

Surrealism



Name_____ Form_____

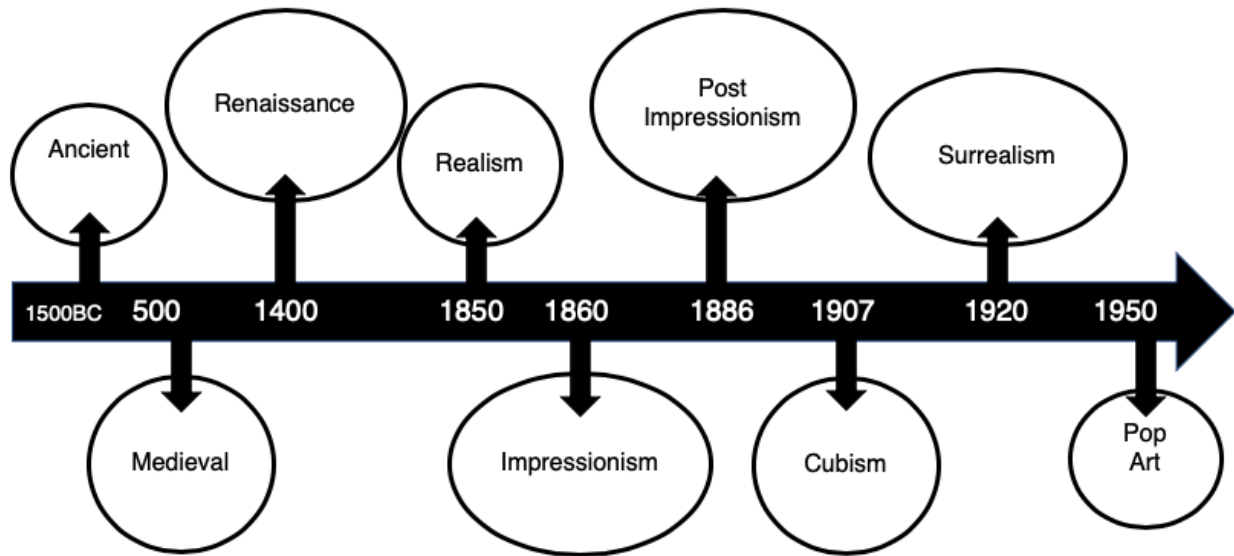
Teacher_____ Art Group_____

Homework hand in day_____

Year 8
Homework 1

About Surrealism

Read the following information about the art movement Surrealism then answer the questions:



Surrealism was a 20th century art movement that tried to represent the subconscious mind. The word surreal means ‘beyond real’ and refers to dreamlike imagery that cannot possibly be real. The movement began in the mid-1920s in France.

Surrealism began as a philosophical movement that said the way to find truth in the world was through the **subconscious mind** and dreams, rather than through logical thought. The movement included many artists, poets, and writers who expressed their theories in their work.

Surrealism images explored the **subconscious areas of the mind**. The artwork often made little sense as it was usually trying to represent a dream or random thoughts.

Writers began the Surrealist movement. In 1924, a writer and poet **Andre Breton** explained Surrealism in his **Surrealist Manifesto** (a document that explains the intentions of Surrealism), and a few years later artists began to paint in the style he described. Surrealists wanted to free their minds of rational thought, to write or paint the ideas that were buried deep in their minds. These artists did not wish their work to make simple, logical sense. Salvador Dali is the most recognized of all Surrealist artists.

This is why many of the paintings look like scenes from a dream (or nightmare). Many Surrealist paintings include imaginary creatures or real-life creatures shown in unnatural ways. Some paintings, include several seemingly unrelated objects. Others twist realistic images by using strange colours. The two most famous surrealist artists are Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte. You can see by searching their names online that in any Surrealist painting, there is a lot to look at.

Surrealist artists were influenced by a famous psychoanalyst called **Sigmund Freud**. A **psychoanalyst** is a doctor who studies the human mind and tries to understand it. Freud believed our mind was divided into two parts: the conscious part and the subconscious part. The conscious mind is what we use to make decisions every day, like whether we walk or ride a bike to school. The subconscious mind is where our memories are stored and where our dreams come from. Most of the time we are not aware of our subconscious mind, but sometimes the memories stored there get mixed up in our dreams and this is what Dalí tried to paint.

The Surrealism art movement had a great impact in art, literature, culture and even extending to politics. Surrealism liberates the imagination. Surrealism is still alive and growing until today. Many artists around the world are influenced by Surrealism styles, ideas & techniques.

