

# SURREALISM

What is Surrealis

# Surrealism

1924



Atomica Melancolica (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?**

- **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

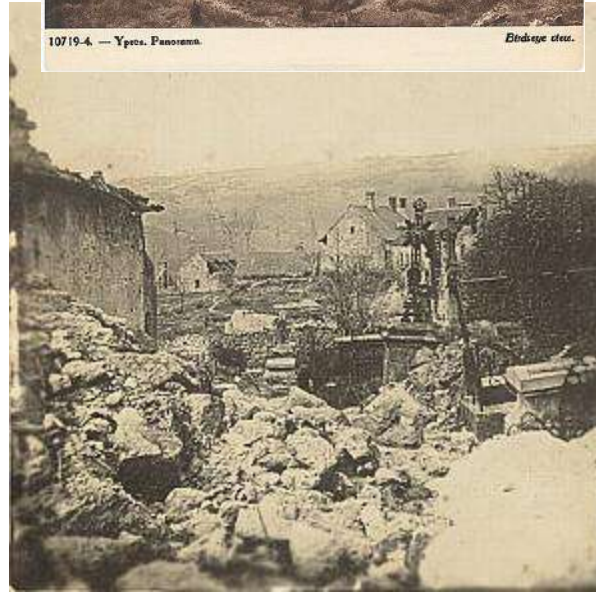


10719-4. — Ypres. Panorama.

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

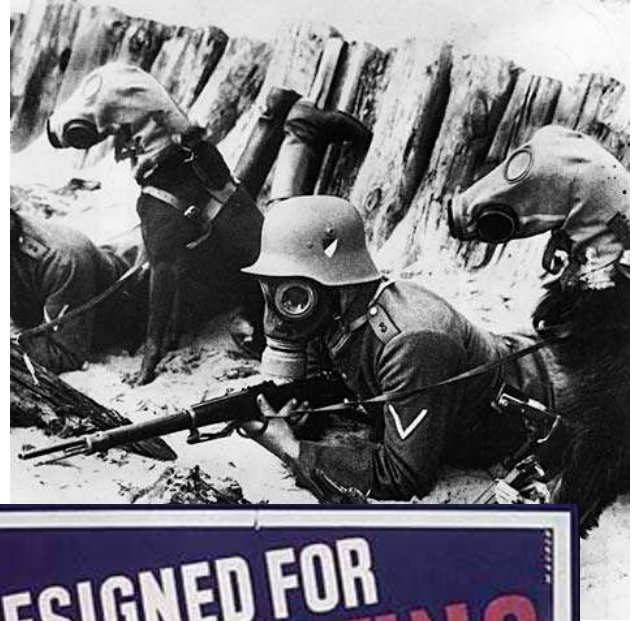
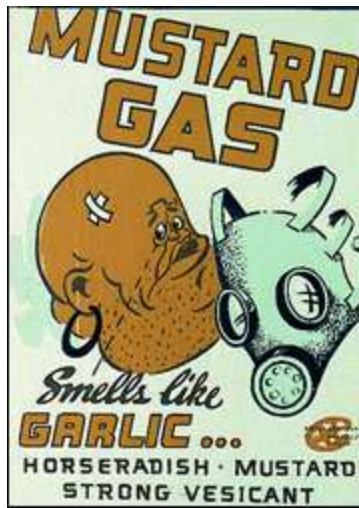


"The logic, science and technology that many thought would bring a better world had gone horribly wrong.

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

(source: Janson)





# Sigmund Freud

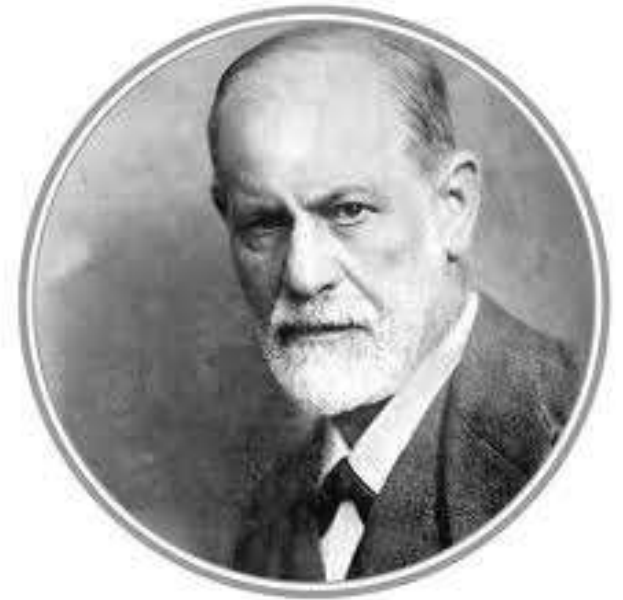
(1856-1939)

- 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."



