

**A Visual Analysis of Edvard Munch's Landscape Paintings Based on Feldman's Art Criticism Theory**

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.37745/gjahss.2013/vol12n55581>

Published June 18, 2024

**Citation:** Li Y. and Mahsan I.P.B. (2024) A Visual Analysis of Edvard Munch's Landscape Paintings Based on Feldman's Art Criticism Theory, *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol.12, No.5, pp.55-81

**ABSTRACT:** *Edvard Munch was a key figure in modern Expressionism, and his emotionally charged works had a profound impact on art. This study is based on Feldman's theory of art criticism and analyzes Munch's landscape paintings from 1893 to 1933 from the four stages of description, analysis, interpretation and judgment, focusing on the use of color, emotional expression and artistic expression through qualitative research methods. style, and finally construct an analytical framework about the characteristics of Munch's landscape paintings. The study found two stages of development of Munch's landscape paintings: the early stage (1890-1908) highlighted expressionist features and inner sad emotions, with sharp color contrasts; the later stage (after 1909) featured more vivid and diverse colors and peaceful emotions. Reflecting his love for nature, the brushwork has a stronger sense of texture. This analysis provides insight into Munch's unique expressionist style, which emphasized emotional depth and visual impact, providing a new perspective on art education and modern creation.*

**KEYWORDS:** Edvard Munch's Landscape Paintings, Feldman's Theory of Art Criticism, Expressionist Paintings

## INTRODUCTION

The Expressionist art movement originated in Europe in the early 20th century,

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development -UK especially in Germany, and it focused on expressing the artist's inner emotions and personal perspective (Dhanalakshmi et al., 2023). Artists tend to express emotions and psychological states through exaggerated forms, distorted images, and sharp color contrasts, rather than simply replicating reality (Kempinska, 2021). This artistic genre has far-reaching influence, spanning many fields such as painting, sculpture, drama and literature. Edvard Munch (1863-1944), as an internationally renowned Norwegian artist, is one of the important representatives of Western Expressionist painting (Runhovde, 2021). Munch's painting style had a profound influence on many artists, including Picasso and Matisse, and he also inspired many artists in Germany and France. Munch's artistic achievements, with his emotional depth and unique personal expression, have gained global recognition and acclaim (Gruener, 2014).

Edvard Munch made an indispensable contribution to the field of landscape painting, and his works skillfully blended personal emotions and perceptions of nature (Miranda et al., 2013). Munch's art transcended mere reproduction of natural landscapes and became a reflection of his inner world (West, 2007). Through the skillful use of color and form, he explores major themes such as life, death, loneliness, and love (Prelinger & Vigtel, 2001). Munch's artistic style has undergone many evolutions, from being influenced by naturalism and impressionism in the 1880s to forming his own unique painting style in the 1890s, with colors being symbolic in his paintings (Mathiesen, 2021; Miranda et al., 2013). He prefers to use a shallow depth of field composition and place the characters in the foreground to reveal the inner world of the characters and create a visual effect of static time (Miranda et al., 2013). Munch once bluntly stated that the Impressionists were not interested in him and that he was more concerned with expression than with the reproduction of reality (Prelinger & Vigtel, 2001). In 1892, his exhibition at the Berlin Artists' Union Exhibition aroused widespread discussion (Fowle et al., 2012). In 1893, Munch created the iconic "The Scream". This painting not only represented the maturity of his Expressionist style, but also became a symbol of Expressionist art (Mathiesen, 2021). Known as the "Father of Expressionist Art", Munch had a profound impact on subsequent art movements and modern art, becoming a very iconic figure in the history of art.

Edvard Munch's reputation is largely due to the profound emotions conveyed in his landscape paintings, which often evoke visceral resonance in the viewer through his distinctive color and composition (Azeem, 2015). Although there have been extensive discussions on Munch's figure paintings in academic circles,

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there have been relatively few discussions on the emotional expressions in his landscape paintings, and Feldman's art criticism theory has not yet been fully utilized to fully analyze the unique features of these landscape paintings. and expression techniques (Skryabin et al., 2020). Therefore, it has become particularly critical and necessary to systematically study how Munch conveys emotions through landscape paintings and to deepen our understanding of these works with the help of Feldman's theory.

The objective of this article is to conduct an in-depth analysis of Munch's landscape paintings from the perspective of Feldman's art criticism theory, and to explore Munch's uniqueness in color use, emotional expression and artistic style. Based on this theoretical framework, we hope to go beyond the superficial observation of the work, dig deeper into Munch's creative intentions and emotional expression, and then more comprehensively understand his artistic achievements. Through this study, we will not only reveal the deep meaning of Munch's landscape paintings, but also reveal the core characteristics of the Expressionist art movement, providing us with a comprehensive and profound perspective to appreciate and understand Munch's artistic contributions (Mathiesen, 2021).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Feldman's Theory of Art Criticism and Its Application in Art Analysis**

Edmund Burke Feldman, an American art educator, developed a comprehensive framework of art criticism designed to provide in-depth analysis and judgement of works of art through a series of structured steps (Carney, 1994). This theory consists of four basic steps: description, analysis, interpretation, and judgment (Geahigan, 1975). During the description phase, we focus on the visual record of the artwork, including its color, shape, line, texture, spatial arrangement, and basic information and details about the work. The analysis phase delves into the interaction between elements in the work and its impact on the overall effect, involving color contrast, line dynamics, shape proportions, spatial depth, and the techniques and techniques used by the artist (Gao et al., 2022). The interpretation stage is dedicated to understanding the meaning and emotional level behind the work, exploring the artist's creative intentions and motivations, and analyzing the symbols and symbols in the work, combining form with content and themes to reveal deeper meanings (Stork, 2011) . In the judgement stage, we judgement the artistic value and technical level of the work, compare its relative merits with other works, and combine the previous analysis to form an overall

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development -UK judgement of the work, taking into account its far-reaching impact on the audience and society (Herring , 2016) (Refer to Figure 1).

