

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY ANNOUNCES MAJOR
MUNCH EXHIBITION FOR FALL SEASON

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 16, 1978. An exhibition of work by major twentieth-century Norwegian expressionist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), with the full collaboration of the directors of major Norwegian museums where most of Munch's art resides, will open at the National Gallery of Art, in the Gallery's East Building, on November 11, it was announced today at the National Press Club by J. Carter Brown, Director of the Gallery. Entitled Edvard Munch: Symbols and Images, the exhibition will run through February 19, 1979. It will be the most comprehensive Munch exhibition ever held in the United States. Very few paintings exist in American collections, and over ninety percent of Munch's work remains in Norway. Many of the works to be shown have never before been permitted to leave Norway.

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja have consented to be Honorary Patrons of the exhibition, which will be the inaugural show of the first art season in the Gallery's new special exhibition galleries. Lenders to the exhibition will include the Munch Museum, Oslo, the National Gallery, Oslo, the

(more)

Billedgalleri and Rasmus Meyers Samlinger in Bergen, and major private collections around the world.

Many of Munch's finest paintings, color woodcuts, drawings and etchings will be included, covering themes of love, despair and social progress. The main section will consist of approximately forty paintings, including Night in St. Cloud, The Kiss and The Dance of Life, documenting Munch's prolific career and reconstructing almost in its entirety The Frieze of Life, an important group of pictures comprising the themes central to the development of his art.

A second section will focus on Munch as a printmaker, and a third section will constitute a group of rare impressions of major prints arranged on themes and variations focusing on "Love" (Voice - Kiss - Madonna - Jealousy), "Despair" (Melancholy - Anxiety - Shriek) and "Sickness and Death" (Sick Girl - Fever - Death Room). About twenty major watercolors, none of which has been exhibited outside Norway before, will comprise a fourth section, and a final section will include over twenty self-portraits, which significantly contributed to establishing his reputation.

In connection with the exhibition, the National Gallery will publish a catalog with contributions by both Norwegian and American scholars. In addition, the Gallery plans to publish a facsimile edition of Munch's holograph book, the Tree of Knowledge from the Munch Museum that has never been exhibited, even in Norway, and is known to only a few scholars.

END