***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**

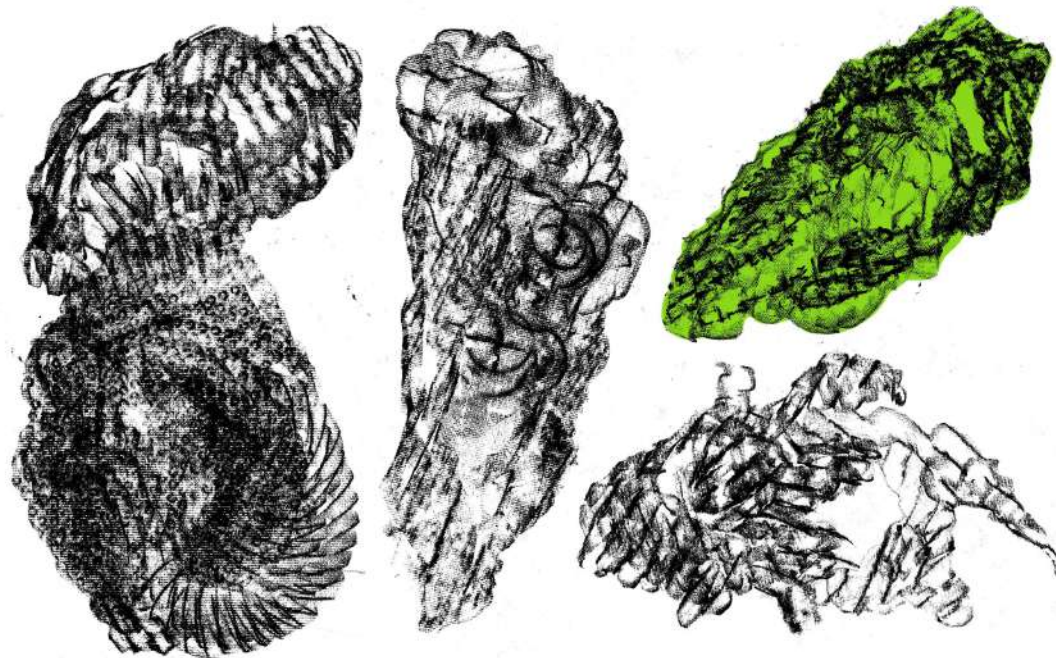
**Man Ray**

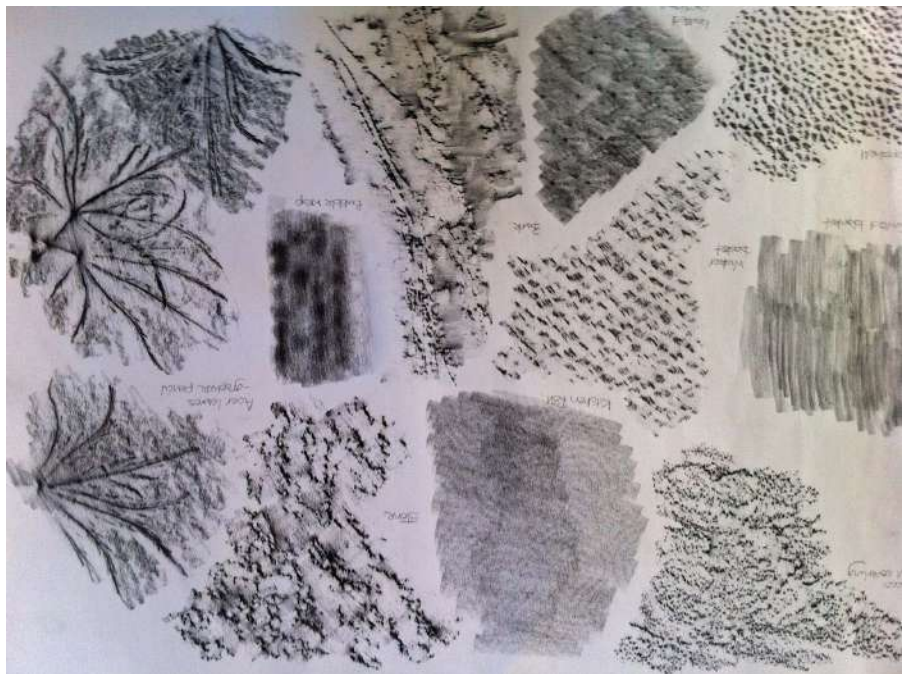
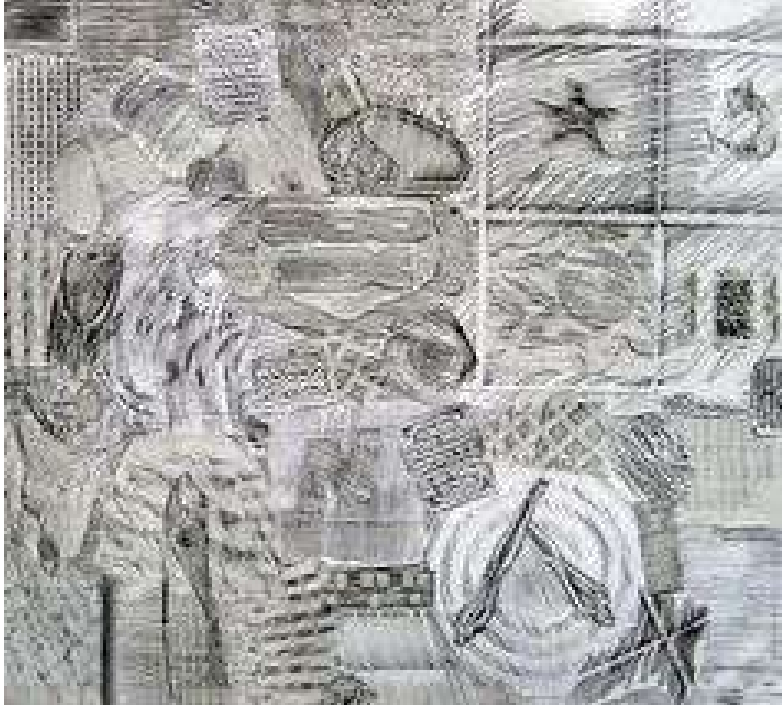
**Rene Magritte**



# “Rubbing” Collage

This is a variation on the "found image" technique of collating. Instead of cutting images out of source material, take a blank piece of paper and a crayon or charcoal and look for interestingly textured surfaces from which to take rubbings. Layer several rubbings on top of each other to create an entirely new image.

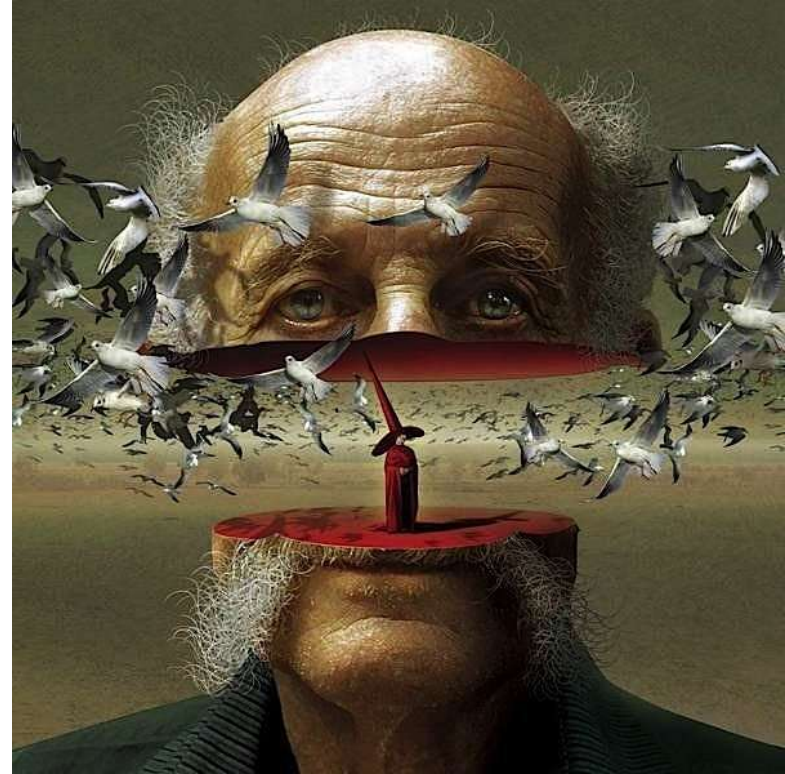




# 8th Grade Do Now

## CRP

1. What do you see?
2. What does it remind you of?
3. How does it make you feel?
4. What questions do you have?
5. What is the artist trying to say?



## Objective:

- Students will be able to learn and understand the purpose of the Surrealist art movement
- Take notes on the presentation
- Students will be able to understand and apply the following terms: levitation, transparency, proportion, transformation, dislocation, juxtaposition, photo-montage