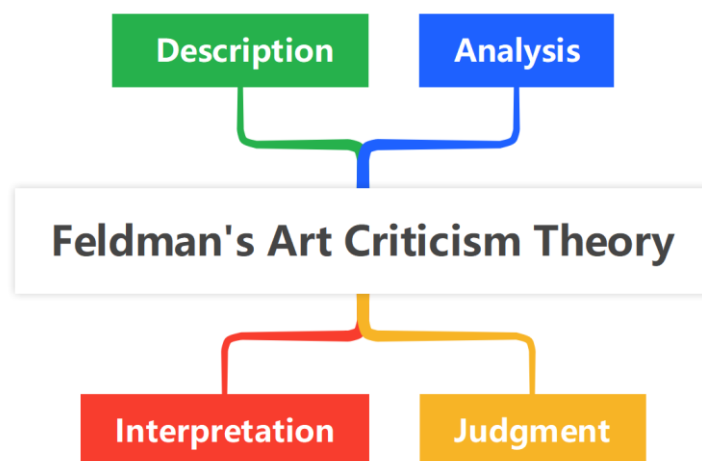


Figure 1: Feldman's Theoretical Framework of Art Criticism

Feldman's theory of art criticism has been admired for its wide applicability (Carney, 1994) and has become an important tool in art education to help students gain an in-depth understanding of works of art (Mason, 1982). The theory provides a systematic and objective analysis method for art critics (Subramaniam et al., 2016), and has shown its value in the exhibition practice of museums and galleries, helping audiences have a deeper understanding of art (Geahigan, 1975) . It is also particularly helpful in understanding abstract modern works of art (Carney, 1994), increasing the audience's awareness and interest in art. In addition, Feldman's theory also plays a key role in art historical research, allowing scholars to systematically compare and analyze art works from different periods and explore the evolution of artistic styles (Mason, 1982; Carney, 1994). During the interpretation and judgment stages, the social, cultural, and historical context of the work is discussed in depth, revealing its deeper meaning and impact (Mason, 1982).

From the above discussion, it can be seen that Feldman's art criticism theory provides a systematic analysis method for visual art and other art forms, enhances students and audiences' understanding and appreciation of art, and at the same time provides a basis for art education, curatorship and art Provides practical tools and frameworks for historical research.

### **The Artistic Trajectory of Edvard Munch**

Research has found that schizophrenia may stimulate the artistic vitality of non-artists and even enhance the creativity of established artists (Degmečić, 2018). Art making may help artists avoid potential insanity (Del Missier et al., 2022). This therapeutic effect was particularly pronounced in the case of Edvard Munch, the father of Expressionist painting (Ibrahim & Ahmed, 2019).

Edvard Munch was born in a smart family in Norway in 1863. His father was a learned military doctor and his mother had artistic accomplishments (Anon., 2023). However, Munch suffered many blows in his childhood. His mother died when he was five years old, and he was raised by his aunt. His father was depressed, and he first tasted the fear of death. When he was 13 years old, his close sister also died of illness, and his younger sister later developed schizophrenia (Mrak et al., 2022). These experiences shaped Munch's character and set the tone for his artistic creation.

In 1879, Munch gave up his dream of becoming an engineer due to health problems, switched to painting, and entered the Royal Academy of Art and Design in Oslo in 1881 (Del Missier et al., 2022). At the Academy he was tutored by the sculptor Julius Middleton and the naturalist painter Christian Kroeger. In 1885, Munch went to Paris and was influenced by art schools such as Impressionism. However, his works were more inclined to expressionism and focused on the inner world. From his "Sick Child", "Death of Mother" and "Beside the Bed" We can clearly see this in other works. Especially after the death of his father in 1889, Munch's loneliness and despair intensified, which inspired him to create his masterpiece "The Scream". The blood-red sky and running figures in the painting conveyed a strong emotional impact.

*Munch later recalled this painting and said: "I was walking with two friends. The sun was setting and the sky became as red as blood. I suddenly felt listless and stopped extremely tired. The black straits and roads showed The light of blood and fire. My friends moved on, but I stood there alone, trembling with uneasiness, feeling the strong cry of nature (Prata et al., 2018)."*

Munch's works, including The Scream, are derived from the emotional outpouring of his personal experiences, and his motivation in creating is to convey his own melancholy and uneasiness (Degmečić, 2018). Art became a way for him to release his

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emotional and spiritual energy, helping him achieve inner peace. Without artistic expression, Munch would have suffered a nervous breakdown like his sister.

From 1892 to 1908, Edvard Munch was active in Paris and Berlin, becoming famous for his etching, lithography, and woodcut techniques (Miranda C. et al., 2013). In Berlin, he used innovative techniques to reinterpret earlier works, many of which were based on memory (Prelinger et al., 2010). In 1908, Munch experienced a nervous breakdown and his increasing anxiety culminated in him undergoing shock therapy at the clinic of Dr. Daniel Jacobson (Perciaccante et al., 2017). Although the experience was painful, it also brought him a spiritual release. In 1909, Munch returned to Norway, continued his artistic creation, and developed a deeper interest in nature (Chiang et al., 2019). His works are rich in color, less pessimistic, and display a quiet and profound philosophy. This is called his "second period" (Rothenberg, 2001).

