**The Sea as Landscape**

Much of Edvard Munch’s life centered around the sea as home, retreat, and refuge. He grew up in Oslo, on the Oslofjord, an inlet of the sea in southeast Norway. Throughout his life he visited and lived on the Norwegian coast (see map below) notably in Åsgårdstrand, his longtime home. In his travels to other parts of Europe, Munch settled in coastal towns when he could: Le Havre, France; Knokke, Belgium; and Warnemünde, Germany. He sought the sea for relief and healing during times of grief and illness.

Munch made numerous images of Norway’s shorelines and coastal towns, often painting outdoors. His landscapes capture the low, rocky hills, curving coastlines and blue-tinged northern light he loved. Other scenes depict the people he encountered in these settings.

Munch trained with artists who were strongly committed to creating a specifically Norwegian art, one that celebrated the country and its culture. He internalized this nationalist impulse and expressed it in his work through his love of the landscape, interest in Norwegian daily life, and use of regional stories and myths as inspiration.

Map noting coastal towns where Edvard Munch lived.