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On December 12, 1963 **Norway** issued a set of four stamps for *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Edvard Munch*.

Munch was born on December 12, 1863 in Loten, Norway. He grew up in Christiania (Oslo) and studied art under Christian Krohg, a Norwegian naturalistic painter. Munch's parents, a brother and sister died while he was still young, which probably explains the bleakness and pessimism of much of his work. His work often included the symbolic portrayal of such themes as misery, sickness and death.

Professional art historians consider him both Symbolic and Expressionist.

In spite of the fact that Munch is considered his country's greatest artist only four of his paintings have been issued by his native Norway these are in the set issued for his 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary.

### **Eye Problems**

In May 1930 a broken vessel in his right eye (lost the sight in this eye) caused almost total blindness.

He painted *“two disturbing ‘eye disease’ painting from 1930 shifts from orange- y reds to purple-y blues. Munch shares his disease, projecting the view obstructed by a burst blood vessel in his right eye into a mass of color that eclipses his self-portrait”*.

“Hysterics Aside – Munch’s Later Career on View from High” by Cathy Byrd.

He also floaters caused by posterior vitreous detachment.



In 1982 **Cyprus (Turkish)** issued in its *Rural Painting series* a painting by Aylin Örek titled “*Wedding*” in it are shown two blind musicians playing at a outdoors rural wedding.

A number of artists have painted blind musicians or have included them in their works.

### **Stamps showing Blind Musicians**

Bulgaria – 2003 “*The Blind Rebec Player*” by Llya Petrov.

Equatorial Guinea – 1973 “*El Guitarrista Ciego*” by Pablo Picasso.

Spain – 1972 “*El Ciego de Los Romances*” (**Blind Balladeer**) by Solana.

Also a number of countries have issued stamps honoring individual blind musicians like Louis Braille, Turlough Carolan, Ray Charles, Morris Nyunyusa, Mathias Schou, Banzoumana Sissoko, Sonny Terry and Stevie Wonder.

**Aylin Örek** was born in Nicosia in 1941. She finished the Istanbul State Academy of Fine Arts training at the Ali Cheelebi and Nurullah Berek ateliers. In 1973 Örek received a French government [grant] to study in Paris and Marseilles.

She worked and held exhibitions in several countries, including France, Turkey, Belgium, Spain and Ivory Coast in Africa apart from her native Cyprus. Aylin Örek also won awards for her works in Cyprus and France and some of her works are included in many private collections in Cyprus, France and Turkey as well as in the Istanbul State Museum of Painting and Sculpture. She currently resides and works in North Cyprus.