



City of Oslo
Agency for Cultural Affairs
Munch Museum

Press release October 2, 2008

New exhibition at the Munch Museum:

***Munch Becoming "Munch"- Artistic Strategies 1880-1892*
October 10, 2008 – January 11, 2009**

The Norwegian publishing of the Catalogue Raisonné of Edvard Munch's paintings is an important event for the Munch Museum and a milestone in the Munch-research.

The Munch Museum celebrates this great occasion with the exhibition *Munch Becoming 'Munch'*, a comprehensive assembly of paintings and drawings from the early years of Munch's career.

In 1880, when he decided to become an artist, no one could have known that he would become world famous. How did such an unusually gifted and ambitious young man go about finding his own individual expression and identity? What kind of strategies did Munch employ to establish an identity both in his artistic expression and in his role as an artist? The exhibition shows Munch's development as an artist from his early years in the 1880s to the 1890s when he emerged as a self-aware and independent artist.

The exhibition includes a reconstruction of the so-called 'scandalous' exhibition in Berlin in 1892. It was closed after only a few days and led to intense reactions from the public and a fierce debate in the newspapers. Munch received a huge amount of publicity and this marked the beginning of his international fame and recognition.

In addition to paintings, drawings and documentation from the Munch Museum's own collections, the Museum has borrowed more than 100 paintings from museums and private collections in Norway and abroad, including The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo, Bergen Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Kunstmuseum Basel, The National Museum of Art in Copenhagen and the Museum of Modern Art in Stockholm. Through well-known and lesser known works the museum presents a unique opportunity to see the variety and development of Munch's art in the years 1880-1892.

The Catalogue Raisonné and the exhibition will be presented at a press conference at the Munch Museum, Tøyengt. 53, 0578 Oslo, on Wednesday October 8 at 1 pm.

The exhibition will be inaugurated in the presence of invited guests and the press on Thursday October 9 at 6 pm.

H.M. Queen Sonja of Norway will be present at the opening.

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