Surrealism taught the world to see art not merely visually and literally; but to appreciate it in a subconscious level as well. Today, surrealism is a familiar form of art that continues to grow globally. It's easy for artists to show their creativity through Surrealism, because the style provides them more freedom to convey their feelings and thoughts through the canvas. Surreal art can be dreamy or gritty; or it can be optimistic or depressing. Next time you watch TV take a look at the adverts, how many can you spot that have a surreal element to them?

Watch the following video to understand more about Surrealism:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism>

Answer the following questions about Surrealism:

1. What does the word 'surreal' mean?

2. In which decade did Surrealism begin?

3. What is the name of the French writer and poet who started Surrealism?

4. What is a surrealism manifesto?

5. What is the name of the psychoanalyst doctor who inspired the surrealist movement?

6. What does a psychoanalyst study?

7. What is the subconscious mind?

8. Name the two most famous surrealist artists

My score **/8**

8 = Excellent

7-6 = Good

5-4 = Inconsistent

3-0 = Poor

Homework 2

The Surreal Devices

Draw lines to match the correct definition and image with each of the surreal devices

1. Juxtaposition

Morphing one object into another or changing its shape



2. Metamorphosis

Objects that are too small or too large for their surroundings



3. Transparency

Floating objects that don't normally float



4. Dislocation

Placing a familiar object in an unfamiliar setting



5. Change of Scale

Making objects see through



6. Levitation

Two objects that don't normally go together in the same image



My score /6

6 = Excellent

5 = Good

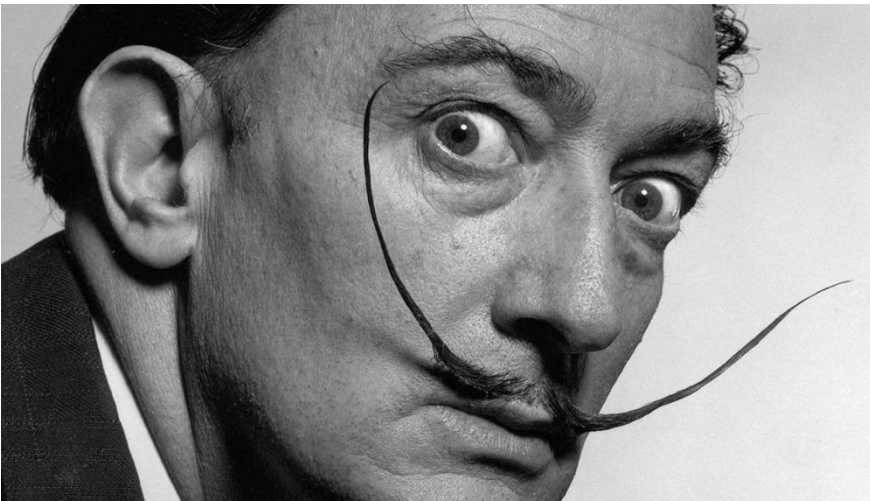
4/3 = Inconsistent

2-0 = Poor

Homework 3

Salvador Dali

Read the following information about the artist Salvador Dali then answer the questions:



Salvador Dali was born in 1904 in a place called Catalonia, Spain. He was one of the greatest of the Surrealist group of Artists. He was best known for his ability to translate dreams into artwork. He described his work as 'hand-painted dream photographs'.

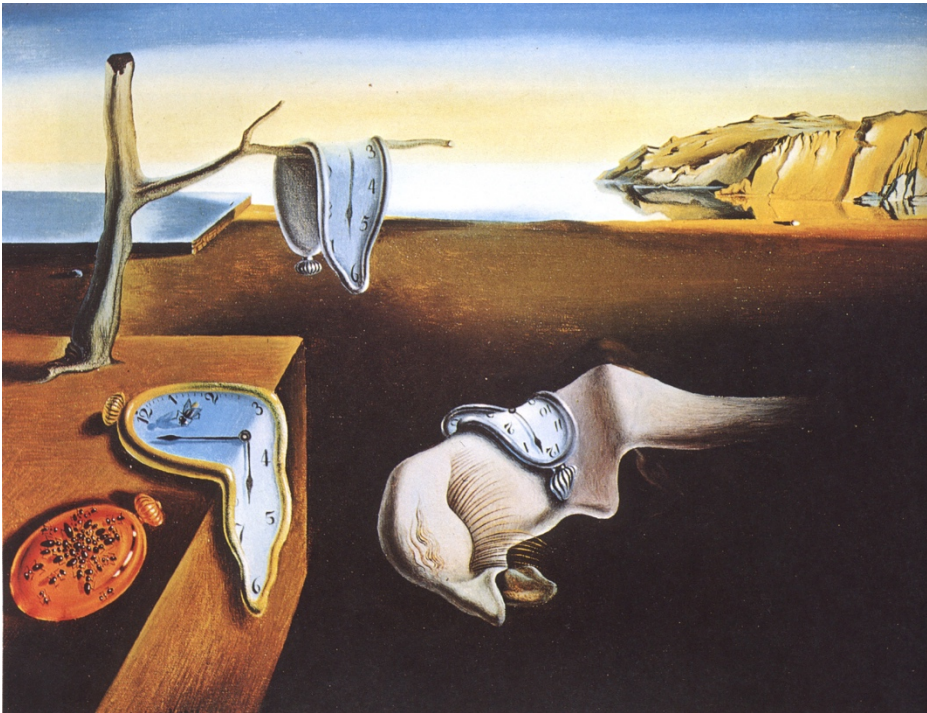
Salvador was also a sculptor, filmmaker, writer, jewelry designer, book illustrator and worked in theatre. From 1939 to 1948 he lived in the United States and became well known for being eccentric. Salvador always acted strangely, and some people thought he was insane but he might have just wanted them to believe that he was. You can always recognise him because he has a funny moustache. He liked to dress in crazy clothes and have long hair which people found very shocking at the time.