Munch died on January 23, 1944, one month after his 80th birthday (Silverstone, 2020). He donated his artistic legacy to Oslo, including paintings, prints, drawings, watercolors and sculptures. In his memory, the Munch Museum was established, which houses one of the world's largest collections of works. The Oslo National Art Gallery also has his paintings in its collection, and the "Dagligstuen" bar in the "Continental Hotel" displays his prints (Landgarten, 1990).

To summarize, Edvard Munch's artistic career was a deep exploration of life and emotion, and his expressionist style created far-reaching works. Munch not only enriched Expressionism, but also had an important influence on the development of modern art, leaving a rich artistic legacy.

### **Research Status and Development Trends for Edvard Munch's Landscape Paintings**

As a key figure in Expressionist art, Edvard Munch's landscape paintings have a prominent position in art history (Loshak, 1989). Although his judgement varies across cultures and periods, his work is generally considered to have lasting value and influence (Som-Serdyukova, 2020). Yan Meng (2022) analyzed how the colors and lines in "The Scream" convey Munch's inner world. Munch's work influenced subsequent art movements by capturing natural landscapes through bold colors and curvilinear compositions while reflecting profound thoughts on loneliness, death, and anxiety. Seredkina et al. (2019) believe that the "Ribbon of Life" series expresses

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profound thinking on the theme of life. Xu (2016) and Miranda et al. (2013) both emphasized the impact of Munch's psychological state on his creations. Gao and Li (2023) also pointed out that Munch's personal experience is reflected in his works. Singer et al. (2010) documented Munch's material choices in his paintings, which had a significant impact on his artistic style and visual effects.

Digital technology allows researchers to conduct in-depth analysis of the details and techniques of Munch's landscape paintings through tools such as high-resolution images and virtual reality (Salvador et al., 2022). Cutajar et al.'s (2022) cross-cultural study highlights Munch's important position in the global art world. The interdisciplinary approach allows researchers from different fields to explore the psychological and social aspects of Munch's work from new perspectives. Technological advances provide new ways to study and exhibit Munch's work, enhancing immersive experiences for the public. In the context of globalization and increasing environmental awareness, the study of Munch's works promotes intercultural exchanges, deepens understanding, and provides a new perspective for environmental art research.

Current research trends highlight the importance of Edvard Munch's landscapes in art history and gain new interpretations in contemporary research. Scholars have achieved results in visual analysis, emotional expression, historical context, and cross-cultural communication. Interdisciplinary collaboration, digital technology, global perspectives and ecological and environmental concerns have provided new impetus and perspectives for the study of Munch's works, deepening our understanding of his artistic value and significance.

Although Edvard Munch's paintings have been extensively studied in academia, and most studies have emphasized the uniqueness of color, line, and composition in his landscape paintings, there are still areas of research that have not been fully explored. Therefore, using the analytical framework of Feldman's art criticism theory to conduct a comprehensive and in-depth examination of Munch's forty-year landscape creation will help to reveal his use of color, emotional expression and artistic style. unique. Such research will not only fill the gaps in existing research, but will also further deepen our knowledge and understanding of Munch's landscape paintings.

## **METHOD**

Observation is a basic method in qualitative research that obtains detailed information about the research topic by directly observing the behavior and environment of the research subjects. Unlike statistical analysis in quantitative research, observational methods focus on in-depth understanding and description of the complexity and details of the research object. Observation methods can be divided into several types, including non-participant observation (Tunison, 2023).

This study adopts the non-participant observation method in qualitative research and conducts in-depth observation and analysis of Edvard Munch's landscape paintings based on Feldman's theory of art criticism. The theory contains four steps: description, analysis, interpretation and judgment. The study selected landscape paintings created by Munch between 1893 and 1933 as research samples. This period was the most prominent stage of Munch's expressionist style. Therefore, a representative landscape painting is selected for in-depth study every five years, and a total of 9 landscape paintings are selected. Data sources for the study include museum collections, art exhibitions, and art books and documents. This study will provide a detailed description of the visual elements in Munch's landscapes and an in-depth analysis of the interrelationships between these elements. Combined with Munch's life background and art historical context, the symbolic meaning and emotional expression in the paintings are explained, and then the importance of these works in terms of artistic value, unique style and historical impact is judged. The limitation of the study lies in the limited sample selection. In view of the richness and diversity of Munch's landscape paintings, this study can only select some representative works for analysis, and some key works may be ignored. Despite this limitation, this study strives to provide a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Munch's landscape paintings through the systematic application of Feldman's theory and the combination of multiple data sources.

## **DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

### **Discussion**

Feldman's Art Criticism Theory provides a framework for systematically understanding and evaluating works of art through four steps: description, analysis, interpretation and judgment (Geahigan, 1975). The description phase aims to record the basic information and visual elements in Munch's landscapes objectively and in detail. This step ensures



Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development -UK that the initial observation of the work is comprehensive and accurate, describing in detail the colors, lines, shapes, composition, etc. of the painting. The analysis phase explores in depth the interrelationships and artistic techniques of these visual elements, understanding how they work together to build the overall visual effect, and analyzing how Munch uses color to convey emotion. Observe the foreground, middle ground and background of the picture, and analyze how Munch uses spatial hierarchy to enhance visual impact. The interpretation stage combines the art historical background, Munch's personal experience and social and cultural environment to reveal the symbolic meaning and emotional connotation of the work. The judgement stage combines the aforementioned steps to judgement the artistic value and historical significance of Munch's landscape paintings. The work is judgementd for its achievements in artistic form, technical innovation and emotional expression.

