NEW EXHIBITION AT MAG EXPLORES GERMAN EXPRESSIONIST ART

ROCHESTER, NY — German Expressionism: Art in an Age of Turbulence opens August 3 at the Memorial Art Gallery and remains on view through October 28. The exhibition includes 24 works on paper and one painting by artists as varied as the social, political and philosophical changes that shaped the early years of the 20th century. Ranging from the vivid watercolors of Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Emil Nolde to the dark and brooding woodcuts of Ernst Barlach and satirical prints of George Grosz, German Expressionism explores these artists’ desire to express their personal identities and spiritual beliefs, as well as to create a fervent dialogue with the public. Indeed, most of these artists were prolific writers who attempted to explain their artistic philosophies; their words accompany many of the works on exhibit.

International developments in the late 1800s set the stage for the Expressionist movement, and artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, the Norwegian Edvard Munch and the Belgian James Ensor were particularly influential, as their work inspired an art that expressed both emotional and spiritual dimensions. Art in an Age of Turbulence includes works by Munch and Ensor, as well as a work from an earlier era—a 15th-century German “Dance of Death.” This hand-colored woodcut illustrates how many of the Expressionists looked back to northern medieval art in style, subject matter, imagery and even medium. Although most Expressionist artists were prolific in all of the graphic arts, the woodcut, with its straightforward simplicity and dramatic contrasts, was well suited to the strong emotional tensions so inherent to the movement.

All the works are from MAG’s permanent collection.

HOURS AND ADMISSION
Wednesday–Sunday 11 am to 5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm; closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission is $7; college students with ID and senior citizens, $5; children 6-18, $3; always free to MAG members, UR students and children 5 and under. Reduced general admission from 5 to 9 pm Thursdays is $3.

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http://mag.rochester.edu

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