

## Edvard Munch

Websites with Biography:

<http://www.mnc.net/norway/munch.htm>

<http://www.edvardmunch.info/edvard-munch/biography.asp>

-This website has 3 different biographies. Scroll down to the bottom to see.

-Also has information on The Scream

Article on The Scream

<http://www.slate.com/id/2130897/>

He was born December 1863 in Loten, Norway. He grew up primarily in Oslo (the country's capital).

His father was a military doctor who met his future wife while she was working as a maid to a colleague's family. Edvard's mother was 23 when she married. Her husband was 44. They had five children together before Edvard's mother died of tuberculosis in 1868. Edvard was just 5 at the time. Edvard, himself, was also sickly and had to spend long periods of time indoors during the winter to keep him from contracting bronchitis.

It was Edvard's aunt who encouraged all of the children to draw and paint. But this was first developed only as a hobby. He was enrolled in college to study engineering. He was forced to withdraw from college because of his continued illness. During this free time he decided that his true calling was to be a painter.

However, just before Edvard entered an art school, his older sister died of tuberculosis. And this memory continued to affect his painting for the rest of his life.

He entered art school at the age of 17 in Oslo, but throughout his career he was mainly based in Paris and Berlin for the next 20 years. In fact, toward the end of his career he considered himself more a German than Norwegian.

Munch's artistic debut was in 1883, when he was 20. He impressed many people but most importantly he impressed a local art dealer who then offered to pay Munch's way to Paris so that he could see and study the artwork there.

While in Paris he was impressed by the Impressionists and Realists who portrayed people and events as they are. This worked for Munch for a short time only. He realized that his talent was in painting the emotions and inner feelings of people and events.

This approach to painting became known as expressionism. Munch and Vincent van Gogh are credited with developing this style.

"The Scream" is Munch's best known and most readily recognized painting and is regarded as an icon of existential anguish. He painted "The Scream" when he was 32.

Munch wrote of the painting, "I was walking along a path with two friends- the sun was setting- suddenly the sky turned blood red. I paused feeling exhausted and leaned on the fence- there was blood and tongues of fire above the blue-black fjord and the city. My friends walked on and I stood there trembling with anxiety- and I sensed an infinite scream passing through nature."

- Show Print
- Ask questions – Why do you think he is screaming? Why do you think the sky is Red?

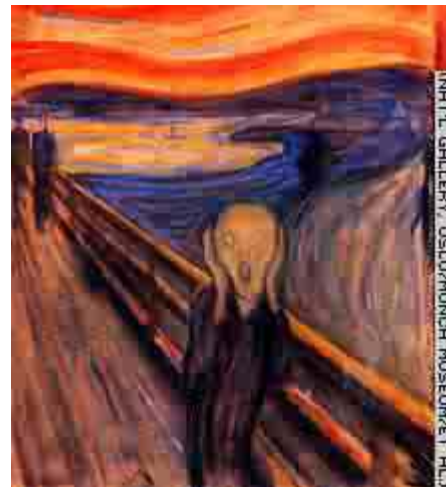
The answers will lead into what many thought – he was showing his inner turmoil, etc. Then share:

## **Why the sky was red in Munch's 'The Scream'**

Wednesday, December 10, 2003 Posted: 10:28 AM EST (1528 GMT)

**WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- For those who have ever wondered why the sky was a lurid red in "The Scream" -- Edvard Munch's painting of modern angst -- astronomers have an answer. They blame it on a volcanic eruption half a world away.**

In the first detailed analysis of what inspired the painting, an article published Tuesday in *Sky and Telescope* pinpointed the location in Norway where Munch and his friends were walking when the artist saw the blood-red sky depicted in the 1893 painting, and offered an explanation for why the sky seemed to be aflame.



**The Krakatoa eruption created vivid red twilights in Europe at the time Munch is thought to have painted this masterpiece.**

Donald Olson, physics and astronomy professor at Texas State University, and his colleagues determined that debris thrown into the atmosphere by the great eruption at the island of Krakatoa, in modern Indonesia, created vivid red twilights in Europe from November 1883 through February 1884.

The local newspaper in what is now Oslo reported that the phenomenon was widely seen, the astronomers said.

Olson and his colleagues suggest that Munch drew his inspiration for the sky in the painting from these volcanic twilights, and not from his own imagination.

The most famous version of "The Scream" was painted in 1893 as part of "The Frieze of Life," a group of works derived by Munch's personal experiences, including the deaths of his mother in 1868 and his sister in 1877. These works were created in the 1890s, but have established origins in earlier decades.

To reach their conclusion, the astronomers determined Munch's vantage point in the painting.

"One of the high points of our research trip to Oslo came when we rounded a bend in the road and realized we were standing in the exact spot where Munch had been 120 years ago," Olson recalled in a statement.

"It was very satisfying to stand in the exact spot where an artist had his experience," he said. "The real importance of finding the location, though, was to determine the direction of view in the painting. We could see that Munch was looking to the southwest -- exactly where the Krakatoa twilights appeared in the winter of 1883-84."

\*Just a note for 5<sup>th</sup> graders: In 6<sup>th</sup> grade in science they will study volcanoes and Krakatoa is a huge part of the study.

Munch painted many versions of "The Scream" It is a part of a series of paintings called The Frieze of Life in which he explored the themes of life, love, fear, death and melancholy.

