

PRESS KIT

70TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2026

EMIL NOLDE - RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE, NATURE AND ART

1 March to 31 October 2026



Emil Nolde, Two on the Beach, painting 1903, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll

Nolde.
NOLDE MUSEUM
SEEBÜLL

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The 70th Annual Exhibition of the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation offers insight into the multilayered field of tension between people, nature and art in the paintings and watercolours of Emil Nolde. His depictions reveal an uncompromising and at the same time profoundly poetic engagement with the fundamental questions of human existence. In viewing them, we ourselves enter into a real relationship with the people, flowers, animals and landscapes portrayed by Nolde, which stand for the cosmos of life.

In his art, the important Expressionist Emil Nolde (1867–1956) possesses an almost inexhaustible wealth of pictorial ideas: they arise from the thematic spheres of people, landscapes and seas, flowers, and also figure paintings, among which his “biblical and legend pictures” are counted. The 70th Annual Exhibition illuminates the multilayered field of tension between people, nature and art in Nolde’s oeuvre. His powerful work is shaped by a deeply felt relationship with human beings and nature. Flowers, landscapes, seas and figures are not mere representations but become visible as inner experience. Nolde’s pictures express his emotional relationship to the world.

In the dialogue between people, nature and art, Nolde develops an image world of incomparable intensity and emotional force. In viewing it, he invites us to experience anew the relationship between people, nature and art. Nolde does not create intellectual art whose content becomes comprehensible only after intensive reading. His long-time assistant Joachim von Lepel, who became founding director of the Foundation in 1956, recalls: “Nolde’s work is to be grasped less with the intellect than from the event itself, from the natural.” In his art, Nolde interweaves the existential themes of life: he paints wide landscapes into which we can immerse ourselves, colourful flowers that bring a happy smile to our faces, and in his emotionally surging sea depictions we can virtually plunge. In his pictures he shows us people whose emotions - from intimate closeness to cool distance - we can understand because we experience them ourselves just as much a century after their creation. Nolde does not merely depict his own world but reveals to us a fundamental world in all its ambivalence. With a view of Nolde’s vision of the world, we learn more about our own world.

Dr Christian Ring, Director of the Nolde Museum, develops each year a new “Annual Exhibition” from the rich artistic estate preserved in Seebüll. Since 1957, the Nolde Museum in Seebüll has shown in the annually changing exhibition an impressive selection of oil paintings, watercolours and prints that stand as exemplary for Nolde’s work. Alongside the well-known masterpieces, rare pieces from his extensive estate are also presented. This year, 37 works are being shown in Seebüll for the first time. With the world’s largest collection of his works, Seebüll

is the central place to immerse oneself deeply in the oeuvre of this significant artist.

70 YEARS OF THE SEEBÜLL ADA AND EMIL NOLDE FOUNDATION

2026 is a special year for the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation: on 13 April 1956, Emil Nolde died, his wife Ada ten years earlier on 2 November 1946. Their days of death thus mark their 70th and 80th anniversaries. With the death of Emil Nolde, the joint will was opened and, as a consequence, their foundation was recognised, which therefore has existed for 70 years. As part of the 70th Annual Exhibition, we commemorate our founders with a photo exhibition, who went together through all the highs and lows of life for 44 years.

Today, the residential and studio house in Seebüll is a museum dedicated to the painter and his life and work. Where the artist lived and worked in harmony with unspoilt nature, the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation, initiated by the couple, shows each year from March to October a comprehensive retrospective from Nolde's rich estate. In the rural idyll of North Frisia, Seebüll offers a unique insight into Nolde's life and work.

EMIL NOLDE ON HIS HOMELAND AND THE ENGAGEMENT WITH NATURE

“My homeland was like a fairy tale to me, the parental home in the flat land, my land, above it the thousands of larks rising and falling in jubilant flight, my wonderland from sea to sea [...].”

