**Edvard Munch and the Sea**

Edvard Munch’s images are world-renowned because they express raw human emotions: love, joy, ecstasy but also jealousy, grief, and despair.

Munch originally worked in a representational style creating portraits and scenes from daily life in his beloved Norway. Over time, he came to believe that his artworks should address universal human experiences to help himself and others understand life and its meaning. He altered his style, dropping detail in favor of expressive shapes, lines, and colors. Every element of his compositions, including the surrounding landscape, came to radiate the emotion or mood he was trying to convey.

The sea is a frequently recurring motif in Munch’s life and art. Even when he did not live next to water, Munch spent part of every year visiting coastal towns in Norway and in other parts of Europe. The sea is also a thread through his life’s work, ranging from a stand-alone subject to a backdrop for daily life to a stage for life’s great dramas. At times it is a symbol suggesting both broad cultural meanings and Munch’s very personal experiences. Here in the Pacific Northwest, these images speak to the ways in which water shapes our own lives and gives this region its unique character.

*Edvard Munch and the Sea* is organized by Tacoma Art Museum and honors Pacific Lutheran University's 125th anniversary and Norwegian heritage. It is generously supported by Propel Insurance (logo), Nordstrom (logo), ArtsFund (logo), and Pacific Lutheran University (logo).