

MUNCH VS PICASSO

Munch suffered from depression throughout his entire career. Picasso suffered as well, but only for a short period known as his *Blue Period*, while all of Munch's work showed his depression. Both artists' depressive paintings including and/or show sadness in some form. Picasso's art showed depression in forms of self-esteem while Munch's suggested hopelessness or sadness and also can be connected to trauma, which the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) says is a cause of depression. My interpretation of the following paintings is he lost a loved one, or was rejected. Munch's work used more dark colors and less bright colors, and Picasso used blue as a background color in most of the Blue Period work.

<https://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Conditions/Depression>



EDVARD MUNCH (1863-1944)

Vampire (1893)

In this painting, Munch illustrates a woman holding what appears to be a distressed man. This could suggest how Munch feels and he wants someone to comfort him, but he feels he has nobody. The name of the painting may suggest that this woman is "sucking" the pain he feels out of him, as a vampire would suck blood out of a victim.



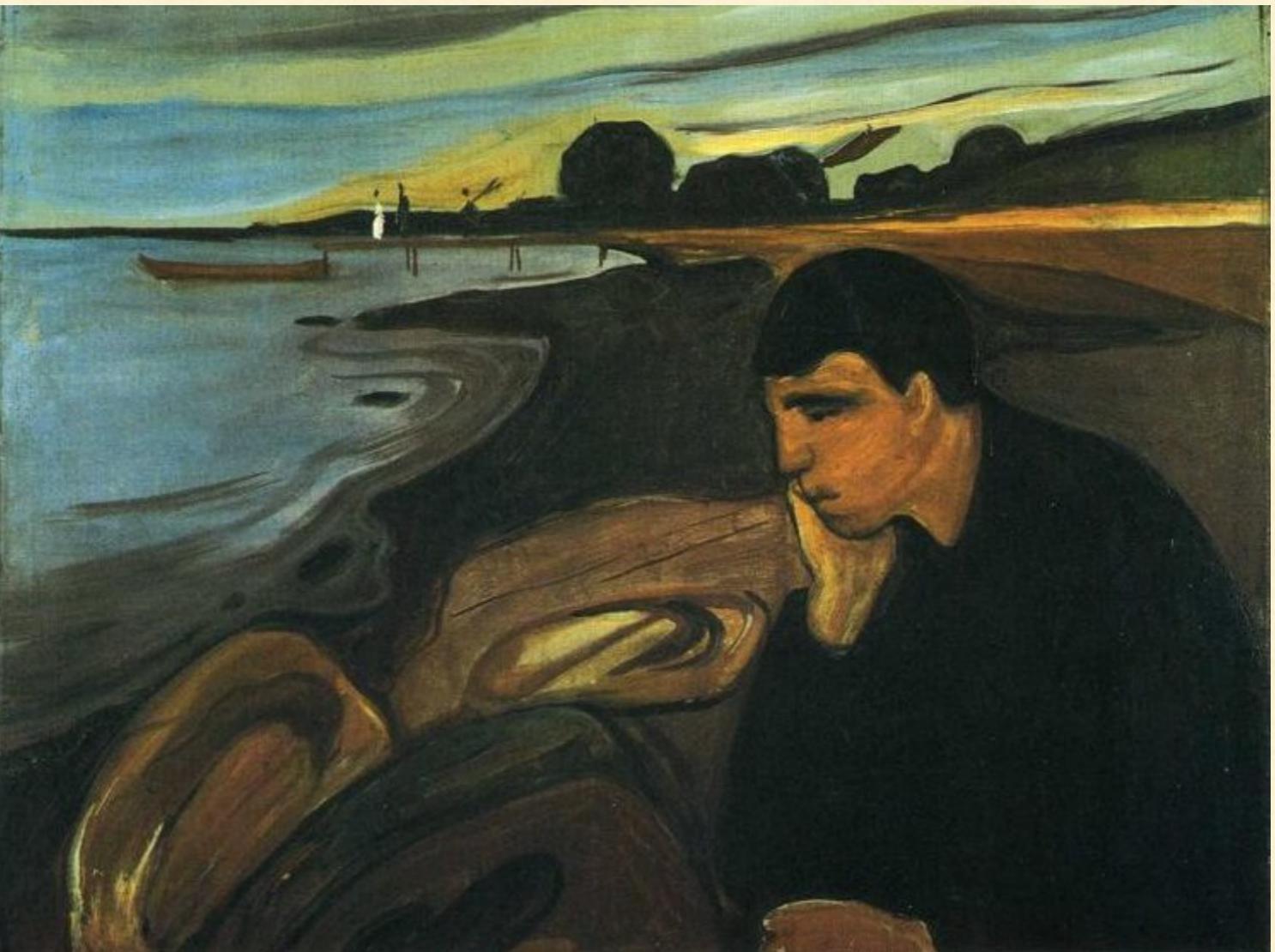
Ashes (1894)