“I stood on the beach with broad naked chest facing the sea and then wrapped in the rags we call clothes. I stood in the storm with grinding sand between my teeth. [...] The breakers, growling, slid foaming high up onto the sand, drawing their great wet arcs, laying themselves like scales one over the other. The grey-yellow spray leaping, overturning, ending among the lashed beach grass. ‘For the artist I struggle. Art remains and is infinitely much more than the little bit of human being that I am.’”

DIRECTOR DR CHRISTIAN RING ON THE SPECIAL YEAR 2026 FOR THE SEEBÜLL ADA AND EMIL NOLDE FOUNDATION

“2026 is a special year for the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation: on 13 April 1956 Emil Nolde died, his wife Ada ten years earlier on 2 November 1946. Their days of death thus mark their 70th and 80th anniversaries. With the death of Emil Nolde, the joint will was opened and, as a consequence, their foundation was recognised, which therefore has existed for 70 years. Our current Annual Exhibition - indeed the 70th! - shows how Emil Nolde interlinked the great themes of life. His work remains an invitation to visitors to explore the existential question of closeness and strangeness between people, to confront the forces of nature, and to let the cycle of life take effect upon them in landscape and flower depictions. With a view of Nolde's vision of the world, which we can empathise with, we see our world today with different eyes.”

SEEBÜLL ADA AND EMIL NOLDE FOUNDATION APPOINTS DR TAMARA SCHNEIDER AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FASCINATED BY THE INTERPLAY OF ART AND NATURE

The Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation is appointing the art historian Dr Tamara Schneider as Deputy Director as of 1 February 2026.

“With Dr Tamara Schneider, we are gaining a proven expert with international experience and extensive curatorial competence. The Board of Trustees is convinced that together with our Director, Dr Christian Ring, she will sustainably strengthen the foundation’s substantive profile and contribute her own impulses,” says the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr Hans-Joachim Throl.

Dr Tamara Schneider studied art history, German studies and English studies at the University of Kassel, where she also completed her doctorate in art history on the topic of Japonism. After positions at various museums in Germany, she spent eight years as a lecturer at Japanese universities, including Doshisha University in Kyoto, focusing on 19th- and 20th-century art. At the beginning of 2024 she joined the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation as a scholarly curator.

“Dr Schneider has made a significant contribution to the scholarly and curatorial work of the foundation in recent years,” says Dr Christian Ring, Director of the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation. “Her international network, her research specialisations and her profound exhibition experience make her an ideal choice for this position. I am very much looking forward to our continued close collaboration.”

“After eight years in Japan, what fascinates me most in Seebüll is the interplay of art and nature, which Emil Nolde staged so virtuously,” says Dr Schneider of her motivation. “At this special place, work in an internationally renowned museum and life in a unique cultural landscape come together in a special way – a lifelong dream is coming true for me.”

Most recently, Dr Schneider curated, among other projects, the exhibition *World and Home* at Museum Würth 2 in Künzelsau. In her new role, she aims not only to shape the annual exhibitions in Seebüll but also to continue presenting Emil Nolde’s work in successful exhibitions in Germany and internationally.

NOLDE MUSEUM SEEBÜLL – A TOTAL WORK OF ART

The Nolde Museum Seebüll offers a unique art experience that goes far beyond a conventional exhibition visit. Located in Seebüll, near Niebüll and not far from the North Frisian island of Sylt, stands the Seebüll house and studio designed by Emil Nolde himself, originally serving as a summer residence for him and his wife Ada. Here, the artist couple created a retreat dedicated entirely to focused work and the experience of nature.

The Nolde House, built between 1927 and 1937 according to the artist's plans, is an outstanding modern artist's house. After more than sixty years of museum operation, the Nolde Foundation undertook a comprehensive monument-appropriate renovation and technical refurbishment of the house from 2020 to 2022. The living spaces retain their original, intensely colored design and, with some of the original furnishings, convey a vivid impression of the expressionist lifestyle.

The farmhouse garden created by Emil and Ada Nolde is inseparably linked to life in the total work of art. The splendid garden was designed by Nolde together with Ada. The sophisticated wind protection is fundamental so that the plants can withstand the harsh North Sea climate. Thanks to the records of Nolde's last gardener, who worked for the foundation until the 1970s, the current gardening team can maintain the garden in the spirit of the artist. The garden testifies to Nolde's passion for nature, which is reflected in his art. The original Nolde plants and their carefully cultivated offspring invite visitors to experience the garden as Nolde once designed it.

