

Surrealism

What is Surrealism?

Surrealism

1924



Atomica Melancholia (1945)



Surrealism

1924

Originally a literary movement, it explored dreams, the unconscious, the element of chance and multiple levels of reality.

“more than real”

“better than real”



WHY Surrealism in 1924?

What was happening in the world around this time?

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What was happening in the world around this time?

- World War I (1914-1918)
- Sigmund Freud

Physically and psychologically, WWI destroyed Western civilization



Source: Dr. F.X. O'Connor Fonds, Queen's University Archives



10719-4. — Ypres. Panorama.

Etchings etc.



Source: Dr. F.X. O'Connor Fonds, Queen's University Archives



Countries Involved:

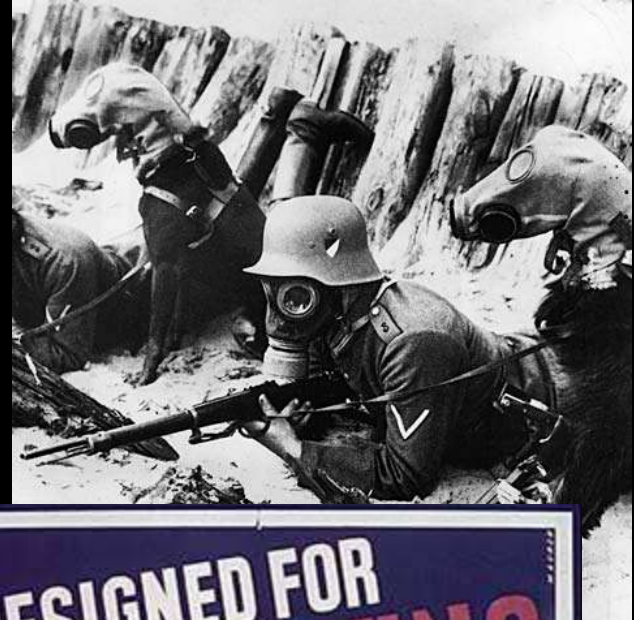
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
France
Germany
Great Britain
Greece
India
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Montenegro
New Zealand
Poland
Portugal
Rhodesia
Romania
Russia
Serbia
South Africa
Turkey
United States