# Salvador Dali

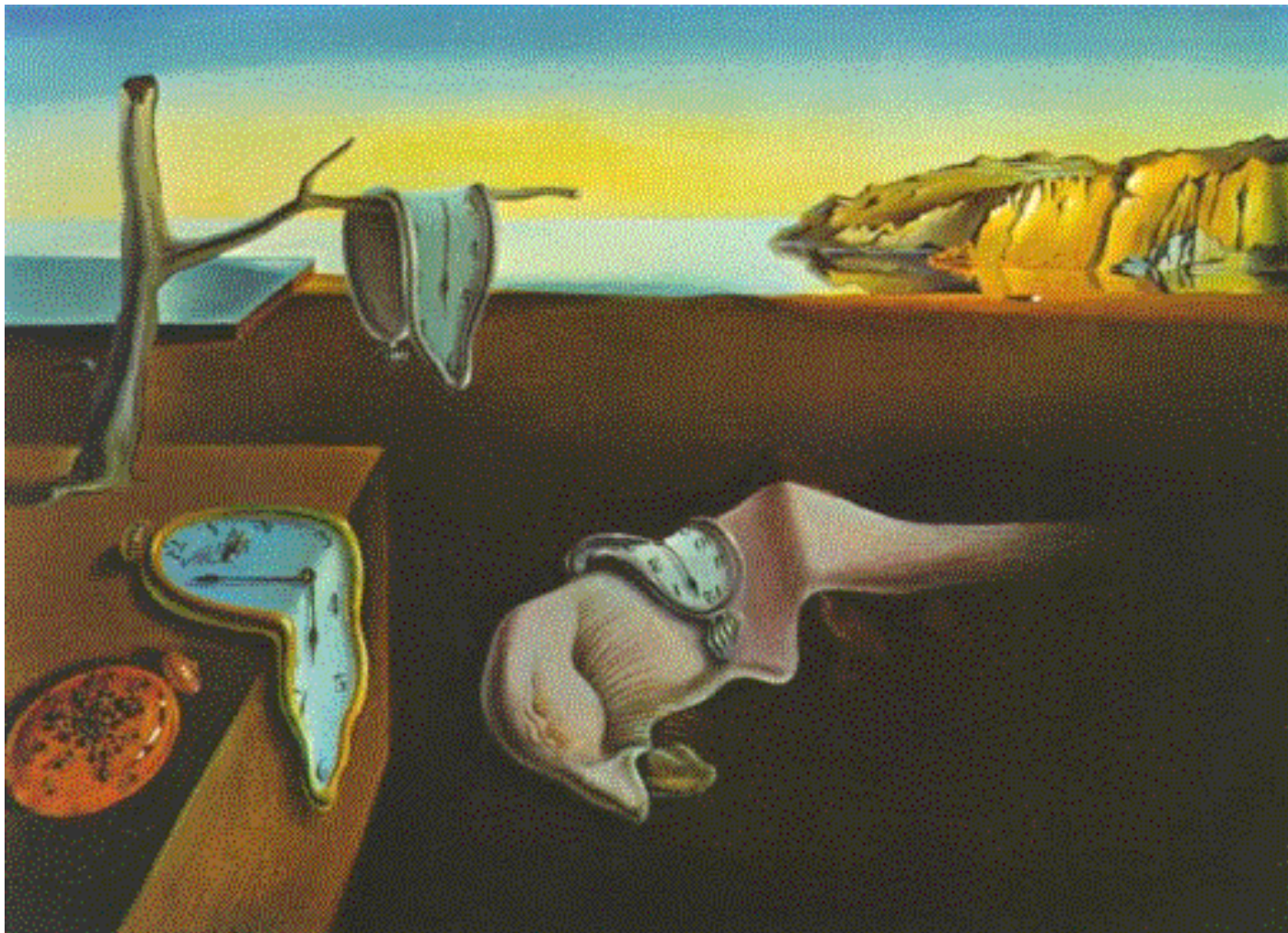
(Spanish, 1904–1989)

- Subconscious mind depicted through bizarre/hallucinatory images
- Paintings: Dreamworld, distorted, metamorphosed and juxtaposed objects
- Best known Surrealist Artist
- Exhibitionist and Eccentric

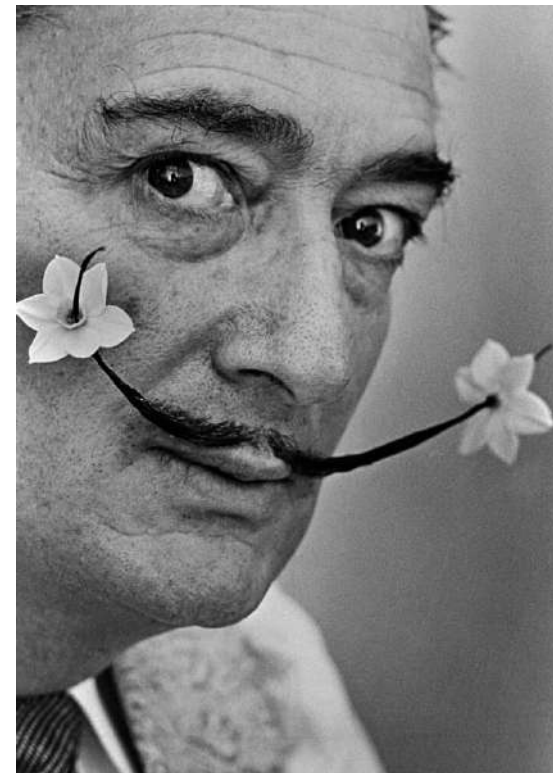
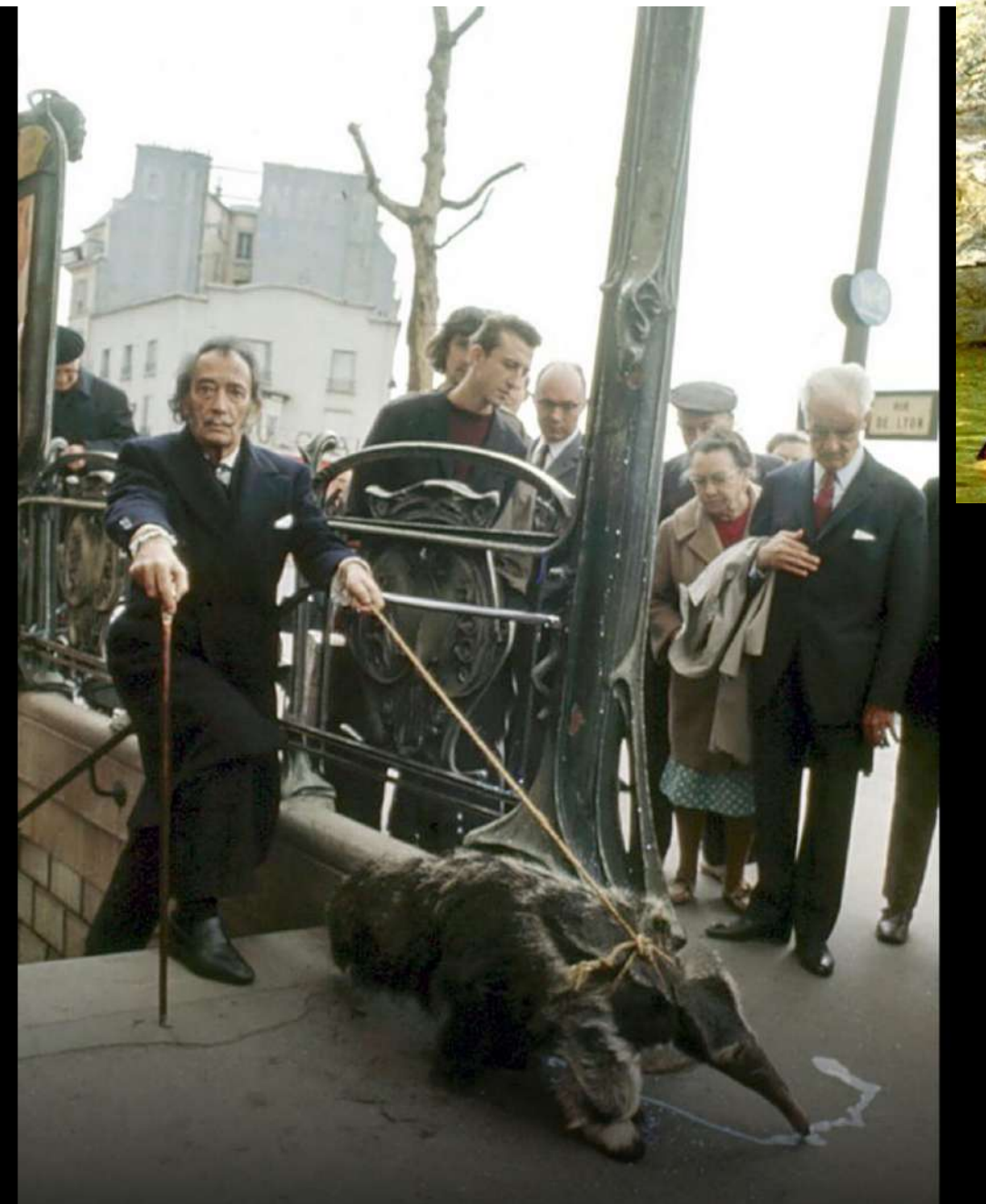