Dalí was even expelled from art school just before his final exams because he said that none of the teachers were qualified to examine him. Cheeky!

Salvador Dalí went to Paris after leaving art school, which was where he met the surrealists. The surrealists appealed to his wild sense of humor, they invented surrealist games and enjoyed putting different objects together to make something playful and disturbing at the same time. Here is Dalí's version of a surrealist sculpture. It is called Lobster Telephone. You couldn't call anything on that!



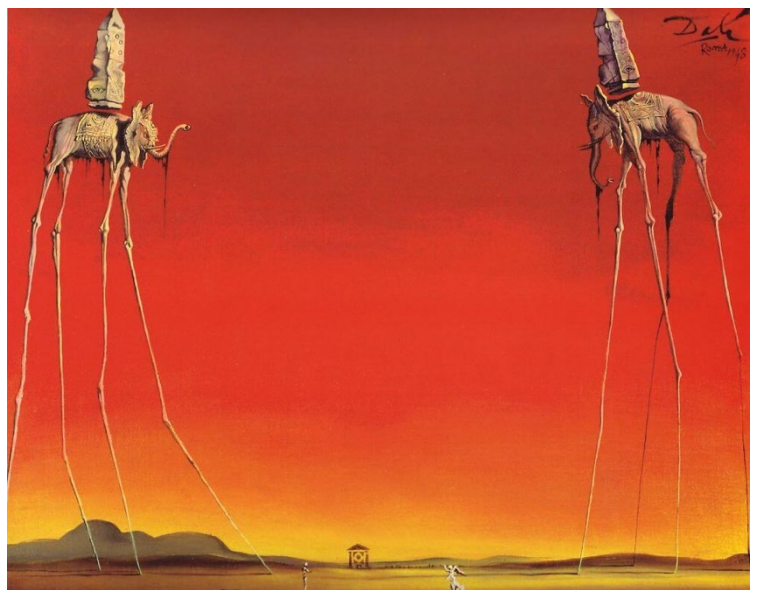
Perhaps his best-known painting is 'The Persistence of Memory' painted in 1931 and shows soft, melting pocket watches/clocks.



The general interpretation of the work is that the soft watches are a rejection of the assumption that time is rigid. This idea is supported by other images in the work, such as the wide expanding landscape, and other limp watches shown being devoured by ants.

Dali's melting clocks are an iconic image of Surrealism. Surrealist artists often painted objects that changed form or morphed into something else. This technique is called metamorphosis. Metamorphosis is one of the devices Surrealists used to make their images look dreamlike or beyond real. Dali would often include surreal animals or strange creatures in his paintings.

Here in 'Los Elefantes' he paints the elephants with long spindly legs which contrast the heavy weight of their bodies. Do you think legs like that would actually hold the weight of a real elephant?