**Sample 1:**



Figure 2: “Starry Night”, (108.5 x 120.5cm), Oil on Canvas, 1893

**Description**

The painting creates a sense of nighttime mystery in rich blue-violet tones, interspersed with sparse stars that glow faintly. The lines of the painting are soft and the contrast between the sky in the distance and the undulating beauty of the road in the foreground is sharp. The composition is symmetrically balanced, with the middle road and distant horizon guiding the eye deeper into the frame.

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**Analysis**

The painting mainly uses blue and purple to create a peaceful atmosphere at night. The dark red color of the stars and mountains adds to the layering and mystery of the picture. Smooth lines bring harmonious beauty, the central road enhances the sense of depth, and the contrast between the mountain and the sky enhances the visual impact. The road in the foreground and the background form a clear spatial hierarchy, and the stars and horizon expand the width and depth of the picture.

**Interpretation**

At the end of the 19th century, European society and thought were undergoing dramatic changes. The development of science and industry brought both hope and uneasiness. This complex emotional entanglement is often reflected in Munch's works. In this painting, Munch showed his deep awe of nature and the universe, as well as his profound reflection on the meaning of human existence.

**Judgment**

This work shows Munch's high skill in color and line. The combination of blue and purple creates the peace and mystery of the night. Through his depictions of mountains and skies, Munch conveyed a profound sense of space and emotional tension that underlined his Expressionist style. The work has received widespread attention since it was exhibited. Its deep colors and quiet atmosphere have attracted many viewers. At the same time, the work also reflects the artist's profound thinking about nature and human existence in the late 19th century, and has become an important chapter in the history of modern art.

**Sample 2:**

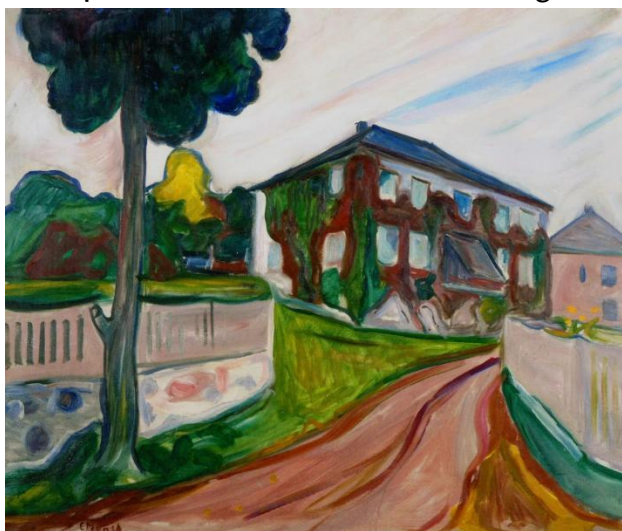


Figure 3: “House with Red Virginia Creeper”, (92.5 x 110 cm ), Oil on Canvas, 1898-99

### **Description**

The painting uses bright green, red, yellow and blue as the main colors, and the red roof contrasts with the surrounding green. The lines are smooth, and the curves of tree trunks and paths express natural rhythms. Colors and lines are cleverly combined to create a harmonious visual effect. The composition is symmetrical and balanced, with tree trunks on both sides contrasting with the houses, and a path in the middle guiding the eye deeper into the picture.

### **Analysis**

The bright red ground contrasts with the green vegetation in the painting, while the yellow tree crowns and blue sky add layers of color. Smooth curves give the picture a vivid and dynamic feel. The central path and symmetrical elements on both sides create a sense of depth and space. The clear distinction between the foreground and the background further enhances the three-dimensionality of the picture and guides the eye deeper into the picture.

### **Interpretation**

The red ground brocade represents vitality and vitality in the painting, contrasting with the green nature, reflecting the artist's love for nature and life. The extended path and stable house symbolize the unity of exploration and stability. Through this work of art,

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Munch conveyed his deep affection for nature, family and deep thoughts on life.

### **Judgment**

The painting demonstrates Munch's mastery of color and line, as well as his personality as an expressionist painter. Bright colors and smooth lines bring vitality and dynamic beauty to the picture. Munch skillfully blended nature and architecture to express his love for natural beauty and his profound thoughts on human existence. The work had a profound impact on later artists, inspiring their color processing and emotional expression.