**The Metamorphosis of Narcissus, 1937, Salvador Dali**



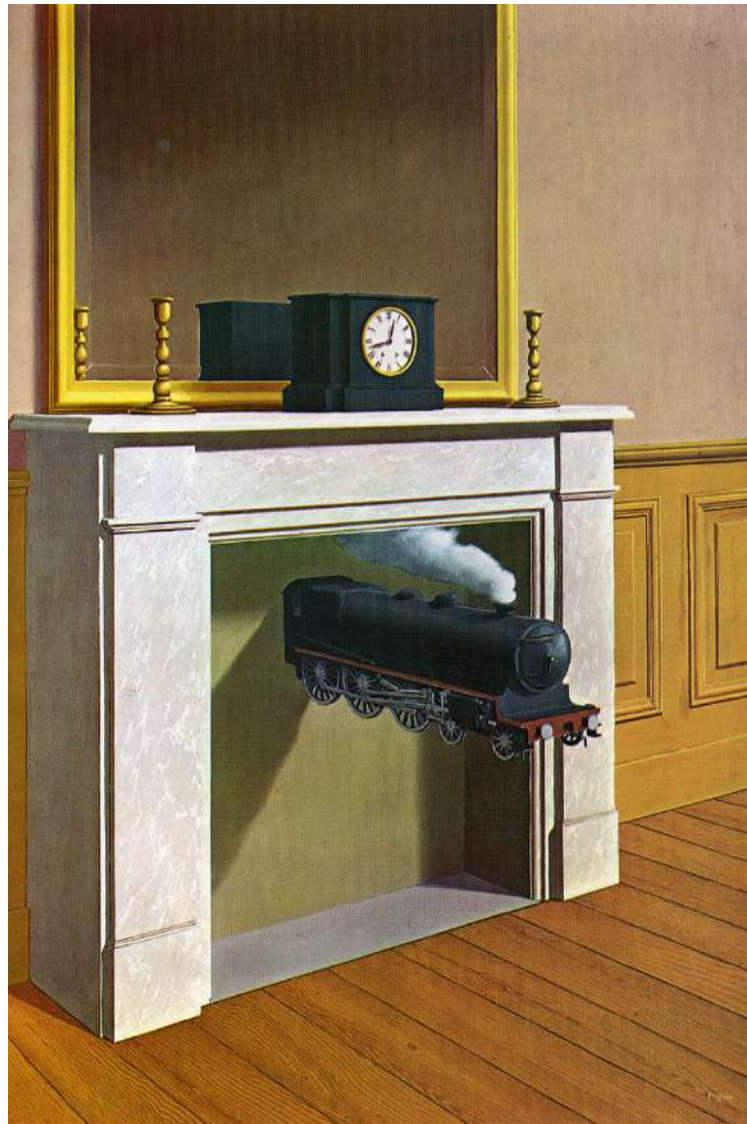
**Salvador Dalí**  
***Persistence of Memory* 1931**



# **Rene Magritte (Belgian) 1898**

- **Many of his works contain what seem like jokes.**
- **He liked the mystery, and he wanted people to think about what they were seeing**
- **He painted normal things not in their normal places alongside other normal things where they would not normally be**





**René Magritte**



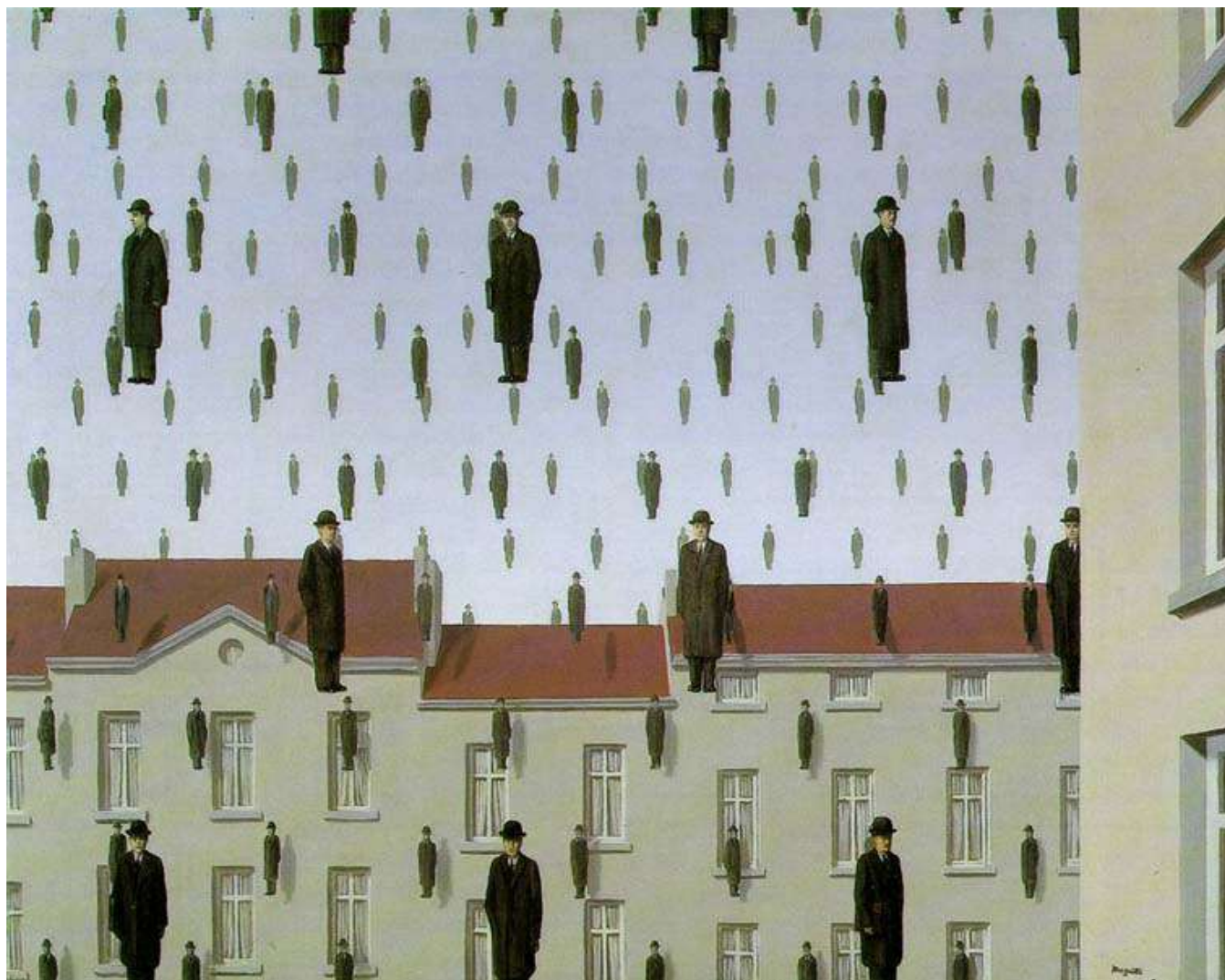
**René Magritte**  
*Les valeurs personnelles*  
(Personal Values)  
1952



**“Carte Blanche,” René Magritte**



**Rene Magritte**  
*Ceci n'est pas une pipe*



**Rene Magritte**  
*(Reversal of Natural Laws)*

# Man Ray 1890

- Spent much of his time fighting the formal constraints of the visual arts.
- Best known in the art world for his avant-garde photography,
- He was also a renowned fashion and portrait photographer.