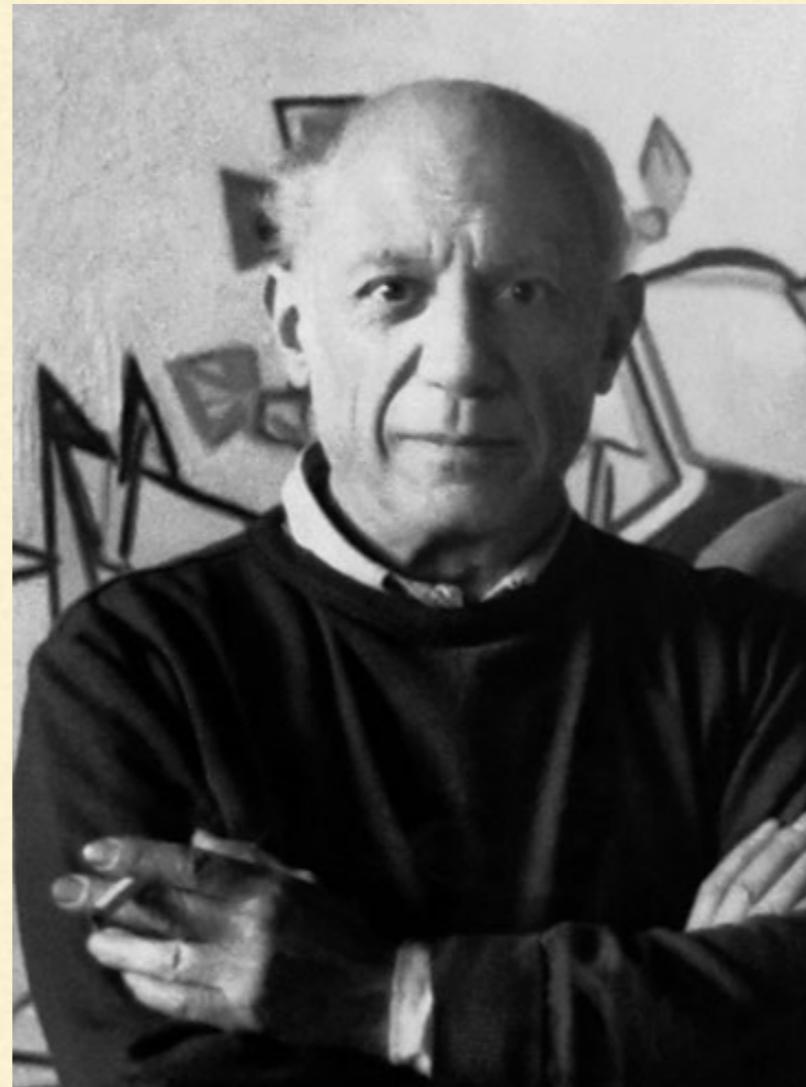
In this illustration, Munch shows what seems to be the same two male and female, but this time the male is in the same position as the previous. The female appears to be angry at something, which makes you assume she is mad at the male. Which again may lead you to believe they are in a relationship of some sort, and the male is regretting something about the situation. Whereas in the last painting she was comforting him.



Melancholy (1894)

In this painting, it is showing a male sitting on a beach in a position that seems common with Munch, face in his palm looking down. There is a couple in the distance in attire that appears to be for a wedding. This painting also is referred to as 'Jealousy', which is another painting by Munch. So with this in mind, you can assume the man is jealous of the couple. 'Melancholy' was a term used for depression before depression. Research done shows that a common symptom of depression is low self-esteem.





PABLO PICASSO (1881-1973)

COMPARE/CONTRAST

All of the following paintings are self-portraits by Picasso within a 10 year period (1896-1906). In these 3 paintings, the backgrounds are all solid. Interestingly, in the first two portraits, Picasso is looking directly at the audience, while the last one he is looking to his right. Common symptoms of depression are low self-esteem, hopelessness, intense sadness, and loss of interest. These can be shown when he does have depression to when he doesn't.

Uncombed Hair (1896)

During this period Picasso illustrated himself sitting straight, wearing nice clothing, and used darker colors as the background. In this portrait he is also clean shaven, although with his hair uncombed, he appears well maintained. I suggest his mood in this time period is post-depressive. He does not have a full diagnosis of depression. He has good self-esteem (looking nice), but his face appears to look sad and confused.



Self-portrait (1901)

In this portrait made in 1901, Picasso paints himself wearing dark clothing, and blue as the background color. Both of which represent his mental state during this time period. His hair doesn't appear trimmed, and his beard as well. His cheek bones are more prevalent, suggesting weight loss from lack of eating. Research shows that a symptom of depression is lack of eating, causing weight loss. Also hopelessness, and low self-esteem. All of which can be seen in this portrait.



Self-portrait with palette (1906)

In this self-portrait, Picasso paints himself standing tall, wearing loose clothing, and holding his palette in hand. I suggest this represents him feeling free and going back to doing what he loves, painting. Loss of interest is a symptom of depression, and if he has his palette, he must be interested in painting, therefore suggesting he is not depressed. He also appears less pale than the previous painting, also suggesting he is healthy. He has a clean haircut and colors in this painting are brighter than before, meaning his mood is greatly improved.



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