

ACKLANDARTMUSEUM

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

For immediate release

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Ackland Art Museum Explores Optimism and Bitterness in Period of German Upheaval



CHAPEL HILL, NC – Artists living in Germany and its neighboring countries during the century 1840–1940 experienced massive social upheaval and political unrest, an environment that dramatically informed their art. Throughout this extended period of tumult, German artists consistently produced alternating and opposing images of idealized fantasy worlds and intense, often bitter observations of reality. The continuity that exists between strains of nineteenth and early twentieth-century art is evident in **Romantic Dreams | Rude Awakenings: Northern European Prints and Drawings, 1840–1940** at the Ackland Art Museum.



The exhibition begins with late Romanticism and Symbolism, both movements expressive of human consciousness and the inner state of the mind. Sketches of life by various Realists are followed by Expressionist works with alternating visions of dreamlike worlds and intensely emotional observations of reality. The show ends with the penetrating social and visual acuity of the New Objectivity movement in the 1920s, and the utopian artists of the Bauhaus school of art and design.

Drawn largely from the Ackland Art Museum's own collection, **Romantic Dreams | Rude Awakenings** presents more than 75 impressive prints and drawings by such masters as Adolf Menzel, Max Liebermann, Max Klinger, Käthe Kollwitz, Lovis Corinth, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Emil Nolde, Otto Dix, George Grosz, Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Max Beckmann, and others, revealing the surprising depth of the Ackland's holdings in this area. The show is rounded out by a number of works by Northern European artists closely associated with the traditions of German-speaking Europe, such as Edvard Munch, Jan Toorop, and others, as well as by small selection of loans from the North Carolina Museum of Art.

The exhibition was organized by Timothy Riggs, Curator of Collections, Ackland Art Museum. It will be on view April 8 through July 10, 2011. A full schedule of related programs is available online at ackland.org.

This exhibition was made possible by the BIN Charitable Foundation and the William Hayes Ackland Trust. It focuses on the Museum's permanent collection, supplemented by generous loans from the North Carolina Museum of Art; the Rare Book Collection, Wilson Special Collections Library at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and several private collections.

Exhibition media sponsor: WUNC North Carolina Public Radio

Top: Emil Nolde, German, 1867–1956. *Head of a Woman III*, 1912, woodcut. Ackland Fund. © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll, Germany.
Bottom: Adolf Menzel, German, 1815–1905. *A Cellist at Hofgastein*, 1874, graphite. Ackland Fund.

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The Ackland Art Museum

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland's holdings consist of more than 16,000 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, African art, North Carolina pottery, and folk art. In addition, the Ackland has North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs). As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies.

Hours and Admission

The Ackland is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM; Thursday 10 AM – 8 PM; and Sunday 1 PM – 5 PM. Admission to the Museum is always free, with donations accepted.

Location and Parking

The Ackland Art Museum is located on South Columbia Street, near the corner of East Franklin Street, in downtown Chapel Hill. Parking is available at several nearby municipal and private parking decks, and at meters on Franklin Street. Most Chapel Hill Transit buses (free) provide service to downtown Chapel Hill. More information is available at 919.966.5736 or www.ackland.org.

For more information or interview opportunities with the curator, please contact:

Emily Bowles

Director of Communications

esbowles@email.unc.edu www.ackland.org

PH 919.843.3675 FAX 919.966.1400