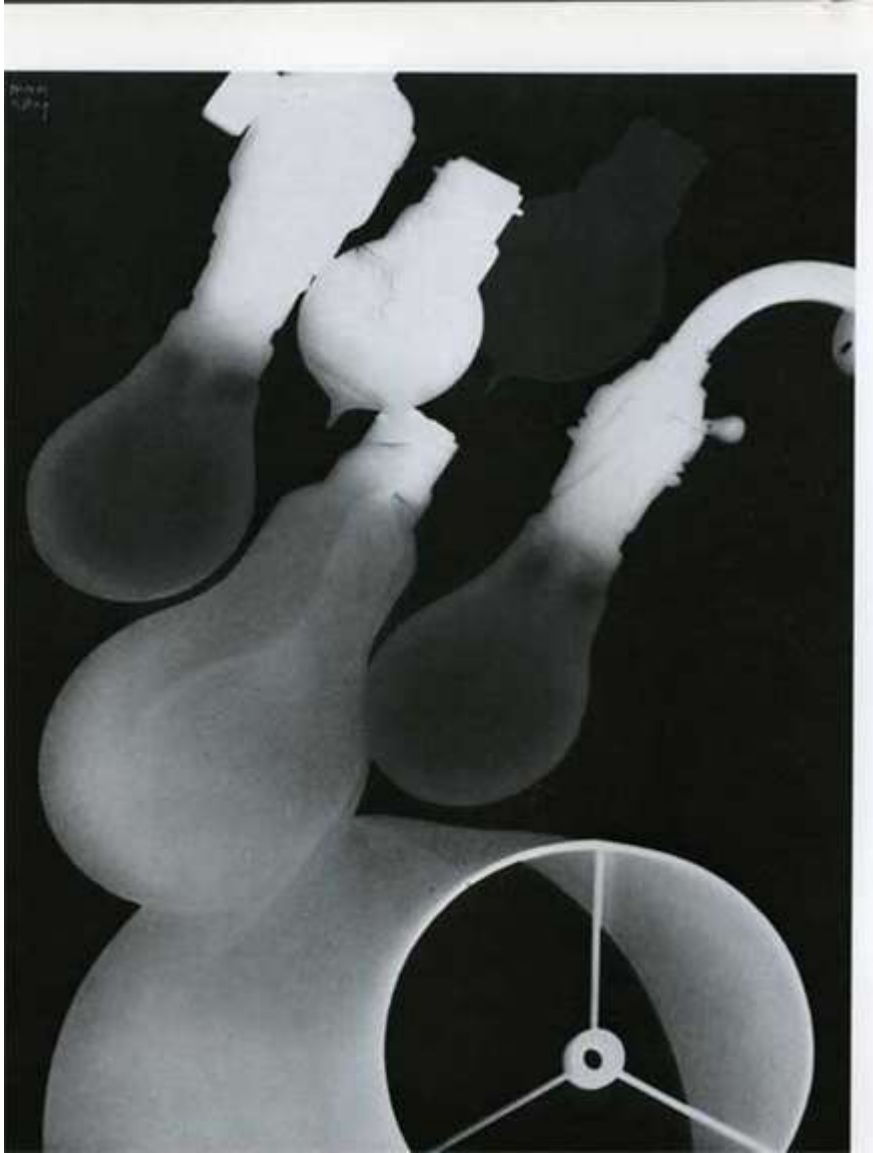




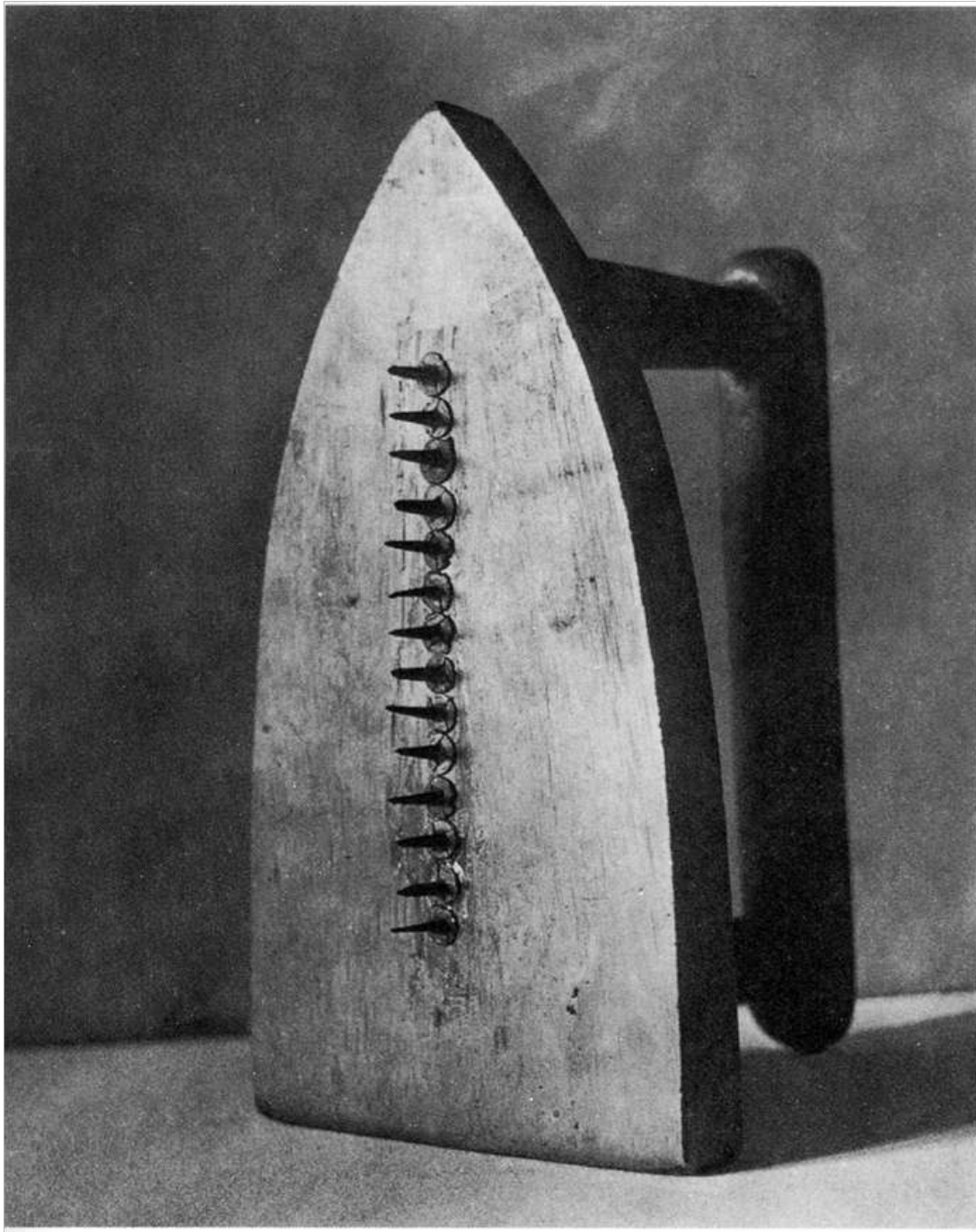
**Man Ray, *Tears* (ca. 1930)**

# Rayographs

- Man Ray had an interest in minimalism and abstraction and he began experiments with what he termed “*Rayographs*”.
- A *Rayograph* was made by placing a three-dimensional object or series of objects on top of a piece of photographic paper and exposing it to light.



