

Words in context – Histoire des Arts et compréhension orale à partir d'un vidéo-clip de la BBC

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Experts are predicting the only privately owned version of Edward Munch's masterpiece The Scream could fetch \$80m (£50m) at auction in New York in May. The work, which is one of four versions of the painting created in the 1890s, is going on display in London ahead of the sale. The BBC's David Sillito spoke to Philip Hook from Sotheby's about one of the most famous images in the world.

-It's one of the most famous images in art? But what exactly are we looking at here?

-Well, we are looking at ...the Scream by Edward Munch, hum...the great Norwegian expressionist painter. It's, I suppose, just about in terms of theme popularity, it's just about the most important picture that Sotheby's ever offered so it is a very, very special moment.

-Paintings, this famous, don't come onto the market, do they?

-They don't, they don't. So it's almost impossible to give an accurate estimate of what it would make. All we know, that it will be very much competed for and we are estimating that it could be 80 million dollars.

-50 million pounds... Has there ever been a painting with a price like that here before?

-Think it is probably the highest estimate we've ever given but it is certainly not the highest price because we have achieved prices over hundred million dollars in the past for works like Picasso and a memorable sculpture by Giacometti but who knows whether this is going to end up.

-It could top these prices,

-It could, it could...

-The man who is selling it, a Norwegian business man...all the others, they are all in museums. How come he has got one of the Scream?

-Well, it is absolutely unique... It is a fantastic thing for anyone to own. The other three versions are all in museums, this is the only one in private hands... it is the only opportunity for anyone else in the world to buy a [the] Scream and the other unique thing about this particular version is the only one which has this fascinating poem inscribed in the bottom of the frame by Munch himself about the Scream and it tells us among other things that the Scream which is the subject of the painting is not coming out of the figure's mouth but it is hearing the Scream, it's the Scream of nature, it's absolutely the ultimate image of *angst* and modern man's alienation.

-Well, I think ...the key thing, let's face it, have a good look for ourselves because it is the first time it is publicly on display in London and this pastel when you look at it, ... it's that face, isn't it, the head listening, not screaming but listening to Scream.