Prior to his death, Munch bequeathed all of his remaining paintings, drawings and sculpture to the city of Oslo. The city created the Munch Museum honoring one of their most famous citizens. Munch also is honored by Norwegians on the 1,000 Kroner which is a banknote like the dollar bill.

In 1994, Edvard Munch's famous work "The Scream" was stolen from an Oslo gallery, while Norwegians were distracted by the opening of the Winter Olympics in nearby Lillehammer. Two thieves entered through a window, setting off an alarm in the process, which was ignored by the gallery's guard. They even left a note: "Thanks for the poor security."

<http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/08/22/scream.theft/index.html>

## **Armed robbers steal 'The Scream'**

Monday, August 23, 2004 Posted: 1:42 AM EDT (0542 GMT)

**OSLO, Norway (CNN) -- Armed robbers have stolen two classic paintings by Edvard Munch, including "The Scream," in a brazen daytime heist in Oslo.**

The picture frames were later found in another part of the city with the pictures cut out. Authorities have found the getaway car and are using video footage of Sunday's robbery in an effort to track down the thieves, police said.

"They knew exactly where the paintings were and took them down from the wall," said Jorunn Christophersen, head of information for the Munch Museum.

The masked thieves also stole Munch's "Madonna," which shows a mysterious bare-breasted woman with flowing black hair.

The paintings -- which Munch painted as part of a series about love, fear and death -- are said to be worth millions of dollars.

"They are our most valuable paintings," Christophersen said.

"The Scream" is one of the most famous paintings in the world. Munch painted four versions, the first in 1893.

The best-known version was stolen from Oslo's National Art Museum 10 years ago. It was recovered three months later after thieves failed to extract a ransom for its return.

Sunday's theft from took guards and patrons by surprise.

An eyewitness said one man dressed in black rushed towards the "Madonna" painting, "grabbed that off the wall and then started banging it against the wall and against the ground because the gray strings weren't breaking off for him."

"He then saw 'The Scream', ran towards that and grabbed that off the wall and then he started rushing out the front and we started rushing out the back."

"The Scream" was attached to the wall by wires, witnesses said, noting that no alarm bell could be heard when the painting was taken. They also said guards did not prevent the robbers from fleeing with the paintings.

At a news conference, government officials expressed outrage that the paintings were not more carefully protected.

But Christophersen said an alarm did go off after the paintings were pulled off the wall. She also said the paintings were "stuck to the wall with solid screws." The robbers "used force in taking the Munch (paintings) away," she said.

Christophersen also said the robbers threatened the guards with guns as they headed to their getaway car.

Munch lived from 1863 to 1944 and was a pioneer of modern expressionism.

*Journalist Erlend Fernandez Stedding and CNN's Glenn van Zutphen contributed to this report.*

[http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/28/news/funny/dark\\_chocolate/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/28/news/funny/dark_chocolate/index.htm)

## **The lighter side of dark M&M's**

**Mars focuses on fun as it adds dark chocolate to its permanent M&M's collection.**

August 29 2006: 8:33 AM EDT

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- A new ad campaign launched by the owner of the M&M's brand aims to make eating dark chocolate a scream.

M&M's is offering 2 million dark chocolate M&M's for the return of "The Scream," a painting by Edvard Munch that was stolen from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway, in 2004.

The campaign accompanies the permanent addition of dark chocolate candies to the M&M's product line, which was announced earlier this month.

"We've received tremendous interest from consumers to make M&M's Dark Chocolate a permanent offering," Michele Kessler, vice president of marketing at Masterfoods USA, said in a statement.

Masterfoods USA owns the M&M's brand and is a part of closely held food manufacturer Mars, Inc.

The campaign aims to bring some fun into the dark chocolate category, which is perceived to be more serious, Masterfoods said.



[http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/31/news/funny/scream\\_painting/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2006/08/31/news/funny/scream_painting/index.htm)

## 'The Scream' recovered ... was it the candy?

**Police in Oslo, Norway say they've recovered Munch masterpiece after 2-year search; no comment on reward, M&Ms or otherwise.**

August 31 2006: 6:45 PM EDT

NEW YORK (CNMoney.com) -- Norwegian police have recovered one of the world's most famous paintings, the expressionist work "The Scream" by Edvard Munch, they told CNN Thursday.

"All we can say is that the paintings are in the possession of the police. As soon as possible we will have a scientific evaluation, assessing the damage and so on, and then the paintings will be returned to their owners, which in this case is the Munch Museum," said Oslo Police District Information Advisor Jørn Jørgensen in a telephone interview from Norway.

"The Scream," along with another painting called "Madonna," were stolen from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway, in 2004 by masked gunmen during a daring daylight robbery. "Madonna" is also in possession of the police.

According to published reports, "The Scream" could be worth as much as \$81 million. A reward of \$300,000 was offered for its return by the City of Oslo, the official owner of the works, according to wire reports.

Ironically, the painting's recovery comes just days after M&M's launched a new ad campaign offering 2 million dark chocolate M&Ms for the return of the painting. ([Full story](#))

No word from Oslo police on whether they will collect their candy reward.

M&M's says it has every intention of honoring its offer.

The company said 2 million candies is equal to about 40,000 bags of M&Ms, worth approximately \$22,000.

The M&M's brand is owned by Masterfoods USA and is a part of closely held food manufacturer Mars, Inc.

Other Imitations