**Man Ray**  
***La Maison***  
**(1931)**



**Man Ray**  
***The Gift*, 1921**

# What would Salvador Dali create in 2020?

**What made Dali really stand out during his time was his eccentricity and the fact that he was an influencer. Think about what he would need to do today to stand out. What platform would he use (instagram, tiktok, twitter)? What would he post? Draw it in your sketchbook or take a photo.**



# **Surrealism Dreamscape Project - Photomontage**

•With use of drawing, found images and photos, your will create a surrealistic scene through collage (dreams, memories, fantasy, fiction stories, etc.)



# Vocabulary

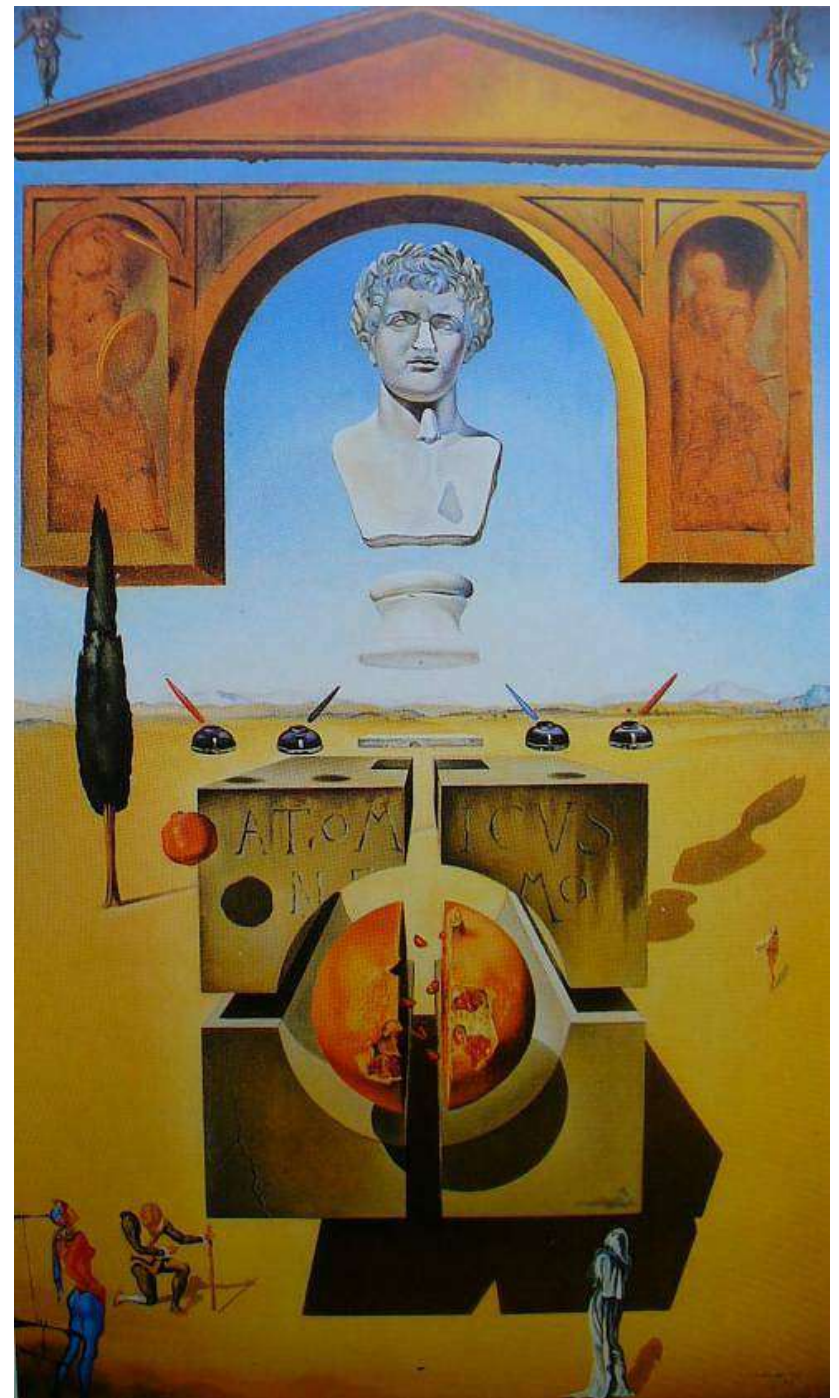
- **Photomontage**
- **Levitation**
- **Transparency**
- **Change in scale**
- **Transformation**
- **Dislocation**
- **Juxtaposition**

**Photomontage-** creating a new image by cutting, gluing, rearranging and overlapping two or more photographs/ images into a new image.