### **Sample 3:**

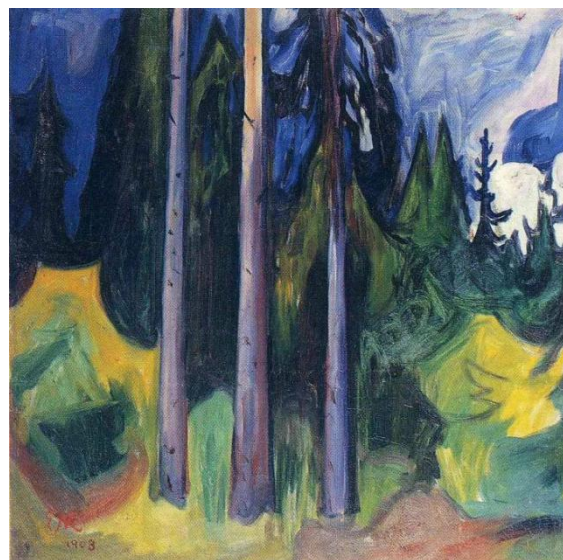


Figure 4: "Forest", (82.5x81.5cm), Oil on Canvas, 1903

### **Description**

This oil painting with a size of 82.5x81.5 cm depicts towering trees in the forest with sharp trunk lines. The background is lush green vegetation and deep blue sky, creating a tranquil and mysterious atmosphere. The main colors of the painting are green, blue and yellow, and the upright lines of the tree trunks convey a sense of stability and strength.

### **Analysis**

Munch intensified his visual impact through sharp color contrasts. The combination of

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dark blue and green not only highlights the profoundness and calmness of nature, but the yellow embellishment adds vitality. The tree trunks in the painting form the main vertical lines, while the plants in the background bring movement and depth through curves and irregular shapes. The thick straight lines of the tree trunks contrast sharply with the soft curves of the background, which enhances the visual tension of the picture.

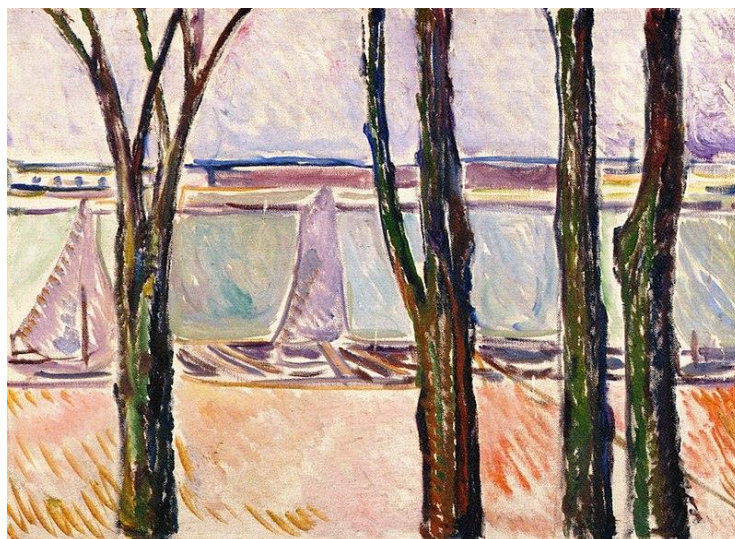
### **Interpretation**

"Forest" shows Munch's awe and deep thought about nature by depicting magnificent natural landscapes. The splendor of the trees represents the tenacity of life, and the use of dark blue and green conveys the mystery and peace of nature. Together, these elements embody Munch's profound insight into the meaning of life, nature and human existence. The painting may reflect the artist's inner loneliness and attachment to nature, exploring the close connection between man and nature.

### **Judgment**

This painting demonstrates Munch's excellent painting skills and profound artistic connotation. He uses unique colors and bold compositions to transform natural landscapes into works of art full of emotion and symbolism. " Forest" has a profound influence in expressionist art, providing the audience with a strong visual and emotional experience, profoundly reflecting Munch's thinking on nature and life, and its artistic and historical value is significant.

### **Sample 4:**



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Figure 5: "Canal in Warnemünde", (72 x 100cm), Oil on Canvas, 1908

### **Description**

This painting depicts tall trees, a beach foreground, and boats and canals in the background. The colors are mainly brown, green, and blue. The integration of the straight lines of the tree trunks with the foreground and background creates a peaceful atmosphere.

### **Analysis**

Munch enhanced the visual impact through sharp color contrasts. Dark brown and green highlighted the natural tranquility, and the blue water and sky complemented each other, adding depth to the picture. Tree trunks form the main vertical lines, while the ships and canals in the background bring movement and layering with curves and irregular shapes. The contrast between the thick straight lines of the tree trunk and the soft curves of the background enhances the visual tension of the picture.

### **Interpretation**

"Canal in Warnemünde" shows Munch's awe of nature, using tall trees to symbolize the tenacity of life, and blue water and sky to reflect the tranquility and vastness of nature. The paintings convey Munch's profound insights into life, nature and human existence. They may reflect his inner loneliness and dependence on nature, or explore the relationship between man and nature.

### **Judgment**

"Canal in Warnemünde" demonstrates Munch's mastery of color and composition. His skillful use of color contrast and line transforms natural landscapes into art filled with emotional symbolism. Munch was struggling with schizophrenia when he created this painting. This mental state undoubtedly had a profound impact on his creation. The free and expressive brushstrokes in the paintings demonstrate his masterful control of line and color, while also reflecting his inner struggle and chaos. This painting highlights Munch's keen perception of nature and emotion, and its artistic and historical value is highly valued.

### **Sample 5:**



Figure 6: "Street in Kragero", (80 x 100 cm), Oil on Canvas, 1913

### **Description**

The painting shows a small town street scene with several women and children strolling along the street. There are several houses scattered at the back of the picture, while the characters in the foreground are presented in various poses and bright costumes. The whole work is filled with a strong interest in life, and the lines of the houses and streets jointly outline the classic style of the town.

