It is a study of the human mind, of the human soul, of the human heart. It is a study of the human mind, of the human soul, of the human heart.

**Art studies**  
Munch began his official training at the State School of Art and Design in 1881. He learned far more from the informal lessons he received from his teachers, who were the leading Norwegian painters of the time, than from the formal lessons. He was particularly popular with younger artists because he challenged accepted values, tackling controversial themes with his uncompromising brand of naturalism, and because him, Munch, was considered a "dark-garde" artist, specifically a group known as the "Kristiania Bohème." This shocked Norwegian society by denouncing bourgeois attitudes and advocating sexual freedom. In spite of the controversy, Munch's talent was fully apparent. In 1885, he received a travel grant—the first of several—which enabled him to pay a visit to Paris.

**Parisian influences**  
Munch's exposure to the latest artistic developments had an immediate impact on his style. He embarked on his first major canvas, *The Sick Child*, borrowing the theme from Krøyer, but treating it in an entirely different manner. Munch abandoned the latter's naturalistic depiction of a child, replacing it with a bold, simplified style.

**"Art demands the total involvement of the artist, otherwise it is nothing but decoration."**  
EDVARD MUNCH, CITED IN MUNCH AND THE WORKERS (EXHIBITION CATALOGUE), 1987

**MUNCH'S EASEL**  
In 1898, Munch bought a summer cottage in Åsgårdstrand, Norway, and it was there that he painted many of his most famous late works. The cottage is now a museum that houses the artist's personal effects, such as his vest, palette, and easel.

256 / 19TH CENTURY

# LOVE AND ROCK

isolated coastal regions, at Cullercoats or the warmth of a convivial meeting.

**KEY WORKS:** *Le Grenouillier*, 1869; *Le Moulin de la Galette*, 1876; *Lunch on the Boating Party*, 1881

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**SOMETHING A LOT AND MUSCLE**

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**Label 228, March 2016**

257

# Thomas Eakins

1844-1916, AMERICAN

Eakins was an American painter, photographer, and sculptor. He was a leading figure in the American Realist movement. He was a leading figure in the American Realist movement. He was a leading figure in the American Realist movement.

**KEY WORKS:** *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair*, 1878; *The Omnibus*, 1890-91; *The Boating Party*, 1894

# John Singer Sargent

1856-1925, AMERICAN

Sargent was an American citizen, but spent most of his career in Europe. He was born in Florence, where he received his initial artistic training, before moving to Paris and entering the studio of Carl Gustave Duran. Sargent was a leading figure in the American Realist movement.

**KEY WORKS:** *Bathing at Asnières*, 1883-84; *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, 1884-86; *Woman Powdering Herself*, 1890

**Label 228, March 2016**