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### Important expressionist masterpiece on view at UM

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## NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2007

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### IMPORTANT EXPRESSIONIST MASTERPIECE ON VIEW AT UM

#### MISSOULA—

A masterpiece of early 20th-century European Expressionist art is on display for public viewing through Sept. 13 in the lobby of the President's Office in Main Hall at The University of Montana.

The painting, "Seated Female Semi-Nude, Green Blouse," by Egon Schiele, is on loan to the Museum of Art & Culture at UM from an anonymous private collector. This is the third Schiele and the fifth major art loan to the museum by the collector.

The President's Office lobby is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Egon Schiele, a leading Expressionist artist from Austria, was born in Tulln on the Danube in 1890. Following his father's death in 1905, Schiele's family moved to Vienna, where he enrolled at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. While attending the Academy, Schiele became friends with Gustav Klimt, the famous Viennese Art Nouveau painter. Unhappy with the limitations of traditional academic painting, Schiele left the Academy in 1909 to pursue his own style of art-making. During his career, Schiele participated in numerous exhibitions in

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major cities throughout Europe, until, tragically, he died in 1918 from the Spanish flu at age 28.

By the time Schiele crafted "Seated Female Semi-Nude, Green Blouse," in 1913, he had established his unique style, which combines Expressionism's psychological intensity with Art Nouveau's grace and simplicity. The works of this period characterize Schiele's efforts to achieve a balance between drawing and painting. His portraits show startling color combinations. His lively line quality was created using the method of "continuous line drawing" -- that is, drawing while his eyes were focused on the model and not the paper. To capture the raw psyche of his models, he arranged them in odd and distorted poses and often eliminated their limbs or even their heads to reinforce a sense of anxious embarrassment.

"Seated Female Semi-Nude, Green Blouse," is a fine example of Schiele's erotic figurative art and an important modernist masterpiece. Portraying a seated, partially clad woman with a blue ribbon in her hair, "Green Blouse" showcases his confident watercolor technique, which uses bold brush marks to highlight the texture of fabrics and hair.

Schiele's works are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art and the Neue Galerie in New York City, Kunstmuseum Basel in Switzerland, the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart, Germany, and Österreichische Galerie Belvedere in Vienna, Austria.

For more information call the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at 406-243-2019, or go to <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** Images are available. Please contact Karen Rice, programming and publicity coordinator, 406-243-2019, or e-mail [karen.rice@mso.umt.edu](mailto:karen.rice@mso.umt.edu).

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