

Press Release

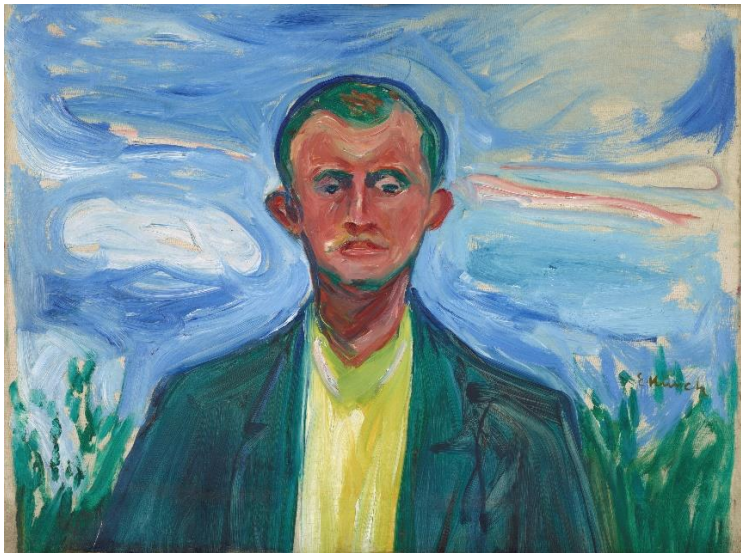
Glashütte, February 2026

Paula Modersohn-Becker and Edvard Munch. The Big Questions of Life

As part of its partnership with the Dresden State Art Collections (SKD), which began in 2006, A. Lange & Söhne is supporting the exhibition “Paula Modersohn-Becker and Edvard Munch. The Big Questions of Life”. In collaboration with the Munchmuseet Oslo and to celebrate the 150th birthday of Dresden-born Paula Modersohn-Becker, this is the first major joint presentation of the works of both artists, whose relevance remains undiminished to this day.



Paula Modersohn-Becker, Self-Portrait
with Hand on Chin, 1906/07 ©
Landesmuseum Hannover/ARTOTHEK



Edvard Munch, Self-Portrait Against a Blue Sky, 1908
© Munchmuseet, Oslo

From 8 February to 31 May 2026, the special exhibition “Paula Modersohn-Becker and Edvard Munch. The Big Questions of Life” will showcase an unprecedented large-scale comparison of the works of both artists, who are considered pioneers of Expressionist Modernism and whose art remains highly relevant to this day.

Paula Modersohn-Becker was born on 8 February 1876 in Dresden, one year after Ferdinand Adolph Lange, the founder of Saxon precision watchmaking, passed away. Within a short period of time – she was only 31 when she died – she made rapid artistic progress and developed a completely unique visual language. The same can be said of Edvard Munch, who was born in Norway in 1863 and is also considered one of the most important artists of the 20th

century. Over the course of six decades, he created a vast body of work that includes numerous seminal modernist pieces.

Two expressionists in dialogue

The exhibition illustrates how Modersohn-Becker and Munch found innovative artistic answers to the existential questions of their era – ranging from birth to death – in their expressive paintings. From the 1890s until Modersohn-Becker's premature death in 1907 and Edvard Munch's return to Norway from Germany in 1908, these answers were presented in numerous works.



Paula Modersohn-Becker, Still Life with Clay Jug, Lemons and Oranges, 1906
© Albertinum | GNM, Dresden State Art Collections, Photo: Hans-Peter Klut

Around 1900, the term “life” experienced a period of great popular interest, emerging as a counterpoint to convention, stagnation and meaninglessness. The word evoked a sense of dynamic immediacy, renewal and youth. Modersohn-Becker and Munch became seismographs of their generation. Their paintings bring together two worlds, different temperaments and perspectives, which nevertheless have much in common.

“Questions about the meaning and cycle of life are timeless. The universal imagery that Modersohn-Becker and Munch found for this purpose is still relevant today. Our partner A. Lange & Söhne also stands for a timeless language of form and design. We are extremely grateful for the support of this special project and the long-standing commitment to Saxony's cultural heritage,” said SKD Director General Dr. Bernd Ebert.

“This exhibition showcases the unique artistic journeys of two individuals who consistently pushed the boundaries,” says Wilhelm Schmid, CEO of A. Lange & Söhne. “This aspiration also underpins our own identity as a manufacture. Through their exhibitions, the SKD demonstrate how art can connect people across time and space.”

About A. Lange & Söhne

Dresden watchmaker Ferdinand Adolph Lange laid the foundations for Saxony's precision watchmaking industry when he established his manufacture in 1845. His precious pocket watches remain highly coveted among collectors all over the world. The company was expropriated after the Second World War, and the name A. Lange & Söhne nearly vanished. But in 1990, Walter Lange, Ferdinand Adolph Lange's great-grandson, had the courage to revitalise the brand. Today, Lange crafts only a few thousand wristwatches per year, mainly in gold or platinum. They are equipped exclusively with movements made in-house that are elaborately finished and assembled by hand. With 75 calibres manufactured in-house since 1990, A. Lange & Söhne holds a leading position in the watchmaking world. Some of the major successes include the LANGE 1 with the first outsize date in a regularly produced wristwatch and the ZEITWERK with its precisely jumping numerals. Extraordinary complications such as the ZEITWERK MINUTE REPEATER, the DATOGRAPH PERPETUAL TOURBILLON or the TRIPLE SPLIT represent the manufacture's quest to take its traditional art to increasingly new heights. Launched in 2019, the sporty and elegant ODYSSEUS in stainless steel marks the beginning of a new chapter for the manufacture.

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