### **Analysis**

Munch used bright colors and vivid lines to enhance visual impact, and the contrast of green, red and yellow highlighted the figures and background. Trees and buildings are represented with bold lines, while characters are detailed with smooth lines and colors, showing free and unrestrained brushstrokes and a strong sense of movement. Simple figurative depictions of houses and streets, coupled with rich layers of color, reflect Munch's unique artistic style.

### **Interpretation**

"Street in Kragero" shows the daily life of a small town and reflects Munch's insight into social life. The busy and happy figures in the painting show the peace and harmony of the town, and their energy and colorful costumes express the vitality of life. Through these elements, Munch expresses a profound understanding of human emotions and social connections, perhaps exploring interpersonal connections, the warmth of community, or reflecting nostalgia for home.

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### **Judgment**

"Street in Kragero" demonstrates Munch's outstanding skills in the use of color and composition. Through rich and vivid color contrasts and smooth lines, he transforms scenes of small town life into works of art full of emotion and symbolic meaning. This painting not only demonstrates Munch's meticulous observation of everyday life, but also embodies his unique style in expressionist art. While creating this painting, Munch's mental state improved significantly, and his inner pessimism can be seen to have lessened.

### **Sample 6:**



Figure 7: "Coastal Landscape", (120.9 x 160cm), Oil on Canvas, 1918

### **Description**

What unfolds in front of this painting is a coastal scenery, with undulating ground covered by a soft layer of snow, and a tranquil sea in the distance dotted with several small islands. The entire scene is dominated by gentle green, brown and blue tones, creating a peaceful and spacious scene.

### **Analysis**

Munch enhances visual impact through subtle changes in color and dynamic lines. The soft greens, browns, and blues in the painting emphasize the peace of nature, and the contrast between the curves of the terrain and the horizontal lines of the coastline adds



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movement and depth. The rough and free brushstrokes demonstrate his unique insights and expression skills of natural landscapes.

### **Interpretation**

"Coastal Landscape" shows Munch's reverence for nature, symbolizing the power and eternal beauty of nature through terrain and coastline. The soft tones and smooth lines in the painting convey the artist's tranquility and love of nature, reflecting his profound insights into life, nature and human existence. The paintings may express the desire for a quiet life, dependence on nature, and thoughts on the philosophy of life.

### **Judgment**

Using delicate color contrasts and smooth lines, Munch transforms coastal landscapes into art rich in emotion and symbolism. Coastal Landscape showcases Munch's meticulous observation of nature and the uniqueness of his expressionistic style. The painting not only reflects Munch's emotional and psychological state, but is also an important work of Expressionist art. By depicting the details in the natural landscape, the paintings enable the audience to feel the artist's love for nature and deep understanding of life. The expressionistic painting techniques in the work, such as exaggerated lines, strong color contrasts and free brushstrokes, demonstrate Munch's important position in this art genre.

### **Sample 7:**



Figure 8: "Elm Forest in Spring", (109 x 130 cm), Oil on Canvas, 1923

### **Description**

The picture shows a spring elm forest. The ground is covered with the new green and fallen leaves of early spring. The tree trunks stand upright and the trees are lush in the background. The colors are bright, mainly brown, green and blue, creating a lively atmosphere.

### **Analysis**

Munch enhances the visual impact through bright colors and vivid lines, with greens, browns and blues highlighting the vitality of spring. The rough lines of the tree trunks contrast with the ground, enhancing dynamics and layering. Free and expressive brushstrokes bring a sense of movement, showcasing Munch's unique perspective on natural landscapes. The painting as a whole shows a flowing beauty, as if it is swaying in the breeze.

### **Interpretation**

"Elm Forest in Spring" shows Munch's deep love for nature and praise of the vitality of life through the elm forest in spring. The bright colors and smooth lines in the painting express joy and desire for spring and rebirth, embodying Munch's profound understanding and praise of nature and life, and may symbolize his emotion for the

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recovery and life force of nature.

### **Judgment**

"Elm Forest in Spring" showcases Munch's mastery of color and composition. He used bright colors and vivid lines to artistically exaggerate and deform the trees, and enhanced the visual impact through contrasting colors. Munch's paintings are transformed into emotional and symbolic artistic expressions through dynamic brushstrokes, demonstrating his precise control of color and line, as well as his positive attitude towards life. Through this work, it can be observed that Munch's color changes are richer, his mental condition has been completely restored, and his inner peace and love for nature have been revealed.

### **Sample 8:**

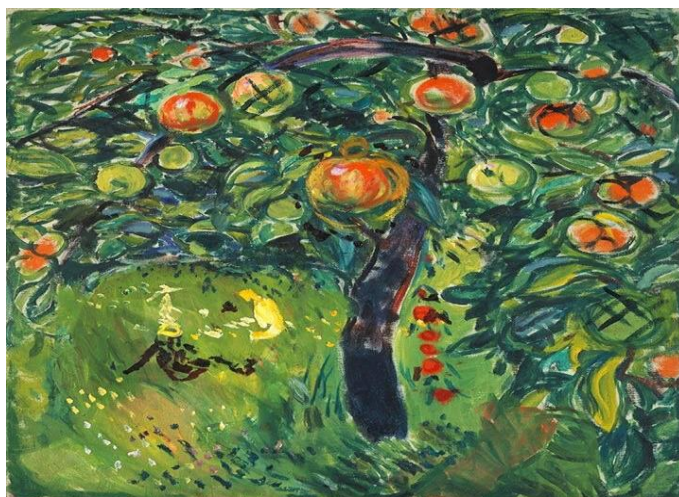


Figure 9: "Apple Tree", (78 x 76 cm), Oil on Canvas, 1920-28

### **Description**

The painting depicts a harvest apple tree laden with red and green apples, with two children playing on the grass beneath the tree. The main colors of the picture are green and red, and the colors are bright, showing vitality and vitality.

