

# Expressionism

- A reaction against Impressionism, Expressionism was inspired by the Symbolist. Vincent van Gogh, Edvard Munch, proved influential to the **Expressionists, encouraging the distortion of form and the use of strong colors to convey a variety of anxieties and yearnings** (deep longing, especially when accompanied by tenderness or sadness). The classic phase of the Expressionist movement lasted from approximately 1905 to 1920 and spread throughout Europe. Its example would later inform Abstract Expressionism, and its influence would be felt throughout the remainder of the century in German art.

- The arrival of **Expressionism** announced new standards in the creation and judgment of art. **Art was now meant to come forth from *within* the artist, rather than from a depiction of the external visual world,** and the standard for assessing the quality of a work of art became the character of the artist's feelings rather than an analysis of the composition.
- Expressionist artists often employed swirling, **swaying** (to move or swing to and fro, as something fixed at one end or resting on a support), **and exaggeratedly executed brushstrokes** in the depiction of their subjects. These techniques were meant to convey the turgid (overblown, or pompous; bombastic) emotional state of the artist reacting to the anxieties of the modern world.



The Scream  
(1893)  
Edvard  
Munch

# The Sick Child (1885) Edvard Munch





# Der Blaue Reiter (1903)

## Wassily Kandinsky

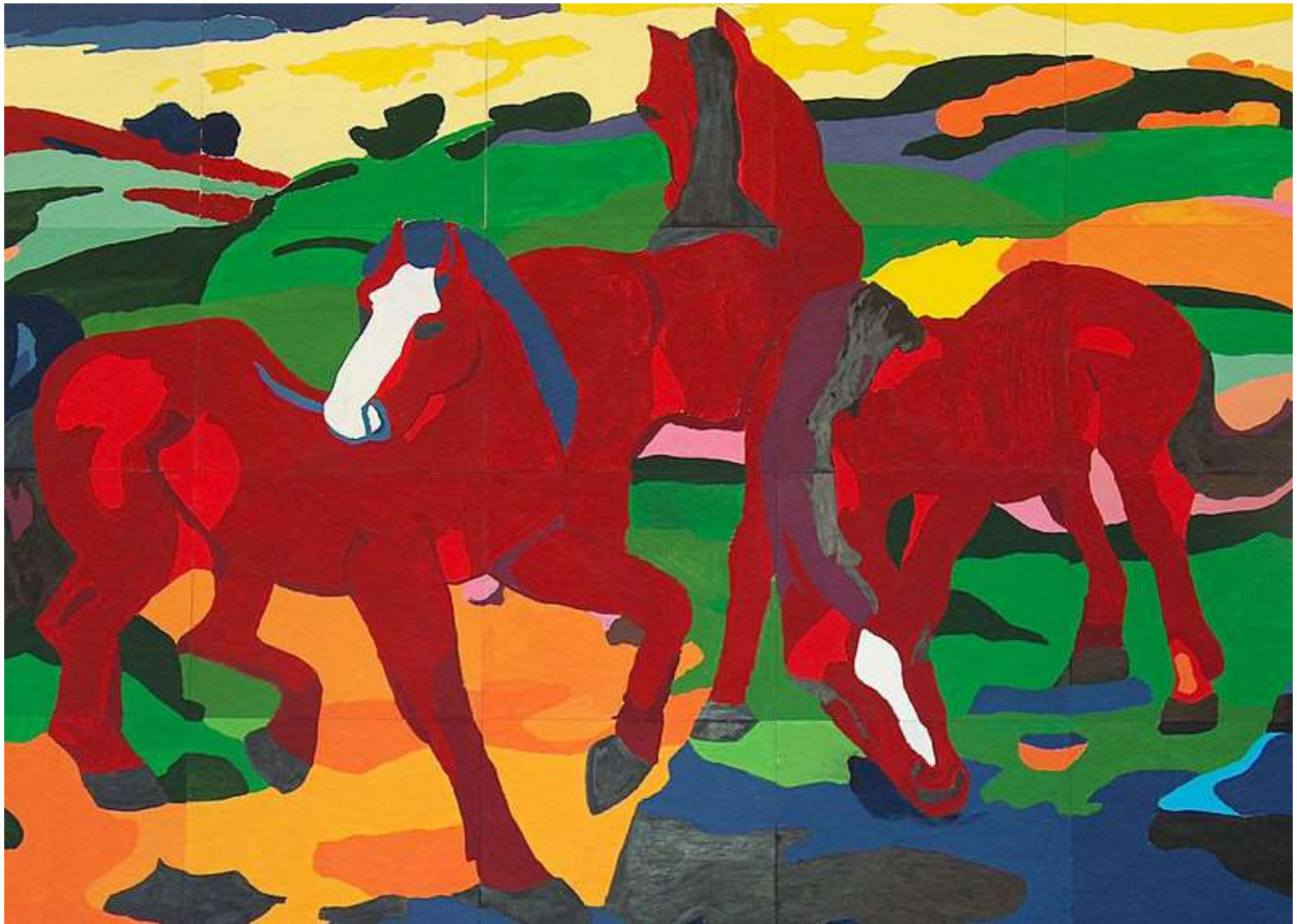


Large Blue Horses (1911)  
Franz Marc





*The Large Red Horses*  
(Franz Marc)







Portrait  
of a Man  
(1919)  
Erich  
Heckel