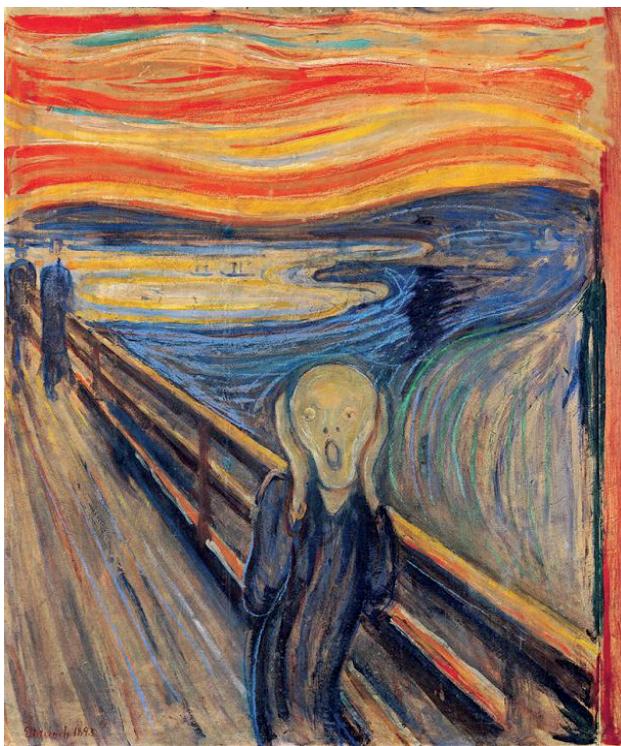


## DETRITUS & ART / A personal point of view on Environment and Art

by Rainer Stegmann

Artists seldom provide an interpretation of their own work; they leave this to the observer. Indeed, each of us will have our own individual view of a specific piece of art, seeing different contents and experiencing a range of feelings and emotions. Bearing this in mind, I created this page where you will find regularly a selected work of art from different epochs and I express my thoughts on what the work conveys to me personally. The interpretation should be related specifically to the environment and what kind of message I deduct from it: it may be to preserve the beauty and integrity of nature, to prevent destruction, issue warnings, etc. Any comments or suggestions regarding this column should be addressed to stegmann@tuhh.de



**EDVARD MUNCH / THE SCREAM** - 1983, National Gallery and Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway

There are different versions with this theme: four paintings and one black and white lithography. I selected this amazing colourful version because for me it is especially expressive. There is a person screaming, pressing the hands over the ears. A bold head with open mouth and torn eyes intensifies the scream. Obviously we cannot hear the scream but in my view he made the scream visible by using this winding lines as if the screams sets the environment - the outer world - in motion. The red sky strengthens this impression by its swinging lines and intensive colours. It looks to me as if the land is forced back by the streaming water. The expression of the face shows fear, which is the reason for this intensive scream-

ing. The winding lines of the person and the landscape flow into each other making the person part of nature; both are in turmoil.

An obvious relation to our situation on earth today is fear about the future of our planet, the imbalance of the natural environment, the lack of sustainable living and acting. The person shouts this fear out into the world.

The bridge is straight, no movement; the two persons in the background on the bridge are walking up right and do not seem to be influenced by the scream, the environment in uproar. We may interpret this that these people do not or do not want to hear the scream, they may not see the problematic or better alarming situation of the environment. For me this wonderful painting depicts our situation on earth today as there are many people that see the global change and others are ignoring it. But maybe we can also believe in another interpretation, where we see the two persons going straight forward in order to act, as a kind of reaction to the scream. Let us be optimistic and believe in the latter interpretation and see the two persons as symbols of hope.

Edvard Munch was a famous Norwegian Painter and Graphic Artist. He was born in Loten, Norway on 12.12.1863 and died in the age of 80 in Oslo, Norway. He was a forerunner of Expressionism and is rated today as one of the main expressionists worldwide. He was beyond others influenced by Vincent van Gogh, Paul Gauguin and Henri Toulouse Lautrec. He produced more than 1700 paintings and many graphics. "The Scream" is one of his most famous paintings.



**CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH  
WANDERER ABOVE THE SEA OF FOG**

In the next issue I will present a famous painting by Caspar David Friedrich (*Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer*, painted around 1817).