### **Analysis**

Munch enhances the visual impact through distinctive red and green combinations and vivid lines, highlighting the vitality of the apple tree. The contrast between the rough outlines of tree trunks and leaves and the apples enhances the dynamics and depth of the image. The free and unrestrained brushstrokes demonstrate Munch's deep

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understanding of natural landscapes and painting skills, and the overall painting exudes a light rhythm.

### **Interpretation**

"Apple Tree" conveys Munch's deep affection for nature and praise for the miracle of life through vivid depictions of apple trees. The bright colors and lines in the painting show his love for the beauty of nature and his longing for new life. Munch uses visual elements to profoundly express his understanding of nature and the essence of life. The paintings celebrate the resurgence of spring and the vitality of life, reflecting his admiration for the tenacity and vitality of life.

### **Judgment**

Apple Tree transforms the vitality of the apple tree into emotionally rich and symbolic art through vibrant colors and dynamic lines. This painting not only reflects Munch's emotional and psychological state, but is also a representative of Expressionist art. It emphasizes subjective feelings and the abstract nature of color, highlights the artist's emotional expression, and uses free and unrestrained brushwork and bright and bold colors to create simple and symbolic characters.

### **Sample 9:**



Figure 10: "Apple Tree in the Garden", (100.5 x 77.5cm), Oil on Canvas, 1932-42

### **Description**

The painting centers on an apple tree laden with green apples, with a yellow house and colorful garden in the background. The leaves and fruits of the tree are presented in different greens, creating a vivid and balanced composition that quickly attracts the viewer's attention.

### **Analysis**

The painting uses bright, saturated colors such as blue tree trunks and green leaves to create strong visual contrast and a vibrant effect. The yellow house and blue sky in the background add depth to the picture. The artist uses dynamic colors and expressive brushstrokes to bring the painting to life. Stylistically, the combination of bold color contrasts and expressive brushstrokes reflects expressionist characteristics, emphasizing emotion and subjective experience. Unnatural colors and expressive brushstrokes enhance the emotional expression, with quick sweeping strokes depicting the lushness of the apple tree.

### **Interpretation**

Vibrant colors and vivid brushwork reveal a lively and vivid depiction of the landscape. The artist expresses the emotional experience of the scene through exaggerated colors, using bright tones to convey joy and vitality. The blue color of the trunk, an unconventional choice of tree color, may symbolize a deeper emotional or psychological level, giving the artwork a richer connotation.

### **Judgment**

The brushwork and texture of this painting enhance the expressiveness and impact of the work. The use of color is expressive, conveying the emotion and energy of the scene. The work celebrates the beauty of nature, celebrates the vitality of life, explores deep emotional and psychological states, and longs for free expression. These elements work together to make Apple Tree in the Garden a work of art that evokes emotional resonance and leaves a lasting impression.

By analyzing Munch's 9 landscape works, we found that he showed his clever use of bright colors and strong contrast in "Starry Night" in 1893 and "House with Red Virginia Creeper" in 1898, which enhanced the visual impact. His compositions utilize block surfaces and curved lines to create rich and interesting images. In "Forest" in

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1903, Munch created a mysterious and tranquil atmosphere through rough lines and heavy color blocks, as well as the contrast between vertical lines and background curves, adding a sense of layering and visual tension. In "Canal in Warnemünde" of 1908, Munch used bright colors and an enhanced sense of brushwork, as well as short lines to create a sense of movement and highlight the texture of the picture. In "Apple Tree in the Garden" 1932-42, as his mental state improved, he used rich greens, blues and yellows to show the vitality of the apple tree. The bold use of color is intended to convey emotion and emotion. Also in 1923's "Elm Forest in Spring", the interplay of multiple colors demonstrates the beauty and vitality of nature. "Coastal Landscape" embodies Munch's admiration and contemplation of nature with its peaceful tones and smooth lines, reflecting his love for natural landscape themes after his mental state improved in 1918. "Apple Tree" from 1920 to 1928 reflected his positive attitude towards life and love for nature through bright colors and free brushstrokes. Even in "Street in Kragero" from 1913, which depicts everyday life, Munch demonstrated careful observation of life and sensitive insight into human emotions through delicate colors and dynamic lines.

## **Results**

By analyzing Edvard Munch's landscape paintings from 1893 to 1933, two stages of development can be seen: In the first stage (1890-1908), Munch's style matured and transformed. His works showed the characteristics of expressionism, focusing on conveying inner emotions, and favoring bright colors. Contrasting colors, delicate brushstrokes, focusing on the use of color blocks and large-area color application. Emotionally pessimistic and melancholy due to his own experiences. In the second stage (after 1909), after experiencing schizophrenia and hospitalization, Munch's later works showed a deep love for nature, with calmer emotional expression and less pessimism and anxiety. The use of colors is richer, the purity is improved, and the brushstrokes are strong and obvious. The lines are dense, exaggerated and distorted, enhancing the expressiveness and texture of the picture. Especially after "Elm Forest in Spring" in 1923, the painting style changed significantly. Munch's style was unique, with personal identity and Expressionist characteristics, emphasizing emotional expression and visual impact. He showed his inner world and natural power through exaggerated lines and bold colors, which had a profound impact on Expressionist art.

