



Tracey Emin/Edvard Munch: The Loneliness of the Soul
The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries
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The Royal Academy of Arts will present a landmark exhibition bringing together for the first time the work of acclaimed British artist Tracey Emin RA (b.1963) and the Norwegian Expressionist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), two internationally renowned artists born 100 years apart. Long fascinated and inspired by Edvard Munch's work, Tracey Emin will choose a selection of his masterpieces to accompany her own works.

The exhibition will feature around 25 works by Emin, including paintings, some of which will be on display for the first time, as well neons and sculpture. These have been chosen by Emin to sit alongside a carefully considered selection of 19 oil paintings and watercolours by Munch, drawn from the rich collection and archives of the Munch Museet in Oslo, Norway. The exhibition will interweave the works of both artists across all three galleries, demonstrating that Emin and Munch, though separated by time and history, explore the same emotional landscape in their works with remarkable intensity.

In her formative years as an artist, Emin was drawn to the expressionism of paintings by both Edvard Munch and Egon Schiele, their concerns in exploring the complex human condition and tortured psyche echoing many of her own burgeoning tendencies. In particular, Munch's confrontation and exploration of emotions in his work had an enduring appeal to Emin, who saw him as 'a friend in art', and as early as 1982 was directly referencing the artist in her work.

The Loneliness of the Soul will focus on themes of grief, loss and longing. Emin has focused on a group of Munch's works which explore his complex relationship with the female sex. Early tragic events including the death of his mother when he was only five years old, followed a few years later by his beloved sister, and then a series of doomed love affairs, all contributed to this uneasy connection. The works on display highlight his fascination with the depiction of women, their emotional states and the process of ageing.

This selection will include well-known works such as *The Death of Marat*, 1907 (Munch Museet, Oslo). Referencing the subject of Jacques-Louis David's famous painting of 1793 which bears the same title, Munch may have been considering his legacy in addition to exploring traditional complex attitudes towards women. The revolutionary Marat was murdered by Charlotte Corday, who feared he would incite a civil war in France. History presents Marat as a hero and Corday as a traitor. The

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About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year, which was won by St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, in 2019, and through a range of digital platforms.

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Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD

For further press information, please contact Elena Davidson on

elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk

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