



**PAINT LIKE  
EDVARD MUNCH**

Read through the following slides  
and then try painting in the style of  
Edvard Munch yourself.

# Edvard Munch

- Edvard Munch (1863-1944) was a Norwegian born expressionist painter. His best-known work, [The Scream](#), has become one of the most iconic images of the art world. He played a great role in German expressionism in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century while creating a number of paintings which depicted mental anguish and misery.
- A majority of the works which Edvard Munch created, were referred to as Symbolism.
- After his death all his work was donated to the Norwegian government. The country decided to build the [Munch Museum of Art](#) to commemorate his work, his life and his generosity in passing over his artwork to the government which could be enjoyed by the general public, rather being kept by the family.

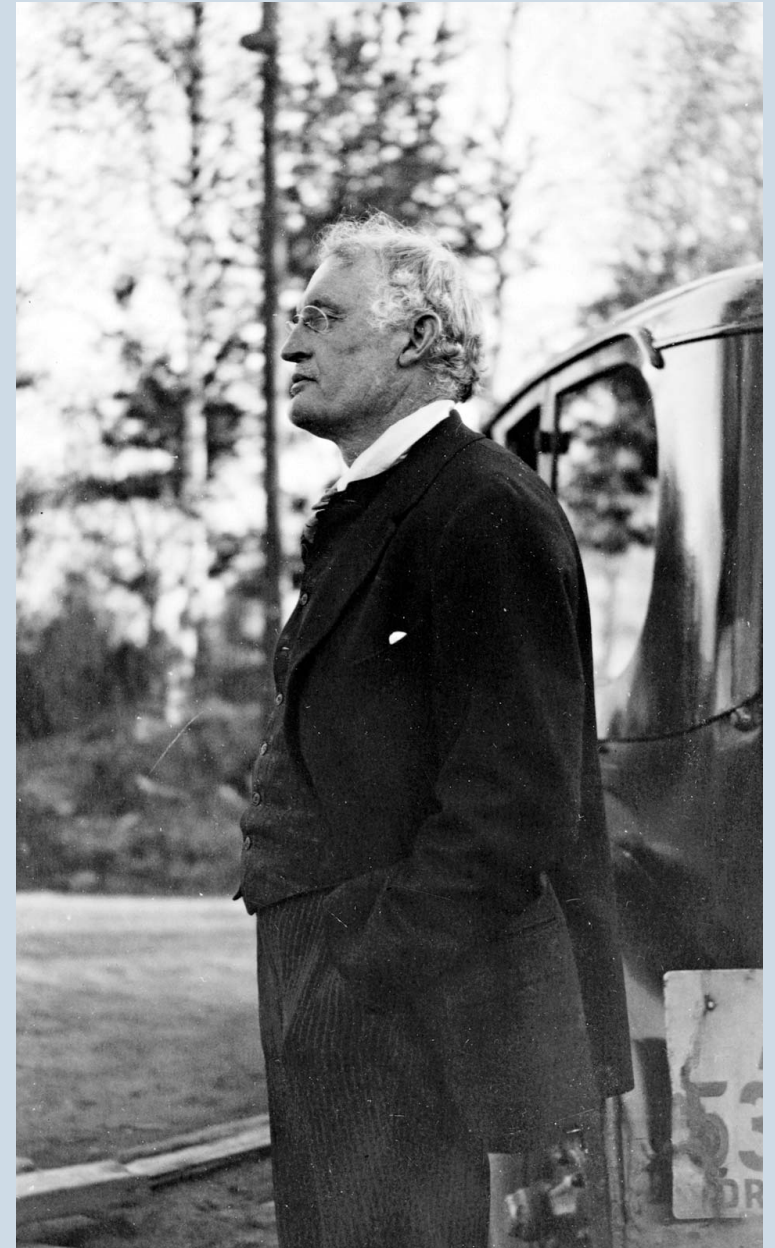
**German Expressionism-** Early 20<sup>th</sup> century movement that emphasised the artist's inner feelings or ideas over replicating reality

**Symbolism-** Late 19<sup>th</sup> century movement that advocated the expression of an idea over the realistic description of the natural world



# Biography

- Edvard Munch lived a tumultuous life, which was represented in his paintings. He had a troubled childhood, his mother died of tuberculosis after the birth of his youngest sister and his favourite sister died of the same illness nine years later.
- His father was a religious fanatic, who would read Edvard and his sisters ghost stories. The vivid ghastly tales, combined with his poor health affected the young Munch who had nightmares and paranoid visions of death, which he later reflected in his artwork.
- In his teens, he moved from drawing and dabbling with watercolours to painting with oils, and he only spent one year in technical college before he left to follow his dream of being a painter.
- His personal tragedies and psychological traumas evolved into a symbolic art form that expressed more internal emotion and feeling than an image of outside reality. He often refused to sell his paintings, calling them his children.