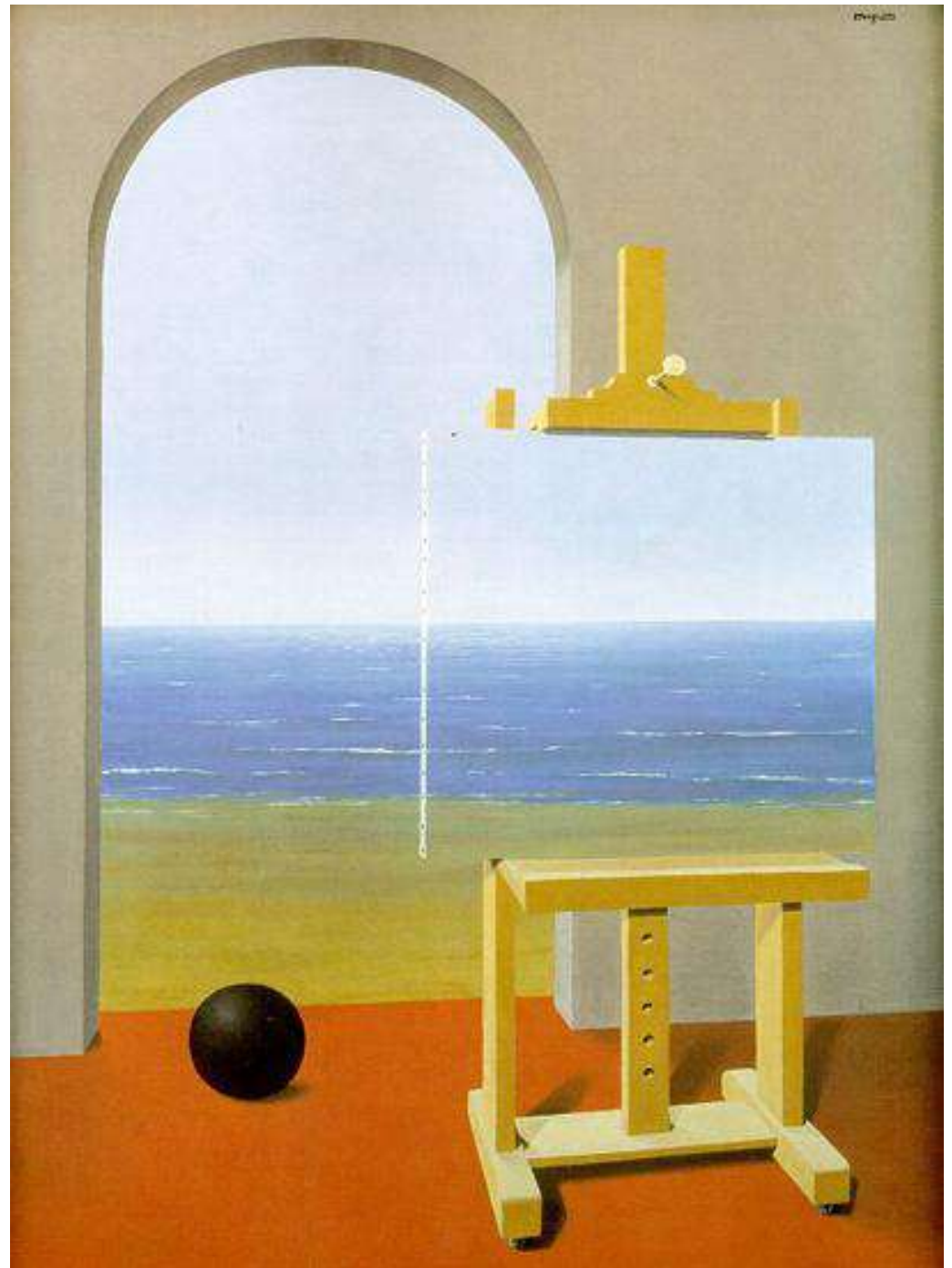
# Levitation: Floating

*Dematerialization near the nose  
of Nero. 1947.*



**Transparency:  
“see through”**

**Rene Magritte, *The human condition***



Change in scale: making something unusually large or small for the setting



**Transformation: change; altering the appearance**



**Salvador Dali, *The persistence of memory***

Dislocation:  
Placing  
something in an  
unexpected  
place

Rene Magritte, *Time transfixed*.  
1938.



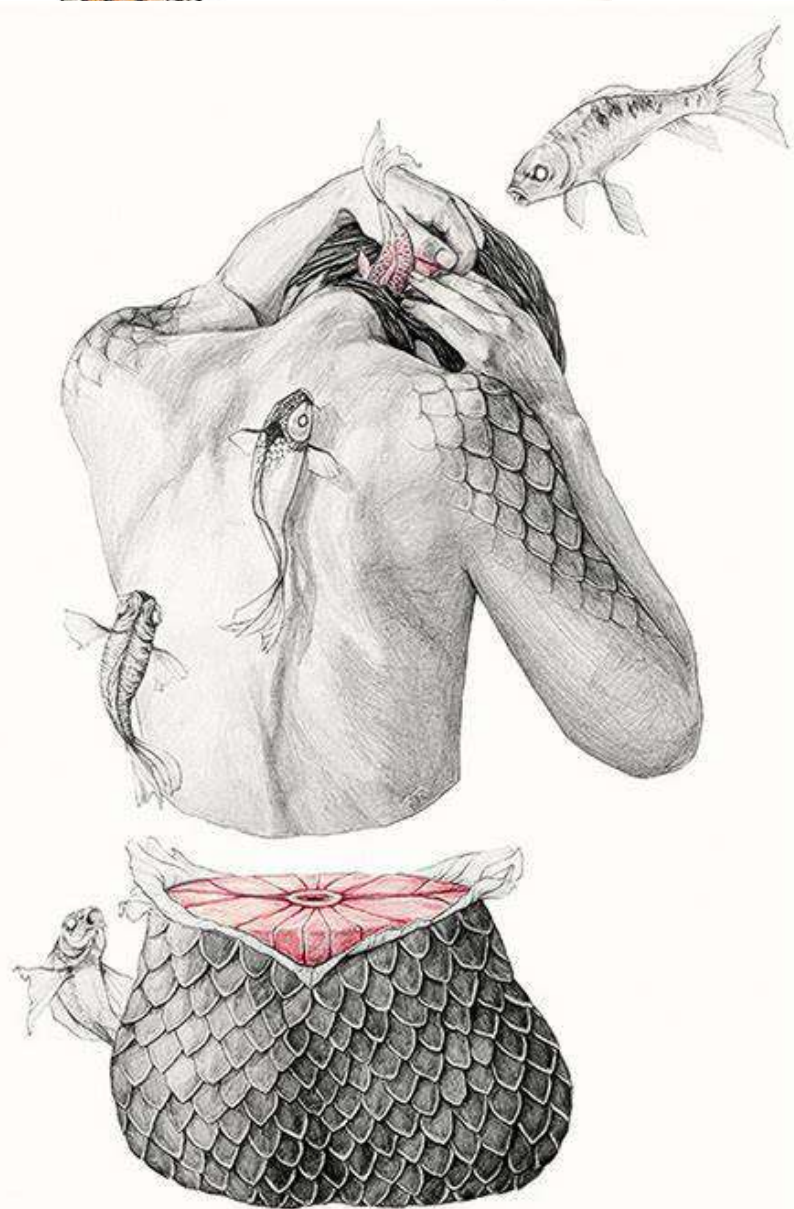
Juxtaposition:  
putting things  
together in  
unusual  
combinations

Frida Kahlo. *My dress  
hangs there.* 1933.