In addition, the Nolde Museum includes a modern visitor forum with a museum shop that offers an exclusive selection of Nolde-inspired products and complements the art experience. Alongside regular art and garden tours, exciting courses and workshops are offered in the light-flooded painting school, which offers an impressive view of the wide marshland. For families, there is also a whimsical playground in the outdoor area, providing joy and space for creativity even for the youngest guests.

After a tour of the museum, the museum gastronomy "Element," led by John Kasraei, invites you to a culinary break. Here, regional and internationally inspired dishes are served, rounding off the visit to Seebüll in a delightful way.

The Nolde Museum Seebüll combines art, nature, and architecture into an impressive overall experience. Visitors from all over the world delve deep into the life and work of Emil Nolde and experience a unique encounter with the art of one of the most important Expressionists – embedded in the inspiring atmosphere of the total work of art Seebüll.

ANNUAL CERAMIC 2026: GUARDIAN ANGEL

Ceramic object inspired by Emil Nolde's painting *The Guardian Angel*

Material: ceramic, colour-glazed, weather-resistant

Dimensions: approx. 16 x 17 x 7 cm

Model: Emil Nolde, *The Guardian Angel*, painting 1945, © Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation

Price: 50 €

Since their introduction in 2014, the annual ceramics of the Seebüll Ada and Emil Nolde Foundation have secured a firm place among collectors. Each year, the exclusive object convinces through its distinctive design and high artisanal quality.

The Annual Ceramic 2026 is inspired by Emil Nolde's 1945 painting *The Guardian Angel*. The characteristic yellow, green and brown tones of the original are reflected in the carefully executed glaze.

Each piece is lovingly handcrafted by a small pottery in Schleswig - exclusively for the Nolde Museum Seebüll. The result is a unique individual piece that interprets the artistic model in its own way.

The Annual Ceramic 2026 is available exclusively during the run of the Annual Exhibition and can be purchased in the museum shop on site as well as online at nolde-shop.de.

FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE 2026 ANNUAL EXHIBITION

EXHIBITS IN TOTAL	130
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PAINTINGS	57
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WORKS ON PAPER (WATERCOLOURS, INK DRAWINGS AND PRINTS)	65
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OBJECTS	8
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OF WHICH SHOWN IN SEEBÜLL FOR THE FIRST TIME	37
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Oil paintings	4
Works on paper	31
Objects	2
<hr/>	
OF WHICH FIRST-EVER EXHIBITED WORKS	25
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Works on paper	24
Objects	1

VISITOR INFORMATION

Exhibition

EMIL NOLDE – RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE, NATURE AND ART

Opening times

1. March to 31. October 2026

Opened daily (including holidays) 10 am – 6 pm

Contact

NOLDE MUSEUM SEEBÜLL

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Day tickets / Admission fees

ADULTS	12 €
REDUCED with proof from 50% disability (GdB)	8 €
PUPILS from age 7 and students	8 €
CHILDREN up to age 6	free
FAMILY TICKET (2 adults, 3 children)	24 €
GROUPS from 10 persons per person	10 €
COMBI-TICKET TØNDER in cooperation with the Art Museum in Tønder	18 €
ANNUAL PASS SEEBÜLL (non-transferable)	50 €
GUIDED TOUR	5 €

Tours

Individual tours of the exhibition and the Nolde Garden are available upon request. Current dates and further information can be found at nolde-museum.de.

Painting School

Courses and workshops with fixed dates from May to October. Individual group offers are available upon request. All dates and details can be found at nolde-museum.de.

Museum Shop

The museum shop offers a carefully curated selection of items inspired by the art of Emil Nolde. The range includes ceramics, art books, posters and selected accessories such as scarves and glasses cases. All products are chosen with attention to quality and design and draw on motifs and colour worlds from Nolde's work.