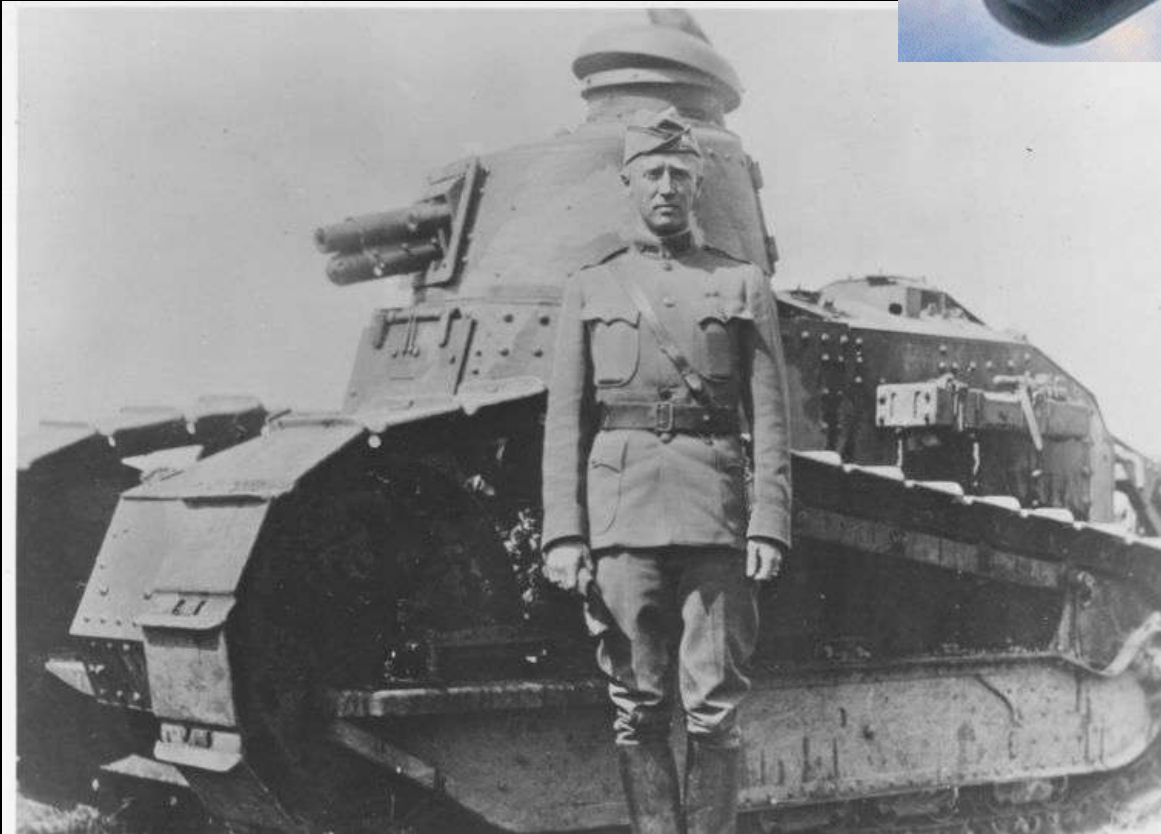
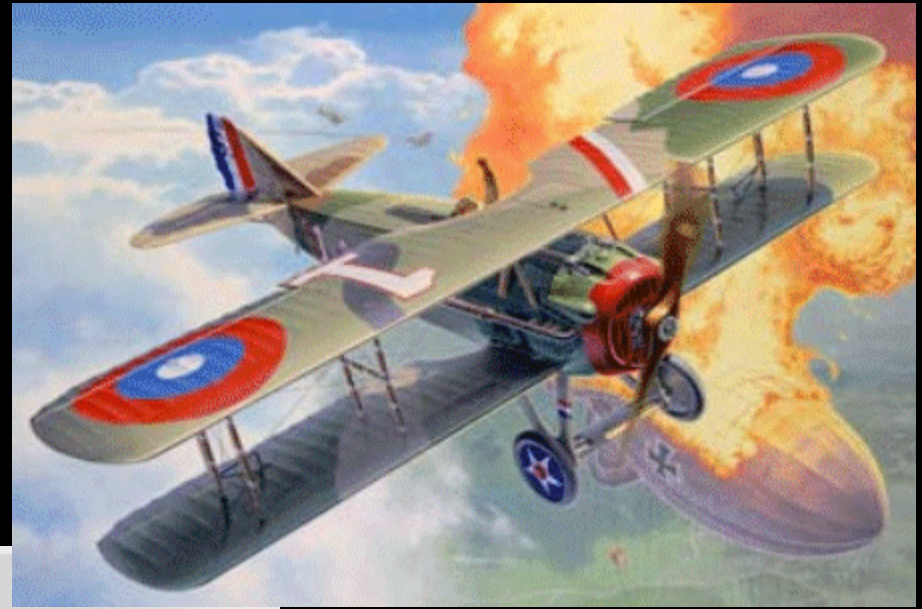


"The logic, science and technology that many thought would bring a better world had gone horribly wrong.

Instead of a better world, the advancements of the 19th century had produced such high tech weapons as machine guns, long-range artillery, tanks, submarines, fighter planes and mustard gas."

(source: Janson)





Staggering destruction and loss of life

TOTAL WWI CASUALTIES: **11,016,000**



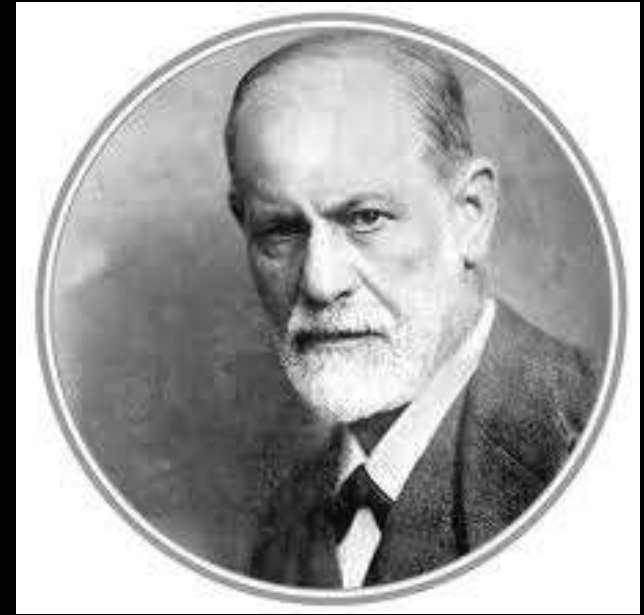
*After the battle. A scene on the Menin Road.
Wounded waiting to be taken to the dressing
stations.*



