

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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**FREE GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE ART INSTITUTE
FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

*** FREE DAYS KICK OFF WITH GLOBAL PERFORMANCE SERIES ***

*** HALF PRICE TICKETS FOR MAJOR EDVARD MUNCH EXHIBITION
DURING FEBRUARY ***

The Art Institute of Chicago is welcoming all visitors to enjoy **free general admission** all day, every day, for the entire month of February. Special events during this month include a full schedule of performances, family events, poetry readings, and gallery talks. **Visitors can also enjoy half price tickets to the major winter exhibition, *Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, and Myth*, which opens to the public on February 14. Free February and related programming is made possible by MetLife Foundation.**

The Art Institute kicks off Free February with the **Consuls General Concert Series**, beginning on Monday, February 2, 2009. These one-of-a-kind noontime performances in Fullerton Hall feature an extraordinary range of musical genres and traditional dance from around the world. Do not miss the chance to experience the cultures of such countries as Austria, Spain, Korea, Italy, and Croatia—and the best musicians and performers they have to offer. The Consuls General Concert Series is part of the museum's themed season, ***360 Degrees: Art beyond Borders***—a yearlong celebration of cultural, social, and political life around the world—organized with The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), Poetry Foundation, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Other highlights, all free of charge during Free February at the Art Institute include **“Found in Translation,”** a bilingual series featuring world-class poets whose work transcends linguistic and political borders; **“Poets in the World: Robert Pinsky”** on February 5, where

the three-term U.S. Poet Laureate will read from his most recent work; and the lecture “**Sibling Rivalries and Global Monotheisms: Judaism, Christianity, Islam**” on February 19, in which University of Chicago professor David Nirenberg discusses the historical interactions and tensions among the three major monotheistic religions. In addition, celebrate Black History Month with “**Affrilachian Poets**” on February 12, featuring African American poets from the Appalachian Mountains reading their works, and the **John Work Chorale** on February 15, showcasing gospel singers in the tradition of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, and Myth—the major exhibition opening **February 14, 2009**—offers a remarkably comprehensive and contextual exploration of the Norwegian artist behind the iconic composition *The Scream*. The exhibition, presented solely at the Art Institute, will showcase extraordinary loans from Norway, private collections, and leading museums in America and abroad. It brings together approximately 150 rarely seen works, including 75 paintings and 75 works on paper by Munch and his contemporaries. By considering Munch’s oeuvre in relation to his fellow artists—including **James Ensor, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Max Klinger, and Claude Monet**—*Becoming Edvard Munch* challenges the myth that Munch was an artist crippled by his own neuroses and instead presents him as a canny self-promoter, deeply aware of the artistic trends around him. Many of Munch’s iconic works will be on display, including *Anxiety*, *Kiss by the Window*, and *Ashes*. Although the painting *The Scream* will **not** be on view, as the two versions do not leave Oslo, Norway, **the Art Institute’s own lithograph of *The Scream* will be featured in the exhibition.**

During the entire month of **February 2009**, when the general admission to the museum is free to all, tickets for *Becoming Edvard Munch* are half price: **\$10 for adults, students, seniors, and Chicago residents; and FREE for children under 12.** **Special dated tickets to *Becoming Edvard Munch* are required, and advance tickets are strongly recommended.** For tickets, call **312-930-4040** or purchase them at the museum. For online purchases, visit the Art Institute’s Web site: www.artinstituteofchicago.org.

For a full schedule of events offered during **Free February** at the Art Institute, please check out the museum’s Web site: www.artinstituteofchicago.org. Free February and related

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MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 am-5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10:30 am-8:00 pm Thursday
10:00 am-5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE EVENINGS THURSDAY AFTER 5:00 pm

Free all day, every day in February.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Please check <http://www.artinstituteofchicago.org> before your visit.

Admission: Adults, \$12.00; Children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; Children under 12 free; members always free. Target Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. Members can always have free, unlimited access to the museum, including ticketed exhibitions. Join today at www.artic.edu/aic/joinnow.

To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at <http://www.artinstituteofchicago.org>

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.