EDVARD MUNCH

MUNCH AND EXPRESSIONISM

EXPRESSIONISM

1863

Birth of Munch on December 12 in Løten, Norway.

Munch's mother dies of tuberculosis in 1868.

Birth of Vasily Kandinsky in 1866.

Birth of Emil Hansen (later Nolde) in 1867.

Birth of Gabriele Münter in 1868.

1870

Munch's 15-year-old sister Sophie dies of tuberculosis in 1877.

1880

In 1885, falls in love with Milly Thaulow, his cousin's wife.

Munch resolves to become an artist.

Birth of Ernst Ludwig Kirchner in 1880.

Birth of Max Pechstein in 1881.

Birth of Erich Heckel, Richard Gerstl and Max Beckmann in 1883.

Birth of Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Ludwig Meidner in 1884.

Birth of Oskar Kokoschka in 1886.

Munch's *The Sick Child* provokes heated controversy about its radical style in 1886.

In 1889 Munch has first solo exhibition in Kristiania (now Oslo).

Death of his father plunges him into emotional crisis.

In 1889 begins spending the summers in Åsgårdstrand, where he paints some of his most important works.

Moves to Saint Cloud, near Paris.

1890

Munch receives stipend to study in France in 1890.

Munch exhibition in 1892 at the Association of Berlin Artists closes after one week. Joins international group of artists and writers in Berlin who frequent the tavern Zum schwarzen Ferkel. Solo exhibition of 50 paintings in Berlin.

In Berlin Munch creates lithographs including *The Scream* and *Madonna*. His brother Andreas dies of pneumonia in 1895.

In 1898, returns to Norway and begins stormy relationship with Tulla Larsen, daughter of an affluent wine merchant. Travels between Germany and Norway.

Birth of Egon Schiele in 1890.

1902

Max Linde's illustrated book *Edvard Munch and the Art of the Future* published.

Munch meets Hamburg art collector and critic Gustav Schiefler. Exhibits *The Frieze of Life* in Berlin and in 1903 in Leipzig. Exhibits prints in Vienna and Dresden.

1904

Julius Meier-Graefe's *History of Modern Art* – an important source for Expressionism – identifies Munch as a key artist, comparing him to Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin.

Gerstl sees Munch's work at Vienna Secession, and Schiele's future patron, Carl Reininghaus, buys *Death and the Child*, 1899.

Beckmann sees Munch's paintings in Paris.

1905

Munch retrospective exhibition in Prague.

Artists' group Brücke is founded in Dresden on July 7.

1906

Munch battles respiratory infections, alcoholism, and nicotine dependence. Paints allegorical portrait of Friedrich Nietzsche.

Exhibition of 20 of Munch's paintings at the Saxon Art Association in Dresden seen by Brücke artists, who invite him to join their group. Munch does not answer.

Nolde is deeply impressed by Schiefler's Munch collection. He expresses admiration for "Munch's most wonderful graphic creations."

Nolde and Pechstein join Brücke.

1907

Gustav Schiefler's catalogue of Munch's prints published.

Munch paints frieze for Max Reinhardt's Kammerspiele theater in Berlin.

On seeing Schmidt-Rottluff's prints Munch remarks: "This artist is crazy," and "We are entering difficult times." But the next day he could not get the "impressive" lithographs out of his mind.

Heckel and Munch meet in Schiefler's home: "The two understand each other very well and enter into lively conversation."

Nolde meets Munch in Berlin and visits the Norwegian artist's Berlin studio.

1908

Munch in Warnemünde, on German coast. Suffers breakdown and enters clinic of Dr. D. E. Jacobsen in Copenhagen.

Travelling exhibition of Brücke artists shown in Kristiania. Munch writes: "I would enjoy getting together once with the painters."

Munch and Brücke artists exhibit prints at the Berlin Secession.

Suicide of Richard Gerstl.

1909

Munch leaves clinic and settles permanently in Norway. Begins work on paintings for the festival hall (Aula) of the University of Kristiania.

Munch refuses to exhibit alongside Schmidt-Rottluff and Brücke artists in Weimar and Dresden.

"Internationale Kunstschau" in Vienna shows works by Kokoschka and Schiele and premieres Kokoschka's play *Murderer, Hope of Women.*

1910

Munch supports Nolde in dispute with Max Liebermann at Berlin Secession.

New Secession is founded in Berlin showcasing Expressionist art.

1911

Munch urges his patron Ernest Thiel to purchase Nolde paintings: "[I] regard him very highly as both a human being and artist."

Schmidt-Rottluff spends the summer in Norway.

