

## Munch in Norway . . . for Artists Plan & Itinerary

**What:** Study Tour & Art Workshop  
**When:** August 10 - 14, 2005  
**Where:** Oslo and Åsgårdstrand, Norway  
**Lodging:** August 10 & 11: Holmen Fjord Hotel, Nesbru  
August 12 & 13: Rainbow Hotel, Åsgårdstrand

### Summary:

- An in-depth examination of the style and work of the artist, Edvard Munch
- Visits and tours at two Oslo museums containing a large number of his works
- A presentation about the sites he captured in his works at Oslo & Åsgårdstrand
- A trip to his summer home and studio at Åsgårdstrand, with 1 ¾ days of dedicated time for drawing and painting onsite
- Side-trip to the 'artist's village' of Holmsbu, tour of Henrik Sørensen's art museum, Holmsbu Billedgalleri



*Hans at the docks, Åsgårdstrand*

## Background:

Edvard Munch was born in Løten, Norway, about 130 kilometers north of Oslo, in 1863, and was raised in Oslo, then called Kristiania. His father, a military doctor, lost his wife to tuberculosis when Edvard was only 5, and, when he was 14, his sister, just one year older than him, also died of tuberculosis. Along with his own frequently ill health, memories of illness and grief engulfed him for much of his early life.

Edvard Munch attended technical school in drawing, and continued art studies in Norway before going to Paris in 1885 for a short trip. Thereafter, he began to develop his own style, beginning with “Skrik” and the important work, “The Sick Child.” In 1889, his family rented a small cottage at Åsgårdstrand, where he painted the coastline and fjord, nature and people. That year, he also held his first solo exhibition in Oslo and applied for and received government stipends from the Norwegian state. Munch thereafter moved to France, where he studied and painted, eventually creating such a sensation with his work that his renown reached out to Berlin. He then moved to Berlin and coordinated his activities on the continent, living and painting there and in France while holding exhibitions in both Europe and Oslo.

Munch bought the tiny house at Åsgårdstrand in Norway in 1897. Near the turn of the century, his time was devoted to portraits for patrons of the arts, and he continued to reside in Europe - while his physical condition deteriorated with drinking and nervous illness.

In 1909, he had what was described as a nervous breakdown and returned to Norway, where he lived the rest of his life. He bought a large stately home of the modern ‘Prairie School’ style in Oslo which had rather large grounds, called Ekely, in 1916, and he continued to spend summer times at the cabin at Åsgårdstrand. At his cabin, he wrote, this was “the only pleasant house that I have lived in.”

As time passed in Norway, his work turned toward more positive, life-embracing social and environmental themes, including some monumental works-popular at the time, paintings of children, and lovingly-crafted landscapes, popularized in his familiar style.

At Åsgårdstrand, his small home is now open and on display, furnished as it was when he was living there. Next door, his small studio has been reconstructed and is used to exhibit some of his works, particularly those referring to the town, including the early work, “The Dance of Life”, "Girls on the Jetty", the critically controversial "Melancholy" of 1891, and "The Fairy Tale Forest." The general area is resplendent with the views he used in his own work, and it is especially gratifying to see them and consider the particular ways in which Munch took the world as he saw it and transformed it into something magical, albeit sad, glad, soothing, anxiety-ridden.

In 1940, Munch decided that his huge collection of pictures and uncatalogued literary and biographical notes should become the property of the city of Oslo when he died. He died at Ekely in 1944. As a result, the Munch Museum in Oslo owns the largest collection of his works in the world, and displays materials on a rotating basis in order to exhibit a representative array at any one time. The Museum also coordinates with world-wide institutions for international exhibitions.

The National Gallery in Oslo, Norway’s national art museum, also owns a rather large collection of significant works by Munch, most of them assembled in one large and beautiful exhibition room.

This workshop will provide us with: (1) new study materials & a presentation on them, (2) museum visits, (3) copying and studying exercise time, and (4) plein aire sketching and painting time at Åsgårdstrand.



*Hans at the docks, Åsgårdstrand*

## Itinerary

### Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

- 6 p.m. Out-of-towners meet at the Holmen Fjord Hotel, Nesbru\*  
Introductions, itinerary review & notebook distribution
- 6:30 p.m. Munch in Norway – A Presentation & Discussion
- 7:30 p.m. Dinner (together or on your own, as arranged)
- Evening On your own

### Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

- 9 a.m. Holmen Fjord Hotel participants meet
- 10 a.m. All participants meet at the National Gallery lobby, Oslo  
Guided and self tour of the National Gallery - focus on Munch's works
- Noon To the Munch Museum
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Munch Museum cafeteria
- 1:30 p.m. English tour of the Munch Museum with time for copying/self-study
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. 'Group meet' at the Munch Museum facilities
- 4-4:30 End of day session
- 6 p.m. Munch museum closing time
- Evening Dinner and evening on your own

### Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

- 10 a.m. All participants meet at the Holmen Fjord Hotel, Nesbru  
Travel to the 'artists's village' of Holmsbu
- 11:00 a.m. Sightseeing and lunch in the Holmsbu dock area
- Noon Bonus: Tour of the Holmsbu BilledGalleri featuring works of Henrik Sørensen
- 1 p.m. Proceed to Åsgårdstrand
- 2:30 p.m. Check-in at the Rainbow Hotel, Åsgårdstrand
- 3:15 p.m. Late afternoon sketching or painting session (optional): Åsgårdstrand docks
- 5:30 p.m. Group Impressions Session – to 6 p.m.
- 7 p.m. Dinner & evening - together or on your own



*Grounds of Munch's summer home & studio at Åsgårdstrand*

Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

- |            |                                                                                          |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:45 a.m.  | Sunriser's drawing and painting session at the public docks (optional)<br>(to 9:30 a.m.) |
| 10 a.m.    | Group Tour of Munch's Summer Home & Studio                                               |
| 11 a.m.    | Preliminary sketches in the area                                                         |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch                                                                                    |
| 1:15       | First afternoon session – plein aire - 1 ¾ hours                                         |
| 3:00       | Break                                                                                    |
| 3:30       | Second afternoon session – plein aire – 1-2 ½ hours                                      |
| 6:15       | Painting group review and critique                                                       |
| 7 p.m.     | Dinner                                                                                   |
| Evening    | On your own                                                                              |

Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

- |           |                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m.   | Group Meet & Greet<br>Final plein aire session – 1 ½ hours |
| Noon      | Check-out & Lunch                                          |
| Afternoon | En Route to Nesbru / Oslo                                  |
| 4-6 p.m.  | Workshop Closes                                            |

\*Out-of-towners,

It is suggested that you arrive 1-2 days early, especially if you are crossing several time zones to attend, and that you also plan to stay over in the Nesbru area at the conclusion, Sunday evening, departing the area on Monday. Details can be arranged, on inquiry.