The results allow us to construct a framework of the characteristics of Edvard Munch's landscape paintings, as detailed in Figure 11.

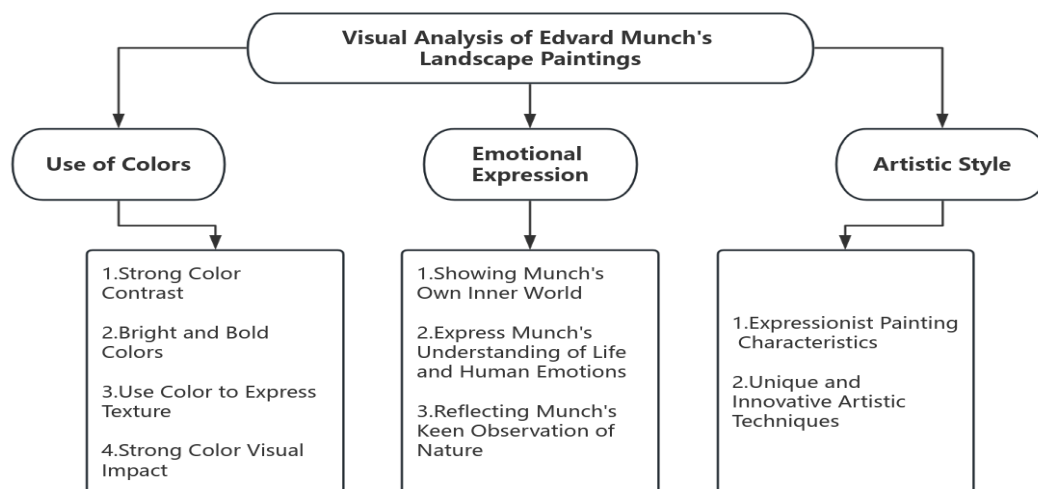


Figure 11: Characteristic Framework of Edvard Munch's Landscape Paintings

## CONCLUSION

As a pioneer of modern expressionist painting, Edvard Munch's works focus on expressing inner emotions rather than simply reproducing objects, often conveying deep fears and emotions through distortion and abstraction (Volkov, 2023).

*Munch once said: "What I want to describe are the lines and colors of the eyes that touch my soul. I don't paint what I see, but what I experience. The moment I was born, I was anxious, sorrow, and death are the angels that surround me" (Stang, 1977).*

Munch used art as a channel for emotional expression, releasing powerful spiritual forces through painting. His works often show deep sadness and depression, reflecting his rough life and persistent pursuit of art. Munch's artistic career not only vented personal emotions, but also delved into human emotions and psychology (Watson, 2024).

In a qualitative study of Edvard Munch's landscape paintings using Feldman's theory of art criticism, the researcher conducted in-depth data collection and analysis on Munch's paintings from 1893 to 1933 through observation methods. The research conclusion is that Edvard Munch's landscape paintings can be divided into two stages of development: the early stage (1890-1908) and the late stage (after 1909).

### **The Use of Color**

Munch showed extraordinary skill and personality in the use of color. In his early stage "Starry Night" (1893) and "House with Red Virginia Creeper" (1898), he enhanced the visual impact through bright contrasting colors. Color tends to be expressed in blocks; in the later stages of "Apple Tree in the Garden" (1932-42) and "Elm Forest in Spring" (1923), Munch used color more boldly and improved the purity of color. , which strengthens the expressive power of brushstrokes and makes the texture of brushstrokes stronger. Contrast colors and complementary colors are frequently used to express the texture of the picture.

### **Emotional Expression**

Munch's paintings often reveal profound sadness and depression, reflecting his complex life experiences and using painting as a release of spiritual power. This sentiment is particularly evident in the early stages, in works such as "Forest" from 1903 and "Canal in Warnemünde" from 1908. However, in his later stages, especially in "Apple Tree" from 1920 to 1928, Munch conveyed a more optimistic emotional and psychological state through the clever use of color, line and composition, demonstrating his positive attitude towards life. , love for nature, and deep insight into the natural landscape, showing his keen observation and expressive power. The depiction of life scenes in "Street in Kragero" from 1913 further confirms his love of life and positive changes in his emotions.

### **Artistic Style**

Munch was known for his unique Expressionist characteristics, and his innovative techniques had a profound impact on the development of Expressionist art, as shown in his work Coastal Landscape (1918). Munch's artistic style evolved throughout his career, with landscapes from his early to his later years reflecting changes in his personal life and mental health, as well as a shift in his work towards a more optimistic and positive direction.

Applying Feldman's theory to analyze Munch's landscape paintings deepens our understanding of his artistic style and emotional expression, and provides a new perspective on expressionist art (Carney, 1994). Theoretically, the research emphasizes the importance of color and emotion in Expressionism and constructs a new theoretical framework to analyze the use of these elements in Munch's works. In practice, analysis



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of Munch's work can inspire contemporary artists and help them convey profound emotions. This helps curators and educators display expressionist art more effectively and enhances the public's art appreciation (Mathiesen, 2021). Future research can be extended to other Expressionist artists, cross-cultural and cross-era comparisons can be made, and color psychology can be combined to deeply explore the emotional and psychological impact of color in art.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author asserts that there are no conflicts of interest concerning the publication of this article.

### FUNDING

This study did not receive a dedicated grant from any funding organization in the public, commercial, or nonprofit sectors.

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