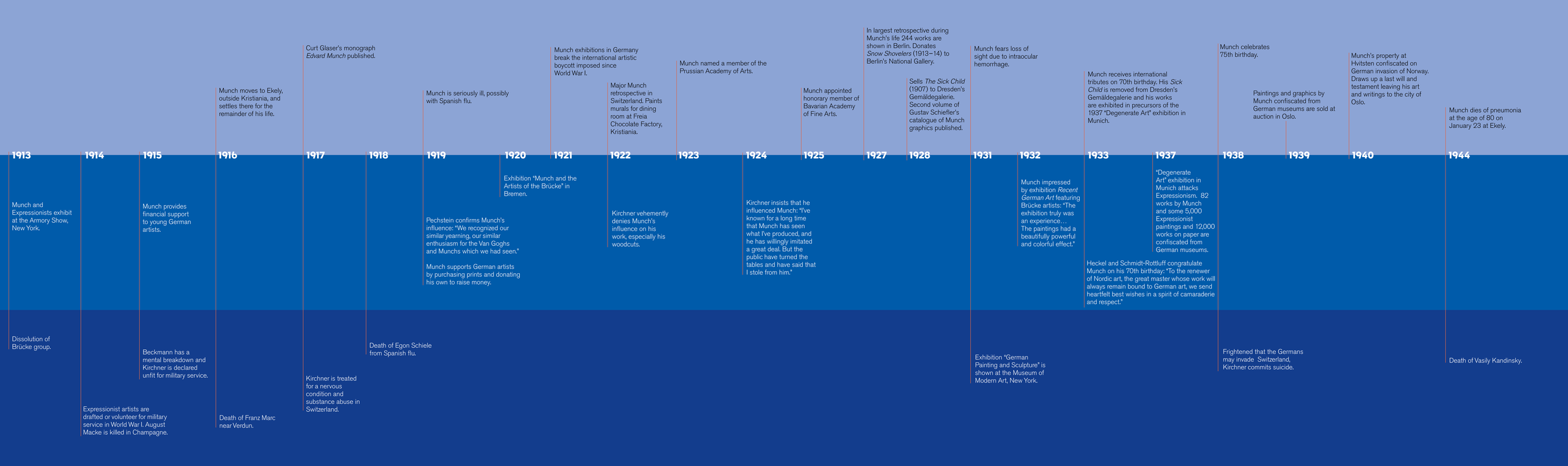
Foundation of Der Blaue Reiter in Munich.

Brücke artists move to Berlin.

1912

Munch honored as forerunner of Expressionism at the Sonderbund exhibition in Cologne, where Kirchner and Heckel create an Expressionist chapel. August Macke writes to Munch: "We young ones have inscribed your name on our shield." Munch remarks: "I found many of the young German painters interesting."

Publication of *Blaue Reiter Almanac.*


1913
Munch and Expressionists exhibit at the Armory Show, New York.
Dissolution of Brücke group.
1914
Expressionist artists are drafted or volunteer for military service in World War I. August Macke is killed in Champagne.
1915
Munch provides financial support to young German artists.
Beckmann has a mental breakdown and Kirchner is declared unfit for military service.
1916
Munch moves to Ekely, outside Kristiania, and settles there for the remainder of his life.
Death of Franz Marc near Verdun.
1917
Curt Glaser's monograph *Edvard Munch* published.
Kirchner is treated for a nervous condition and substance abuse in Switzerland.
1918
Death of Egon Schiele from Spanish flu.
1919
Munch is seriously ill, possibly with Spanish flu.
Pechstein confirms Munch's influence: "We recognized our similar yearning, our similar enthusiasm for the Van Goghs and Munchs which we had seen."
Munch supports German artists by purchasing prints and donating his own to raise money.
1920
Exhibition "Munch and the Artists of the Brücke" in Bremen.
1921
Munch exhibitions in Germany break the international artistic boycott imposed since World War I.
1922
Major Munch retrospective in Switzerland. Paints murals for dining room at Freia Chocolate Factory, Kristiania.
Kirchner vehemently denies Munch's influence on his work, especially his woodcuts.
1923
Munch named a member of the Prussian Academy of Arts.
1924
Kirchner insists that he influenced Munch: "I've known for a long time that Munch has seen what I've produced, and he has willingly imitated a great deal. But the public have turned the tables and have said that I stole from him."
1925
Munch appointed honorary member of Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts.
1927
In largest retrospective during Munch's life 244 works are shown in Berlin. Donates *Snow Shovelers* (1913–14) to Berlin's National Gallery.
1928
Sells *The Sick Child* (1907) to Dresden's Gemäldegalerie. Second volume of Gustav Schiefler's catalogue of Munch graphics published.
1931
Munch fears loss of sight due to intraocular hemorrhage.
Exhibition "German Painting and Sculpture" is shown at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.
1932
Munch impressed by exhibition *Recent German Art* featuring Brücke artists: "The exhibition truly was an experience… The paintings had a beautifully powerful and colorful effect."
1933
Munch receives international tributes on 70th birthday. His *Sick Child* is removed from Dresden's Gemäldegalerie and his works are exhibited in precursors of the 1937 "Degenerate Art" exhibition in Munich.
Heckel and Schmidt-Rottluff congratulate Munch on his 70th birthday: "To the renewer of Nordic art, the great master whose work will always remain bound to German art, we send heartfelt best wishes in a spirit of camaraderie and respect."
1937
"Degenerate Art" exhibition in Munich attacks Expressionism. 82 works by Munch and some 5,000 Expressionist paintings and 12,000 works on paper are confiscated from German museums.
1938
Munch celebrates 75th birthday.
Frightened that the Germans may invade Switzerland, Kirchner commits suicide.
1939
Paintings and graphics by Munch confiscated from German museums are sold at auction in Oslo.
1940
Munch's property at Hvitsten confiscated on German invasion of Norway. Draws up a last will and testament leaving his art and writings to the city of Oslo.
1944
Munch dies of pneumonia at the age of 80 on January 23 at Ekely.
Death of Vasily Kandinsky.