# Edvard Munch's paintings

- Edvard Munch's artworks are based on his personal tragedies, sickness and failures . He acknowledged, *'My sufferings are part of my self and my art. They are indistinguishable from me, and their destruction would destroy my art.'*
- Munch's work is often described as his own autobiography. He has painted all experience of his life from childhood until old age.
- Munch's artworks are made of print making techniques and a use of bold colours. He was often criticised that he didn't finish his paintings and these were just sketches and starts.
- He wanted his artworks to be raw and rough as he wanted these to look unfinished. It was the emotion and unfinished stories of his life which he wanted to depict.

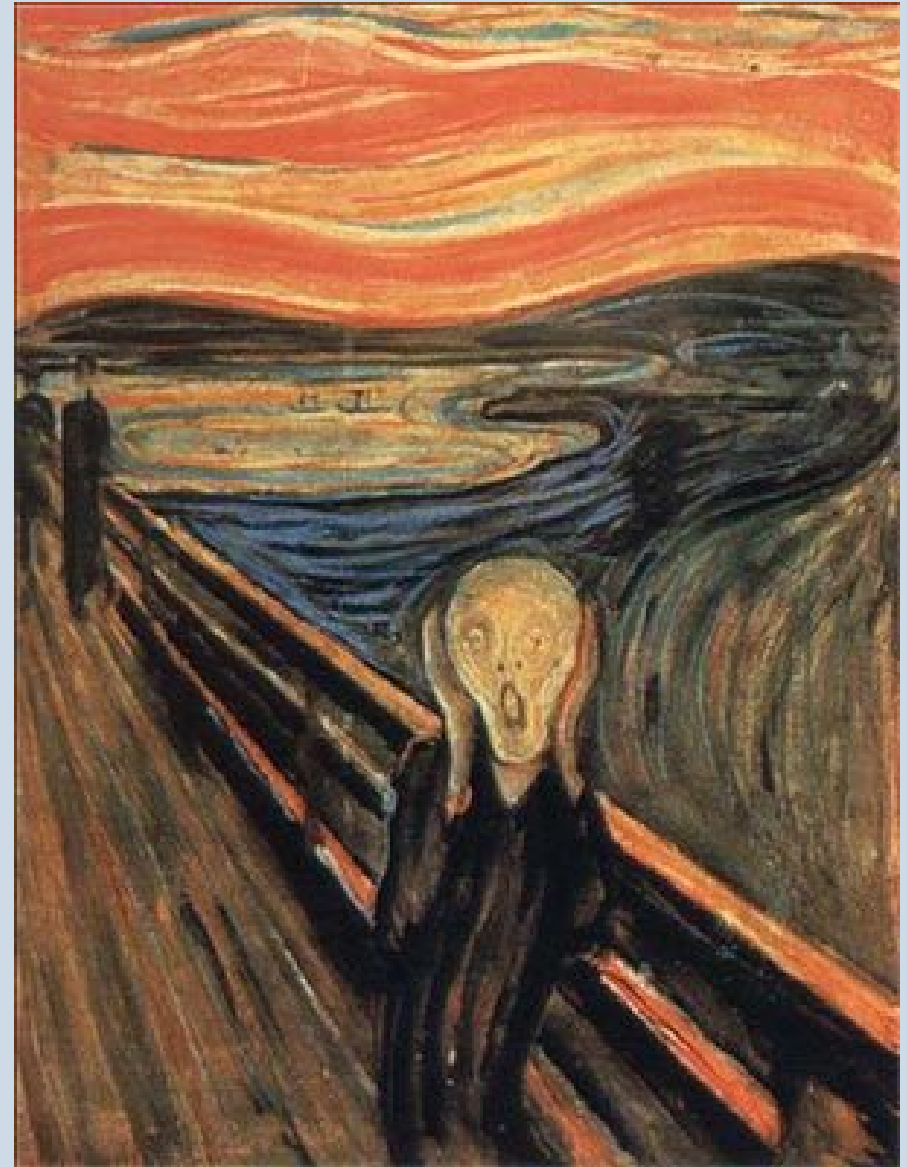


- This painting is one of Munch's earliest works. The painting shows death, loss and anxiety which became his chief subject matter for the rest of his artistic career.
- This painting shows Munch's bedridden fifteen-year-old sister with a woman who is believed to be her mother, who also passed away of tuberculosis.
- The rough brushstrokes, scratched surface and dark tones of this painting all reveal a highly personal memorial. The harmonious tones of green and greys in the figure signifies same family ties.