Sigmund Freud

(1856-1939)

- The father of psychoanalysis
- In 1900, Freud published *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and introduced the wider public to the notion of the unconscious mind
- theorized that forgetfulness or slips of the tongue (now called "Freudian slips") were not accidental at all, but it was the "dynamic unconscious" revealing something meaningful.
- He said "Dreams are often most profound when they seem the most crazy."



Andre Breton

Poet



“Surrealism is based on the belief in the superior reality of the dream”

Surreal

Odd

Illogical

Irrational

Exciting

Disturbing



Characteristics of Surrealism

- Reaction to chaos of WWI
- Influence of Freud: Dreams and subconscious
- Impossible scale
- Reversal of natural laws
- Double images
- Juxtaposition



Where?

France, Germany,
Catalunya, Belgium

Artists

Max Ernst

Salvador Dali

Joan Miro

Man Ray

Rene Magritte

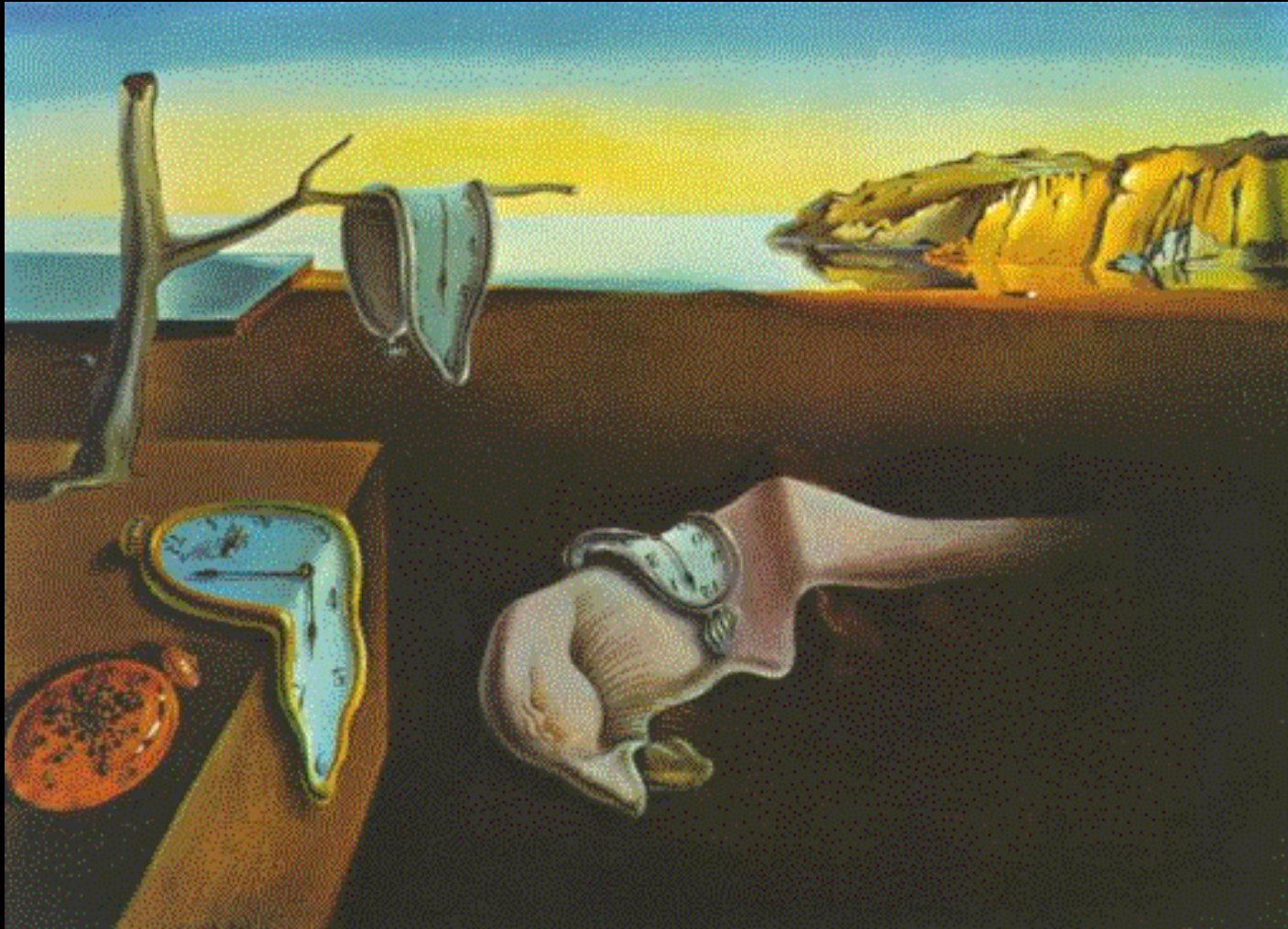


Salvador Dali (Spanish, 1904–1989)





The Metamorphosis of Narcissus, 1937, Salvador Dalí



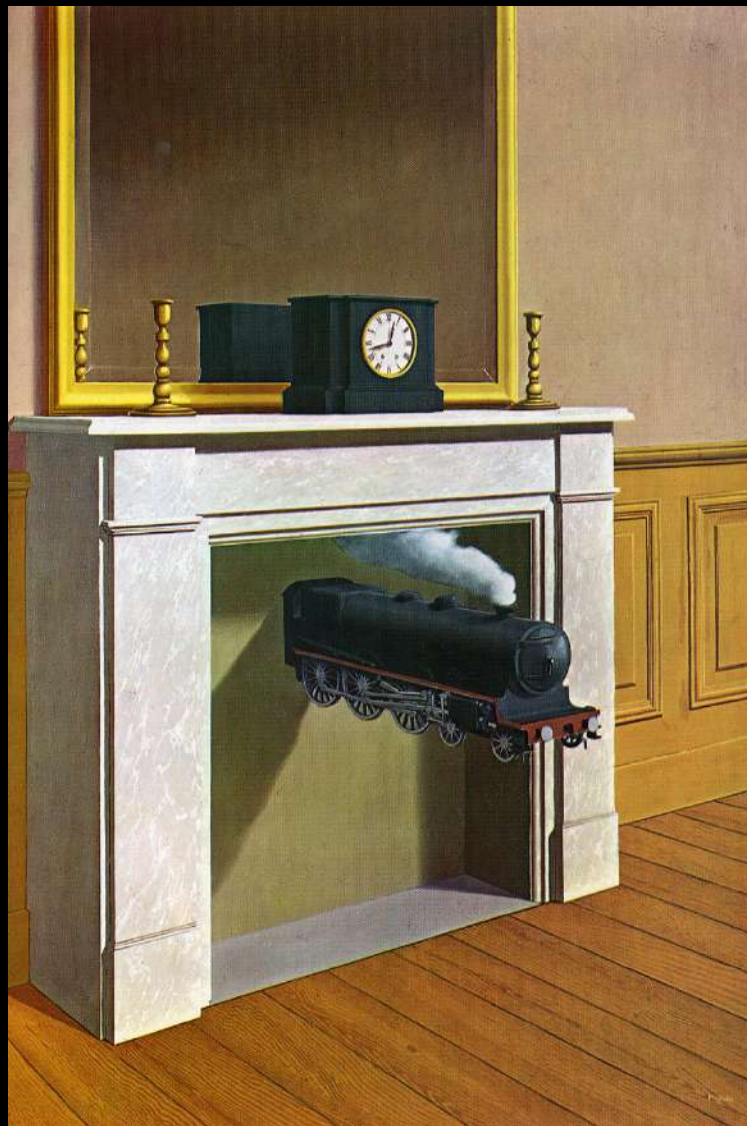
Salvador Dalí
Persistence of Memory 1931