Answer the following questions about Salvador Dali:

1. Where was Salvador Dali from?

2. What distinguishing facial feature is he well recognised for?

3. Salvador Dali was well known for being an eccentric character. What does the word eccentric mean?

4. Name the title of Dali's infamous painting with the melting clocks.

5. How did Dali describe his own work?

6. What is unusual about the elephants in Dali's painting 'Los Elefantes'?

7. Which of the surreal devices has Dali used in his lobster telephone sculpture?

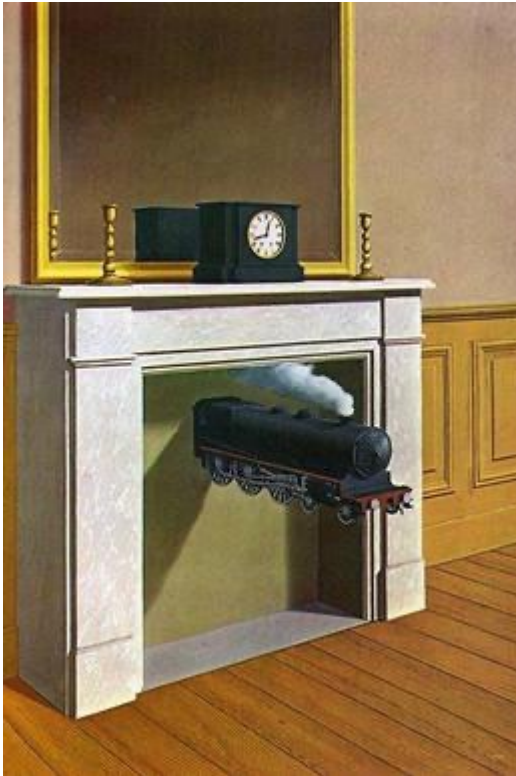
8. Dali often uses the surreal device 'metamorphosis' in his paintings, what is the definition of metamorphosis?

My score **/8**
8 = Excellent 7-6 = Good 5-4 = Inconsistent 3-0 = Poor

Homework 4

Rene Magritte

Read the following information about the artist Rene Magritte then answer the questions:

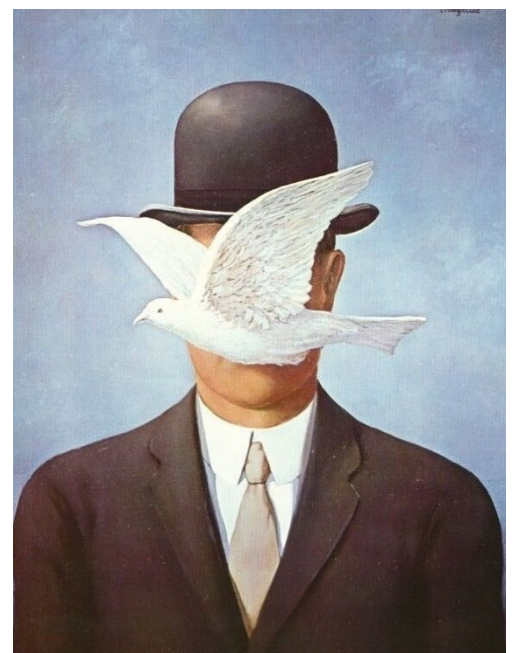


Rene Magritte was a Surrealist painter who was born in Belgium in 1898. He wanted people to look at ordinary things in different ways. He sometimes painted objects in places where they didn't usually belong, like in '*Time Transfixed*' in which a train is coming out of a fireplace. Other times, Magritte confused the foreground (the things at the front of the painting) with the background.

Magritte did not enjoy school, and he knew he wanted to paint, so he went to Brussels to study art. During this time, he worked to find his own style. He tried cubism and futurism but neither would become his style. Instead, he painted in the Surrealist style.

1924 he began work as a freelance graphic designer in his home town of Brussels. and later set up his own advertising agency 'Studio Dongo' with his brother. In a tumbledown shack in his garden, Magritte created posters, music covers and advertisements right up until the 1950s, long after he had become internationally acknowledged as an important artist. He never abandoned the commercial world, but went on appropriating its advertising strategies into much of his art. Magritte's work is still an inspiration for many advertisements today.

Magritte is well-known for including men in bowler hats in his paintings. He often wore a bowler hat

