**Edvard Munch, Master Printmaker**

Edvard Munch estimated that he made over 30,000 impressions of his prints during his lifetime, a staggering number that illustrates the central importance of printmaking to his artistic process.

Munch created his first prints in Berlin in 1894, starting with etchings and then experimenting with lithography. In 1896 he went to Paris where he focused particularly on learning ways to add color to his prints using inks, hand coloring, and colored papers. In Paris, he also made his first woodcuts. Munch learned primarily by experimentation and working closely with master printers: in Berlin, Carl Sabo; in Paris, Auguste Clot; and later in Norway, Anton Peder Nielsen, among others.

Munch was a master printmaker, adept in a variety of techniques and not afraid to experiment. Prints were an ideal medium since he liked to revisit, adapt, and recombine favorite motifs. An image created on a printing plate could be printed, then reworked and printed again as a new variation. Munch often would repeat the same subject in different print formats, using the variations between techniques to evoke different meanings and moods with the image.

Edvard Munch making a copper plate etching in the garden at Dr. Linde’s, Luebeck, Germany, 1902. © Munch Museum, Oslo.

Edvard Munch in his study at Ekely, Norway, 1943. Prints are pinned to the wall and piled on the table and windowsill. © Munch Museum, Oslo.