Salvador Dalí
Apparition

Rene Magritte (Belgian)

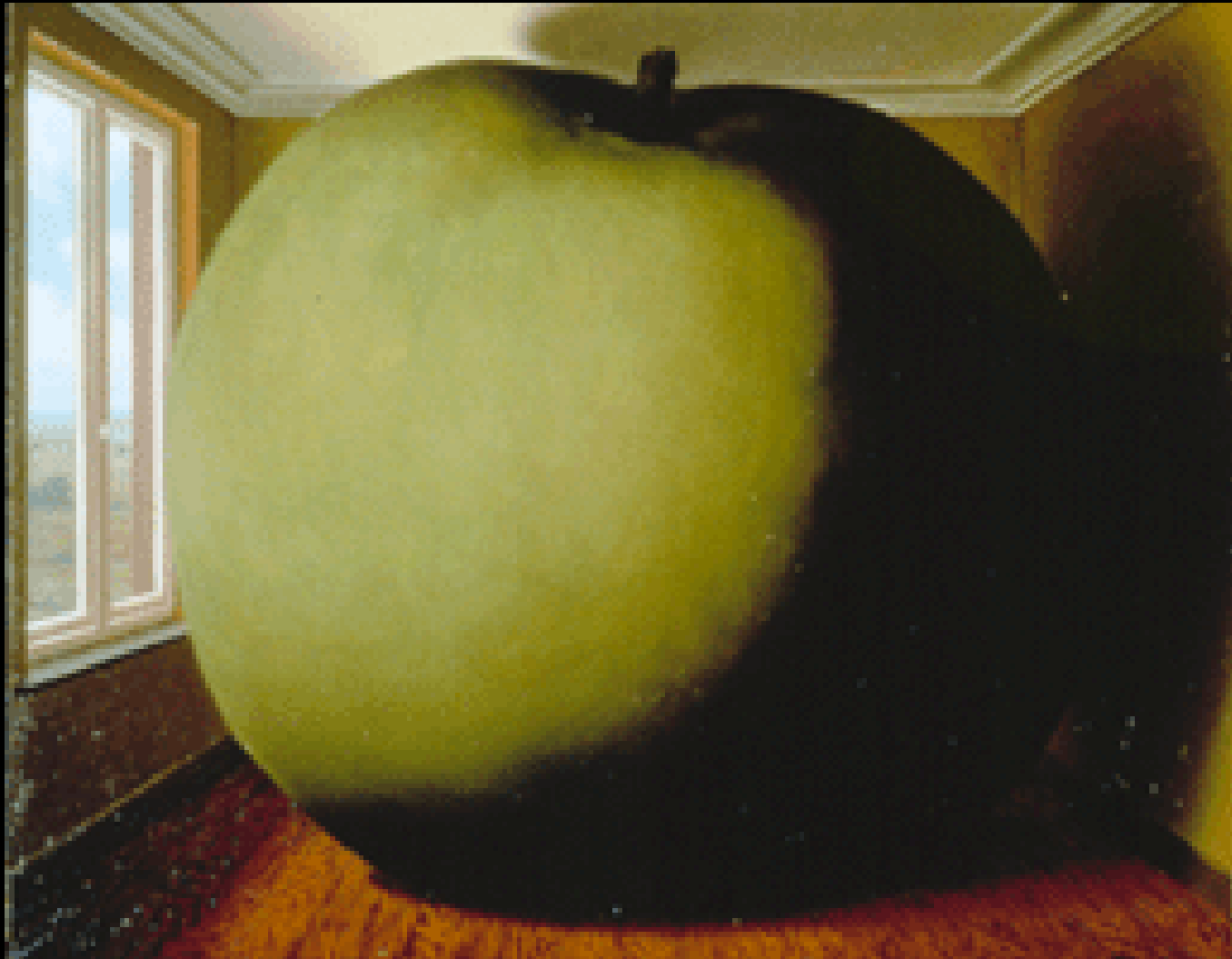




Rene Magritte



René Magritte
Les valeurs personnelles
(Personal Values)
1952



René Magritte
La Chambre d'écoute (The Listening Room)
1952
(impossible scale)