The Sick Child, 1885-86

- Edvard Munch's *The Scream* is an icon of modern art, in Munch's words as '*how we see our own age - wracked with anxiety and uncertainty*'.
- This painting is autobiographical based on Munch's actual experience of a scream piercing through nature while on a walk, after his two companions, seen in the background, had left him.
- The setting of *The Scream* was suggested to the artist by a walk along a road overlooking the city of Oslo, apparently upon Munch's arrival at, or departure from, a mental hospital where his sister, Laura Catherine, had been interned.
- Munch later recalled, "*I was walking down the road with two friends when the sun set; suddenly, the sky turned as red as blood. I stopped and leaned against the fence ... shivering with fear. Then I heard the enormous, infinite scream of nature.*"



The Scream, 1893

- This painting portrays a portrait of adolescence and isolation. The lone female figure symbolises a state of sexual depression.
- The figure is in a shy pose with her legs closed and her hands modestly in her lap. This relates to sexual oppression and it could be related to Edvard's own sexual repression during this period.
- The looming shadow behind the figure hints at the birth of an ominous creature which signifies puberty and the exposure which this girl might experience with the stage of adolescence.
- The dark tones as contrasted with bright tones bring a charisma to this painting. The highlighted figure leaves an everlasting effect on the viewer.



The Puberty, 1894-95



- This painting has a symbolic meaning as the title, *Ashes* indicates the aftermath of fire or passion. The couple are in a dusky forest. The position and pose of the characters is significant.
- The white dress of woman signifies purity and innocence, the red symbolises passion whereas the black outfit of a man signifies death and despair.
- The postures of the figures emphasise the stress and tension between them. The long hair of the woman resting on the man shows he is still under her spell.
- This painting also relates to Munch's own experiences as he never married and his love life was turbulent.



Ashes, 1894

For you to try...  
Painting in the style of Edvard Munch

# Task 1: Drawing scream faces (30 mins)

## Resources needed:

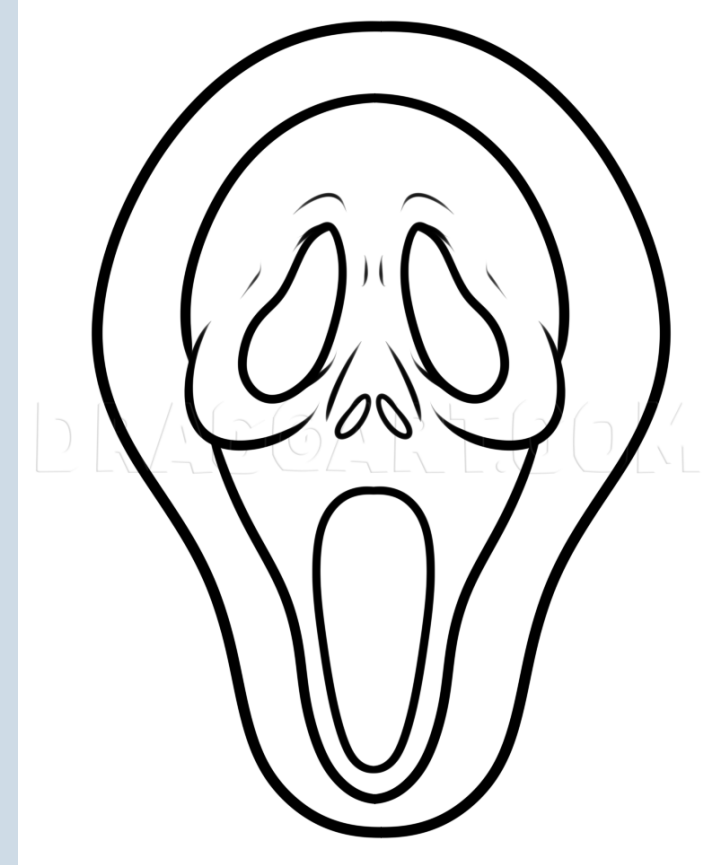
- Paper- A4
- Sketching pencils- 2B, 4B
- Eraser and sharpener
- Picture of screams faces

## Steps:

- Place your A4 sheet in the portrait (vertical) style.
- Start drawing the scream face in the middle of your sheet.
- First draw the inner outline of the face (pear shape), then start drawing features: eyes: eye brows; nose holes; and open mouth.
- Then add the outer outline pear line of the face (pear shape)
- Your drawing should be a pencil drawing with no shading at the moment.