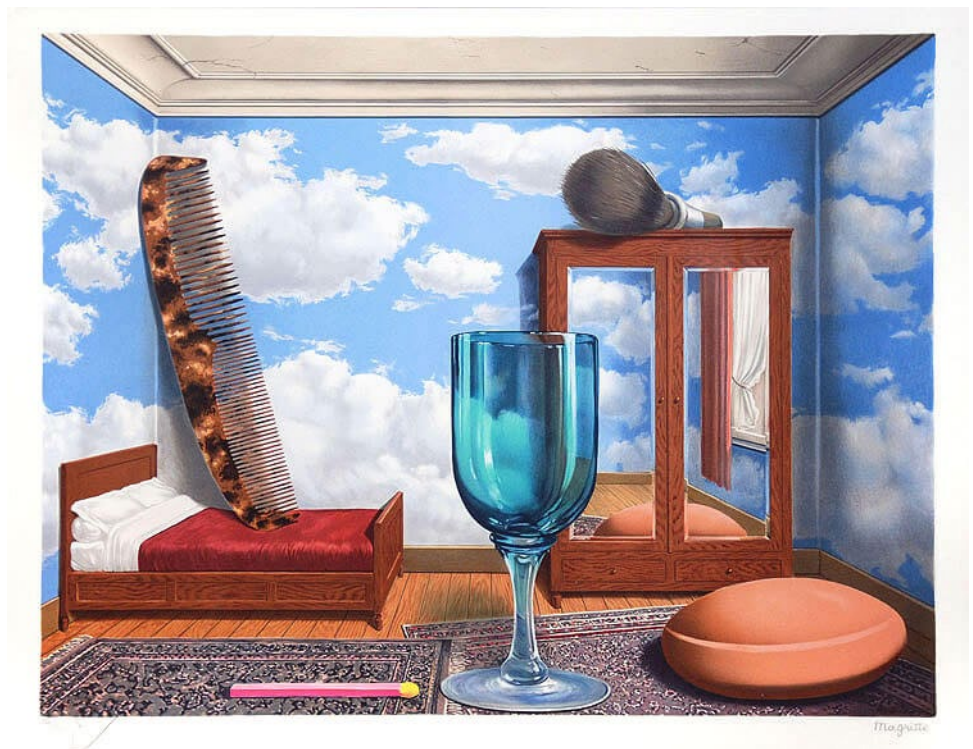


himself and, though you usually can't see the men's faces, these paintings are commonly thought of as self-portraits.



When Magritte was 13, his mother Régina committed suicide by drowning herself in the Sambre River. When his mother was found, her dress was covering her face, an image that has been suggested as the source of several oil paintings Magritte painted in 1927-1928 of people with cloth obscuring their faces, including *Les Amants*.

In '*Personal Values*,' Magritte shows a bedroom filled with objects in blown up proportions. These everyday objects include a comb, a matchstick, a wineglass, a bar of soap and a shaving brush. Magritte painted the walls with the color of the sky which is meant to represent that the room was free from its limit of human imagination. It suggests that the image of any individual viewer was up-to their own and they could interpret their own meaning of the painting *Personal Values*.



Answer the following questions about Rene Magritte:

1. Where and when was Rene Magritte born?

Date: _____ Place: _____

2. What item of clothing is he famous for wearing and including in many of his paintings?

3. Which object features in Magritte's painting 'Treachery of Images'?

4. What did Magritte mean by writing 'This is not a pipe' underneath the painting?

5. Which of the surreal devices has Magritte used in his painting of a bedroom titled 'Personal Values'?

6. What job did Magritte do prior to becoming an artist?

7. What kind of company did he set up with his brother?

8. What event inspired Magritte's paintings with cloth covered faces like Les Amants?

My score **/8**

8 = Excellent

7-6 = Good

5-4 = Inconsistent

3-0 = Poor

Homework 5

Revision

Use this booklet and your knowledge organiser to revise everything you have learnt about Impressionism and Post Impressionism. You will have a short quiz to test your knowledge from this term in the next lesson.

You may be tested on your knowledge of:

Where Surrealism sits within the timeline
What/who influenced the development of Surrealism?
Key features of surrealism
The Surreal Devices
Salvador Dali
Rene Magritte
Notable artworks
Key terminology

Mini Test

Surrealism

Circle the correct answer

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | a | b | c | d |
| 2. | a | b | c | d |
| 3. | a | b | c | d |
| 4. | a | b | c | d |
| 5. | a | b | c | d |
| 6. | a | b | c | d |
| 7. | a | b | c | d |
| 8. | a | b | c | d |
| 9. | a | b | c | d |
| 10. | a | b | c | d |

My score /10

10-9 = Excellent	8-7 = Good	6-5 = Inconsistent	4-0 = Poor
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My Homework Record

Tick your result for each homework this half term

Task	Excellent	Good	Inconsistent	Poor
1. About Surrealism				
2. The Surreal Devices				
3. Salvador Dali				
4. Rene Magritte				
5. End of Unit Test				

Work ethic

How much effort did you put in to your homework this half term? Tick which statement applies to you.

☐ EXCELLENT

My best effort is applied to every homework. My homework is always completed on time and to the best possible standard. I have done my own reading on the subject to ensure I understand it fully.

☐ GOOD

I work hard to complete my homework by spending at least 20 minutes per week ensuring it is completed to a pleasing standard.

☐ INCONSISTENT

I sometimes complete my homework on time and to an acceptable standard, but not always. I do not always spend the time required to do my homework well.

☐ POOR

I rarely complete my homework on time or to an acceptable standard.