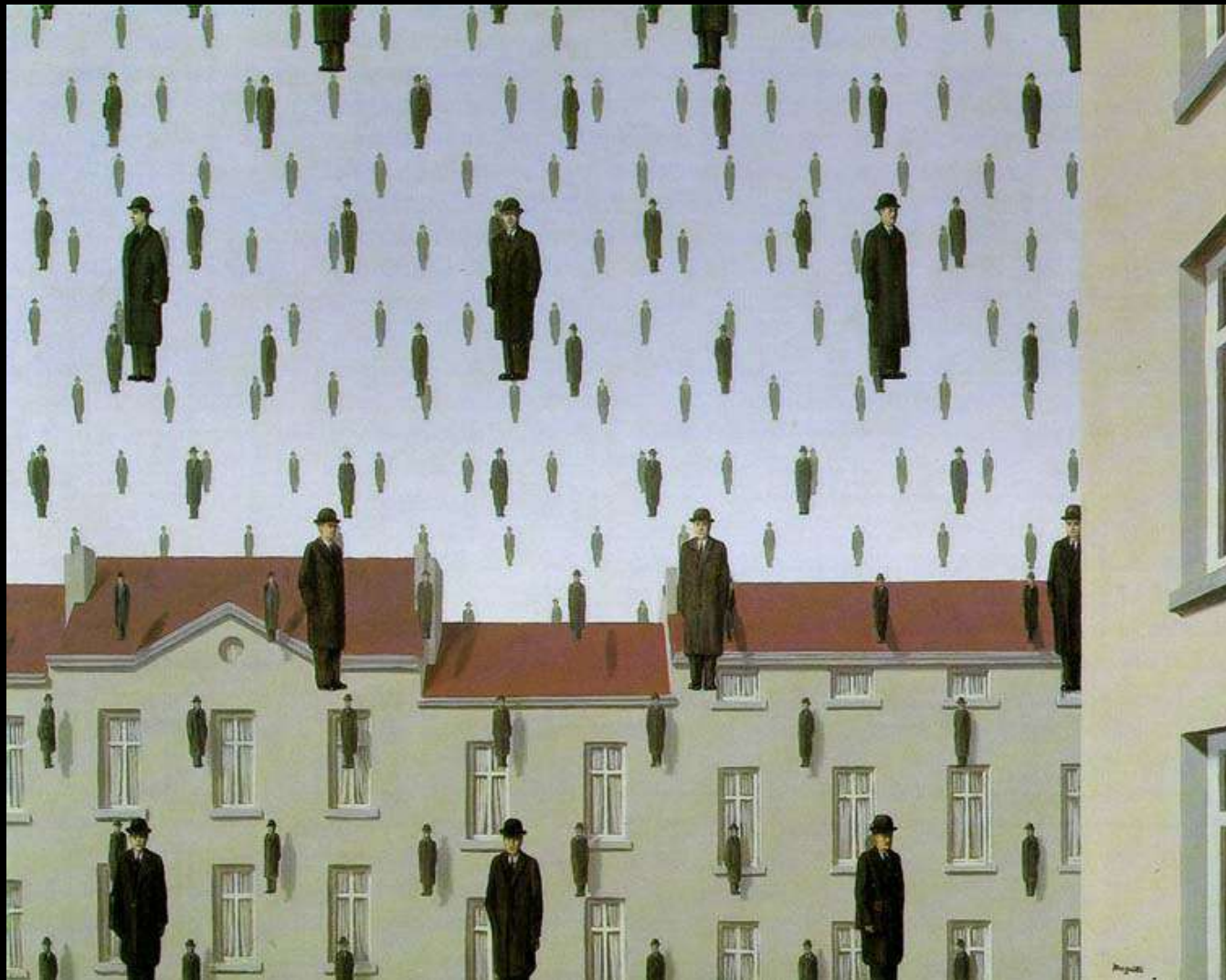


Rene Magritte

Carte Blanche



Rene Magritte
Ceci n'est pas une pipe

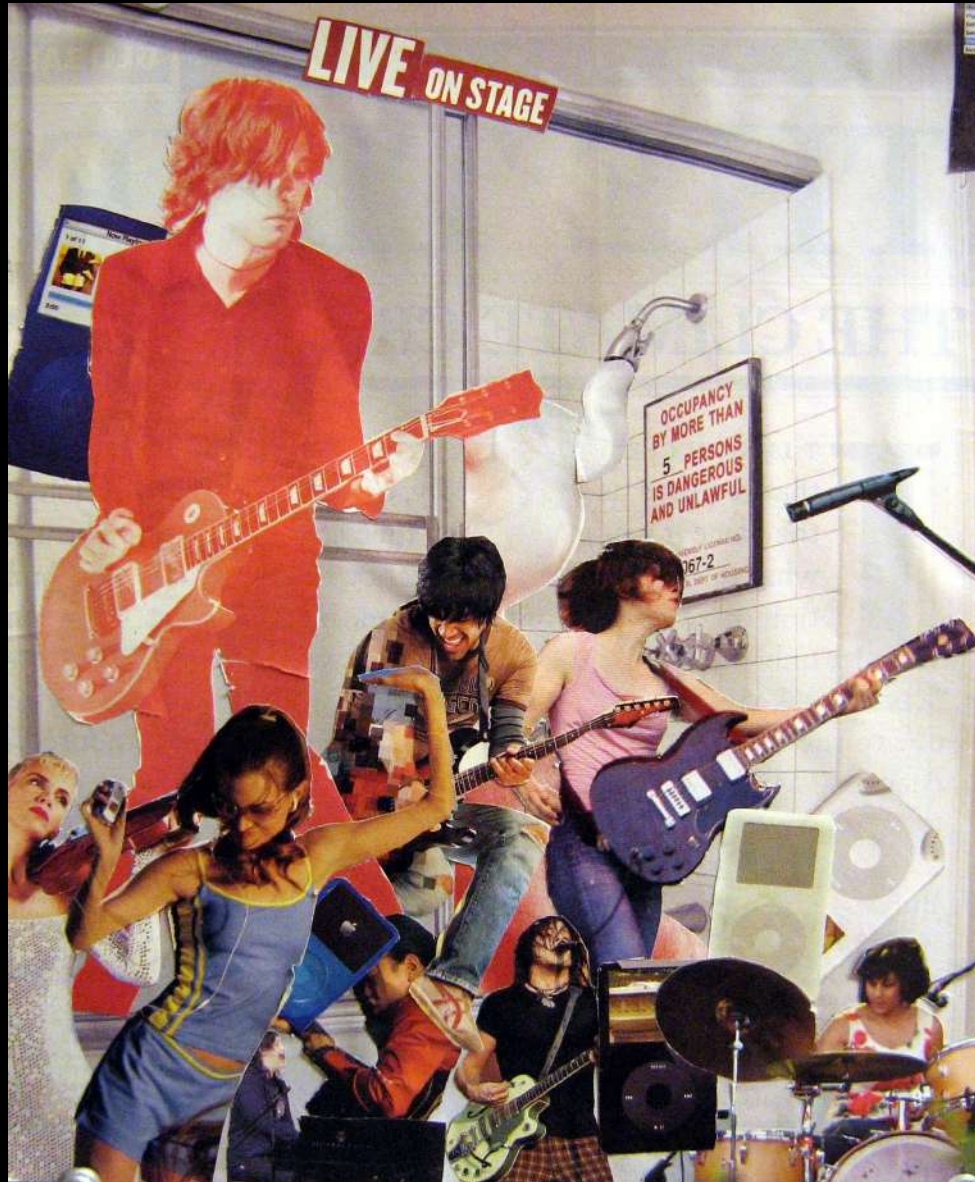


Rene Magritte

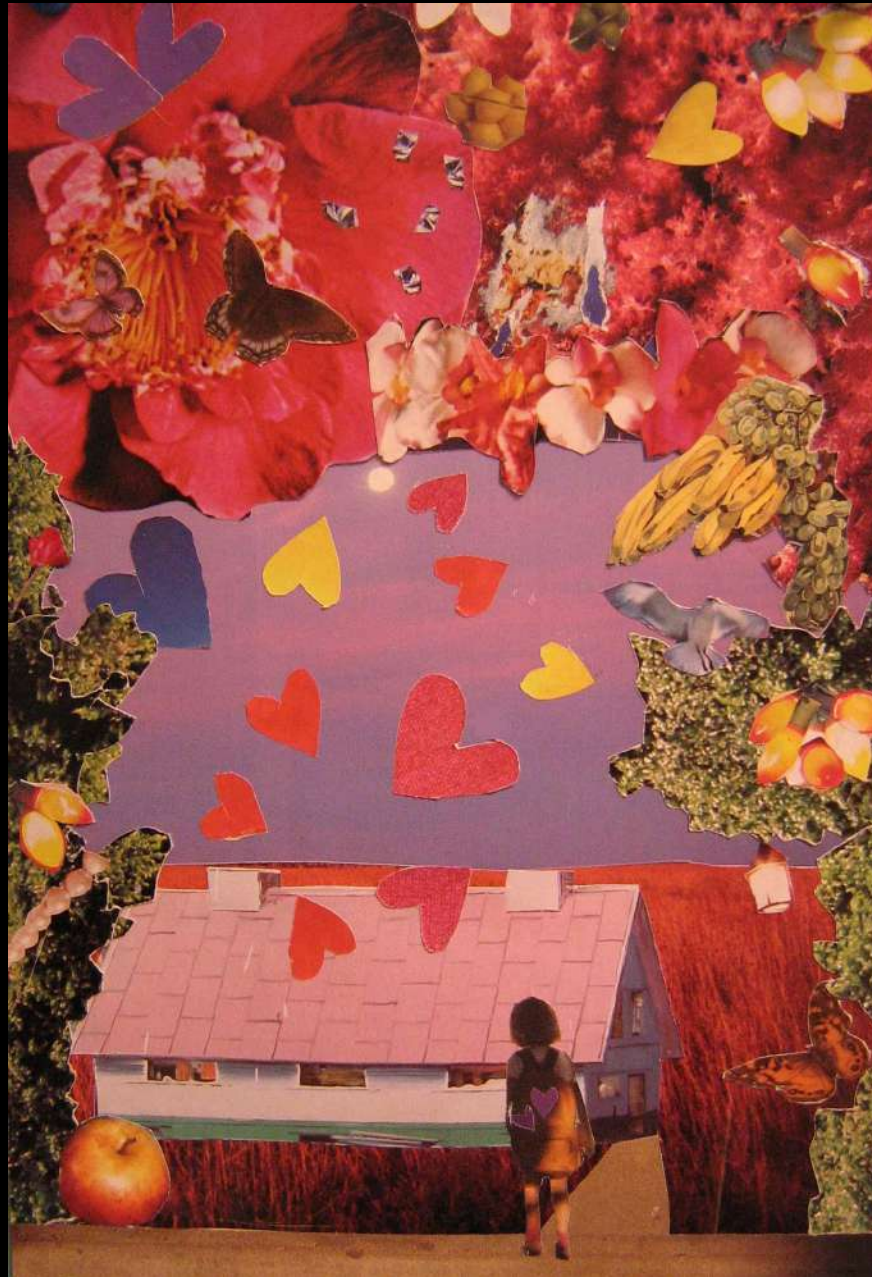
(Reversal of Natural Laws)



Student Example- Alicia



Student Example- Carolyn



Student Example- Lynne



Student Example- Jackie



Student Example- Lisa



Student Example- Alicia



Student Example- Noshin



Student Example- Lisa



Student Example- Renee



Student Example- Stephanie



Student Example- Christina

Ideas for your Surrealist Collage and Painting

a) change the normal scale of objects

(ex: a car the size of a living room or bugs the size of people)

b) turn the accepted order of things upside down

(ex: dogs walking people instead of people walking dogs)

c) mix internal and external space

(ex: trees growing in a kitchen, seeing the inside and outside of an object at the same time)

d) transform one object into another

(ex: a car turning into a fish, an animal turning into a person)

What is your idea? Start with a well thought-out creative idea. Throwing two random things together doesn't necessarily qualify as surreal.

Use QUALITY photographic images from magazines- not cartoons or illustrations.

Avoid images from popular culture such as famous people, name brands and retail products that will distract the viewer.

Cut and glue carefully so all images have smooth edges and there is no visible glue.

Consider background, middle ground and foreground.