Watch the video- how to start drawing:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVm8INhIEo>



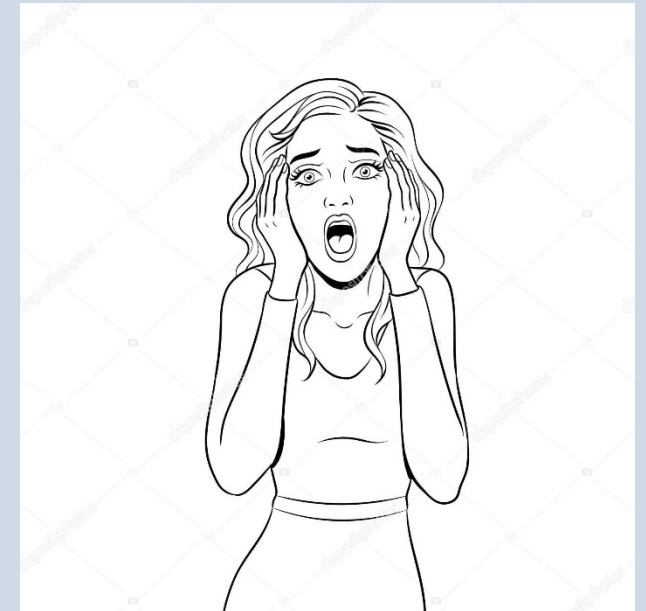
## Task 2: Completing your drawing- (30 mins)

### Resources:

- Your drawing (scream face)
- Pencils and erasers

### Steps:

1. Start adding the neck and shoulders to your drawing. Follow any drawing which you like from the drawings next.
2. Draw everything lightly so the mistakes can be corrected easily.
3. Make sure your figure is head to waist only.



# Task 3: Print making (20 mins)

## Resources:

- Your drawing (scream face till half body)
- Printing ink-Red (you could also use acrylic paint)
- Brayer- 1 (a brayer is an ink roller, you could also use a decorating paint roller)
- Styrofoam sheet- 2 (polystyrene packaging will work)
- Pencil

## Steps:

1. Draw wavy and wiggly lines with a pencil putting some pressure to leave marks on the Styrofoam sheet.
2. Now squeeze some printing ink on the other Styrofoam sheet and roll it with the brayer.
3. Transfer that image in the background of your picture leaving the figure.

Watch this video for printing techniques:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Is62PSy4qkE>

# Task 4- Completing painting (40 mins)

## Resources:

- Your drawing
- Acrylic paint- Burnt Sienna and French Ultramarine, Zinc White
- Acrylic brushes- No 4, 6 round and 6 flat
- Pots for water and paper towels

## Steps:

- Add a bit of white in burnt sienna to get darkish brown and paint all over the face leaving eyes and the mouth. Continue in the neck and arms.
- Now mix burnt sienna in French ultramarine and get blackish brown and paint in the eyes circles, nose circles and the open mouth.
- Now paint French ultramarine in the clothes. Using a flat brush start painting in the background over the red print making, covering some parts as dark blue clouds.
- Your finished painting should like a screaming figure among reddish blue sky.

# Review your painting (15 mins)

After completing your painting you need to evaluate the outcomes considering the following:

- Does your painting resemble *The Scream* by Edvard Munch?
- Is the figure in your painting looking scary or tortured?
- Are there any contrasts in colours in your painting?
- Is the positioning of the figure towards the middle of the sheet?
- Are there any specific movement through hand/ hands by the figure?
- What has worked well/less well?
- How could you improve it if you were to do it again?

You have completed the task – well done!

Please read the next slide for more...

# Exploring Edvard Munch's theme further

If you have enjoyed working in the style of Edvard Munch, you can further explore the following subjects and mediums:

- Working on groups of people or family
- Focusing on the situations like happy or sad moments
- Working in the same palette (same colours) like greens or greys to show sombre moods
- Exploring more techniques of print making

"It is better to paint a good unfinished picture than a poor completed one. Many believe that a picture is finished when they have worked in as many details as possible."

-Edvard Munch