The museum shop is open during the museum's regular opening hours.

Annual Booklet for the 70th Annual Exhibition 2026

The annual booklet is dedicated to the multilayered field of tension between people, nature and art in the works of Emil Nolde. It accompanies the current Annual Exhibition with in-depth contributions, presents selected works from the Picture Hall and offers insights into the cabinets, the studio and the Nolde Garden. The annual booklet is expected to be available from Easter in the museum shop on site as well as online at nolde-shop.de.

Museum Gastronomy Element

Gastronomy – Fine Foods – Events

At Element, regional dishes with a modern accent are served – from hearty snacks to homemade cakes. In good weather, the terrace opens up a view of the North Frisian landscape.

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PRESS PHOTOS 70TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION SEEBÜLL 2026

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The link to the press photos is available upon request from Ms. Paulsen at k.paulsen@nolde-stiftung.de.



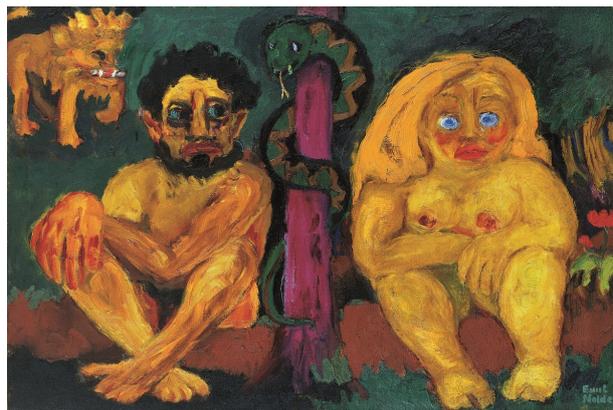
Emil Nolde, Two on the Beach painting 1903, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Still Life H (Large Tamburan, Moscow Group), painting 1915 © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, A. and E. Nolde, painting 1916 © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Paradise Lost painting 1921, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



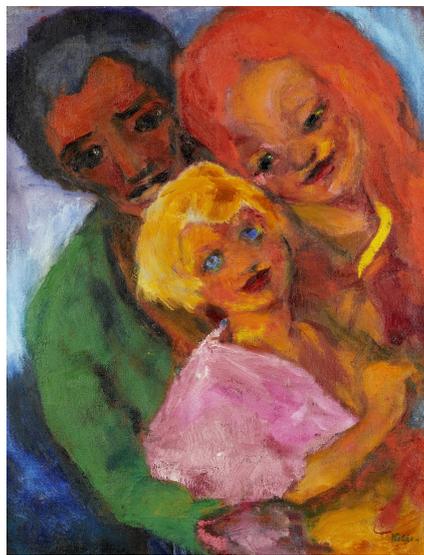
Emil Nolde, Autumn Flowers (A)
painting 1931, Long-term loan from a private
collection, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Path in the Polder
painting 1945, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, The Guardian Angel
painting 1945, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Happy Family
painting 1947, © Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



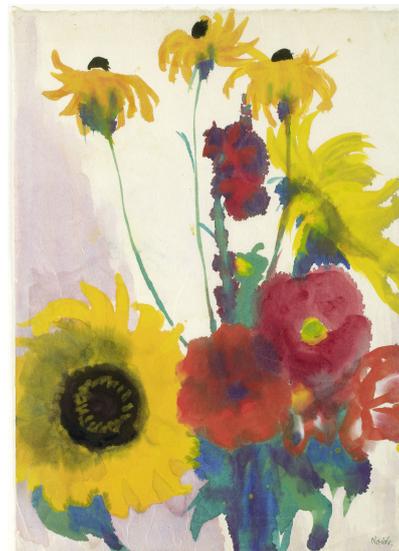
Emil Nolde, Light Sea, painting 1948
© Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Stroll, watercolour 1931/35
© Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Landscape, watercolour
© Nolde Stiftung Seebüll



Emil Nolde, Yellow Sunflower, Red Poppy
and Black-Eyed Susans, watercolour
© Nolde Stiftung Seebüll