



Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream

Sue Prideaux

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Although almost everyone recognizes Edvard Munch's famous painting *The Scream*, hardly anyone knows much about the man. What kind of person could have created this universal image, one that so vividly expressed all the uncertainties of the twentieth century? What kind of experiences did he have? In this book, the first comprehensive biography of Edvard Munch in English, Sue Prideaux brings the artist fully to life. Combining a scholar's precision with a novelist's insight, she explores the events of his turbulent life and unerringly places his experiences in their intellectual, emotional, and spiritual contexts.

With unlimited access to tens of thousands of Munch's papers, including his letters and diaries, Prideaux offers a portrait of the artist that is both intimate and moving. Munch sought to paint what he experienced rather than what he saw, and as his life often veered out of control, his experiences were painful. Yet he painted throughout his long life, creating strange and dramatic works in which hysteria and violence lie barely concealed beneath the surface. An extraordinary genius, Munch connects with an audience that reaches around the world and across more than a century.

Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream Details

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Author : Sue Prideaux

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From Reader Review Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream for online ebook

William Gortowski says

Could always use more details but still a good read.

LSC-University Park SLRC says

Read it through Lone Star College's EBSCO Ebook Collection.

Cami says

I'm pathetic.

I just cannot finish these hulking biographies, even if it's a long and well loved subject.

Sigh...

Malcolm Yarnell says

This is a stylistically well-written and intellectually informative biography of Munch, with numerous color plates helpfully cross-referenced in the margins. Prideaux provides a substantial introduction to the major periods in Munch's life, to the variety of artistic, philosophical, and political movements that exercised influence upon him, and to his personal character and personal relationships. She really allows us to see into the heart and head of a man who wanted to give visual expression to the tortured contents of his soul. My only criticism concerns Prideaux's dismissive attitude toward evangelical Christianity, which can be distracting. The handicap in this attitude can be seen, for instance, in her early dismissive treatment of Edvard's father, Dr Munch, as well as in her final sentence, which oddly assumes his mother's claim to reside eternally with her son regarded the location of their grave sites.

Books Ring Mah Bell says

One of the best biography books I have ever read! A fascinating read of his childhood, coming of age and the time period itself are beautifully crafted to explain the works of Munch.

Yuliya Yurchuk says

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R. Patrick says

In some ways, Munch lived a fascinating life; in some ways a tragic one. Sue Prideaux brings this out brilliantly.

Rutger says

A richly detailed, very moving biography of the 'painter of the soul'. It was interesting to see how progressive and radical some people were at the end of the 19th century, even more so than in our time. The book doesn't contain the greatest prose and is sometimes too elaborate, but I got what I came for.

F.J. Commelin says

i thought it a well written biography which pulls you into Munch's life.

Calvin says

Ive always been an admirer of Munch, but was unaware of what a unique fellow he was. A well written Biography.

Beth says

Grateful for this book and the man and the art.

Edward says

Foreword
Problems in Naming and Dating

Munch's Paints and Materials

Maps

Family Tree

--Edvard Munch: Behind the Scream

Notes

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lisa_emily says

Although I had loved the few Munch paintings when I was young, there were so many things I did not know about him. First of all, how long he had lived- 80 years old! and how prolific he was- thousands of paintings, drawings, prints, and some writings too!

He had very strange relationships, not only with women, but with other artists like Strindberg. Most of these strained relationships ended in exile, but he did many a number of “guardians” (curators, patrons) that sustained him in his long and hermetic life.

I never really studied Munch while studying art history, so I was pleased to learn how revolutionary he was and what an influence he was on the young German expressionists. Munch was such a strange character, that even if his art is of very little interest, reading about his life and how his often unbalanced mind survived into the 20th Century is fascinating stuff.

Erin says

Wow! A man so driven by his individualistic view of the world that he could never comfortably belong to a group or be in a relationship. He realized painting his fears and angst would touch a universal chord, thus his neuroses were necessary for his artistic success. He could never let his life fall into "normal" routines. He pulled the balancing act off, living until old age and maintaining physically remote, but mentally close relationships with family and friends. His life lives up to the passion, anxiety and experimentation you expect from his paintings.

Karl Farrugia says

I got this book from Oslo's Munch Museum's gift shop right after I finished the tour and I would recommend anyone to do the same. Get familiar with Munch's work, go to an exhibition, and THEN read this book. Why? Well, Munch's art is a deeply emotional body of work. Emotional because it is his bottled emotions at the point in time of each piece's creation, and emotional because you can feel the emotions expressed as soon as you see them.

The book is written with such attention to detail and its narrative so enjoyable that, by the time you finish it,

you feel that you know everything about him, as if you've known the man personally. Going with this knowledge to a Munch exhibition will, in my opinion, annul the emotional aspect of the art, and turns it into a history museum-like experience. Do it the other way round, though, and the book slowly carves a shape around the abstract emotional picture of the artist painted in one's head.

Cannot recommend this book enough. I had the pleasure to attend a symposium during a Munch exhibition in London during which Sue Prideaux gave a lecture and formed part of a panel during a Q&A session, and she speaks as beautifully as she writes. Her knowledge is vast and her language masterful, and this book is a testament to these qualities.

Highly recommended for all lovers of art and Scandinavian culture.
