Edvard Munch
love and angst

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About this book

This book tells you about 10 pictures in the exhibition.

There are some questions for you to think about. There are no right or wrong answers.

At the start of the book there is a map of the gallery. This shows you where to find the 10 pictures.

There is also an introduction to each section in the exhibition. There are 7 sections altogether.

When you have finished with this book please put it in the holder. The holder is by the exhibition exit.

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Edvard Munch love and angst

1. Self-portrait with Skeleton Arm, 1895
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book pick-up area

book drop-off area
Introduction to Munch: love and angst

Edvard Munch was an artist. He was born in 1863. He died in 1944.

His most famous picture is called *The Scream*.

Munch’s pictures show strong feelings. They are about the things that Munch and his friends worried about. And they are still powerful (strong) for us today.
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Self-portrait with Skeleton Arm, 1895

This is a self-portrait. This means Munch made the picture of himself. The face looks real. But the arm is a skeleton’s arm.

Questions

What does Munch look like?

Why has Munch drawn his arm as a skeleton?
Introduction to Bohemians and free love

Munch lived in the capital of Norway. It was called Kristiania. Kristiania is known today as Oslo.

His family went to church and believed in God.

But Munch and his friends had new and different ideas.

They thought the church did not always get things right.

They believed in free love – love between people who are not married.

Munch’s art was very new and different too.
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Kristiania Bohemians II, 1895

Munch and his friends are drinking and smoking in a café.

Munch is the man on the far left. He has dark hair and a white face.

Questions

What are the swirly lines in the air?

Can you imagine what the friends are talking about?
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Summer Night: the Voice, 1894

The woman in the picture was called Milly Thaulow. Munch was having a love affair with Milly. But she was married to somebody else.

Milly is standing in a wood by the sea. The moon is shining on the water.

Questions

How many trees can you see?

How would you describe the colours in this picture?
Introduction to Love in torment

Munch had lots of love affairs with women. But he never got married.

Munch and his friends were often unhappy in love.

Munch showed these feelings in his pictures.
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A man and a woman are standing on the beach.

The wavy line of the beach separates them.

They are looking away from each other.

Questions

What can you see above the man’s head?

What is the woman’s hair like?
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5 Self-portrait with Tulla Larsen, about 1905

The man in this portrait is Munch. The woman’s name is Tulla Larsen.

Munch and Tulla were engaged. But their relationship ended.

Questions

What colour are their faces?

Why do you think Munch cut the picture in half?
Introduction to Anguish and isolation

Munch often felt very alone. This made him very unhappy.

Munch showed this feeling in his most famous picture. It is called *The Scream*.

Munch wrote about the picture. He said ‘I felt a large scream pass through nature.’

The picture made him famous all over the world.
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The Scream, 1895

A person is standing on a bridge.
It could be a man. It could be a woman.
Its head looks like a skull. It is screaming.

Questions

Who else is on the bridge?
What are all the wavy lines?
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7 Angst, 1896

Munch called this picture Angst. This means anxiety. Or worry. Or fear.

The picture shows a crowd of people. They are outside. They are walking. Their faces look like masks.

Questions

What do the men wear on their heads?

How does this picture make you feel?
Introduction to Sickness and death

Munch loved his sister Sophie. But Sophie died when Munch was 13 years old.

When Munch grew up he painted pictures about illness and death.

Munch suffered from ill health all his life. He suffered physical problems (problems of the body). And mental problems like feeling anxious and depressed.

This worried him. But he believed it made him a better artist.
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Munch’s mother died when he was 5 years old. Munch made this picture about it.

The woman in the bed is dead. The child is standing by the bed. The child is very unhappy.

Questions

What is the child wearing?

How can you tell the child is unhappy?
Introduction to
Stage and performance

Munch was interested in the theatre.

Some of his friends wrote plays.
One of his friends was called Henrik Ibsen.

Ibsen’s plays shocked middle class people.
He said things they did not want to hear.

But some people found the new plays exciting.

Munch made art to go with some of Ibsen’s plays.
9 Henrik Ibsen at the Grand Café, Kristiania, 1902

This is Munch’s friend. His name is Henrik Ibsen. Ibsen was much older than Munch.

Ibsen wrote plays. The curtain behind his head looks like a theatre curtain.

Questions

What colour is Ibsen’s hair?

What do you think the weather is like outside?
Introduction to Homecoming

Munch travelled a lot. But he always came back to his home.

When he was about 45 Munch became very ill. He had a nervous breakdown. This is a type of mental illness. He had to go into a clinic (a sort of hospital).

After this he spent more time at home in Norway.
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The Girls on the Bridge, 1918

This is a picture of a seaside town in Norway. Munch went there every summer. Munch made lots of pictures of this scene.

Questions

How many colours can you see?

How would you describe the picture to somebody who had not seen it?