# Contemporary Dreamscape Examples

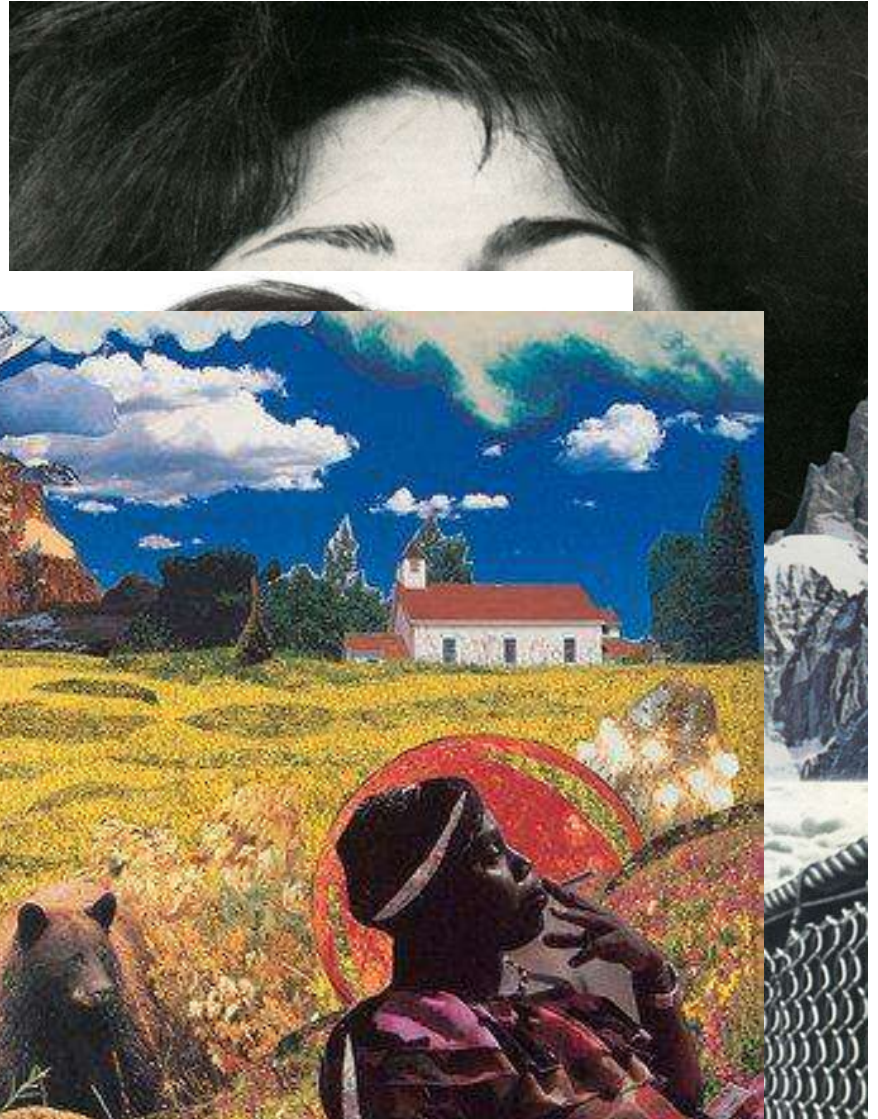




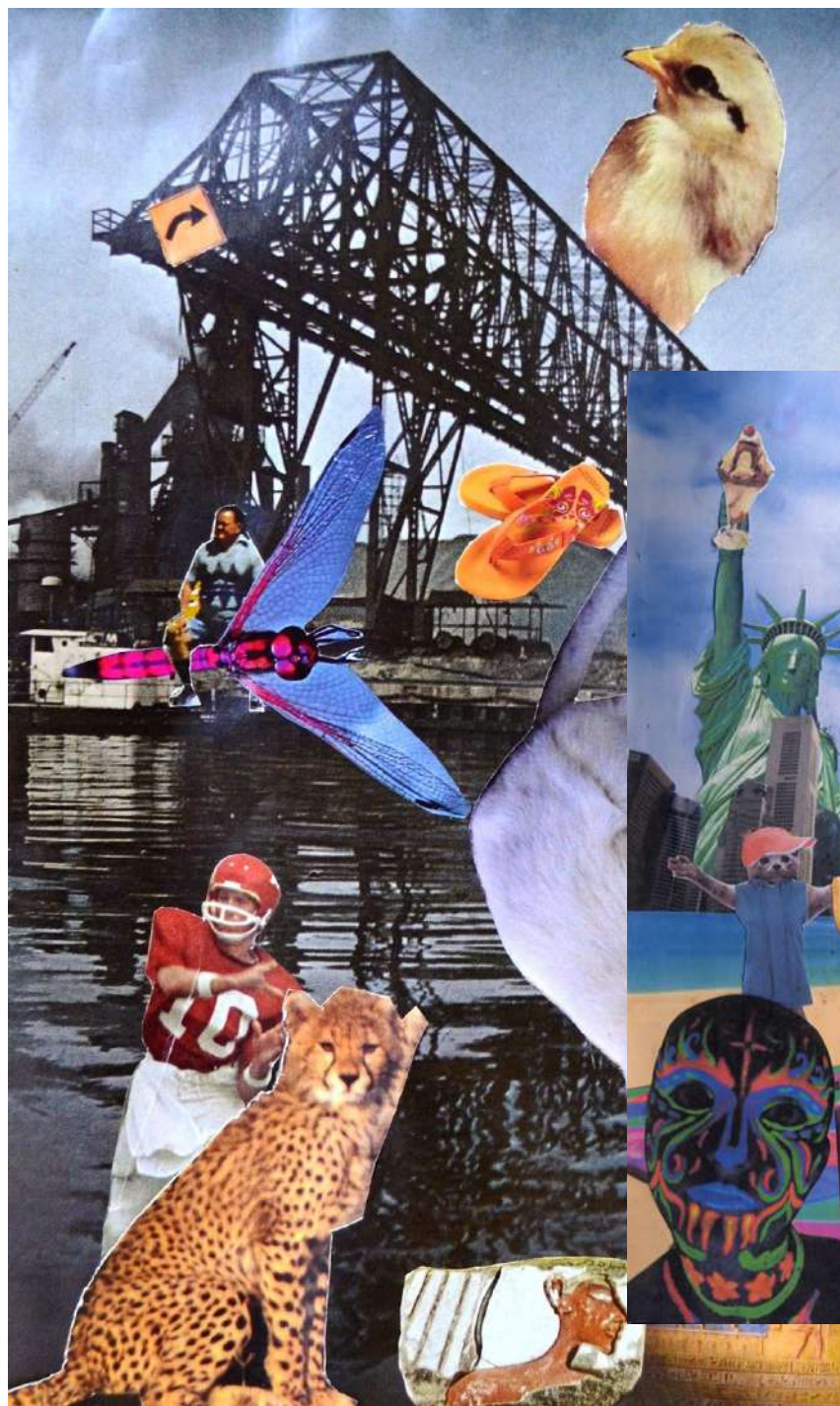
Julia Mnuskin



# Surrealist Photomontage

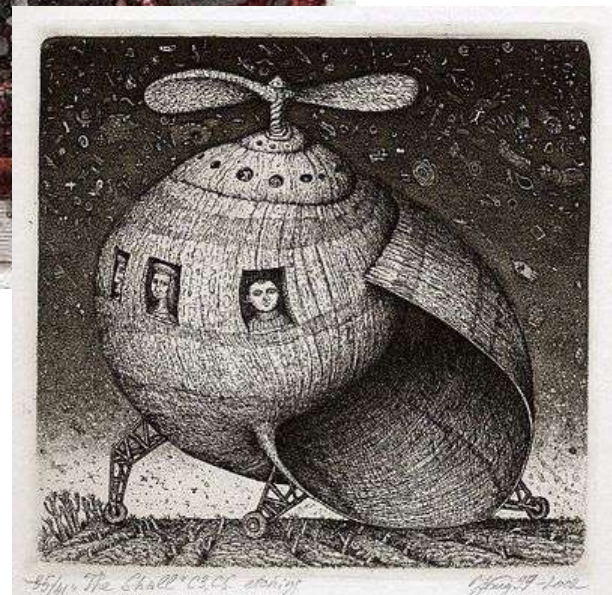


**Photomontage that doesn't work**





© 2008 paula rosa



45/111 The Shell + C.C.C. coming

1/11/11





# Surrealism Project

- 8x10" paper
- Interesting textures and Contrast
- Prep
  - 5 found images
  - 5 photographs (taken by you)
  - Drawn element
- Composition (include 2 of the following)
  - Levitation
  - Transparency
  - Change in scale
  - Transformation
  - Dislocation
  - Juxtaposition

## **Your Grade is based on...**

- ❖ *All values on the value scale*
- ❖ *Attention to quality and details*
- ❖ *Evidence of all criteria*
- ❖ *Complete by listed deadlines*

# Gathering images

What you will be doing: Taking at least 5 photos of your own and finding at least 5 images

What you will need: a phone or camera to take pictures, access to the internet, or magazines

How you will do it:

1. Think about normal objects or places that you could make interesting (apple, a mask, toilet paper roll, your backyard, a bustopetc)
2. Take pictures of 5 different objects or scenes
3. Look online or in magazines to find 5 images that could be placed next to or within your photo to make it more interesting. (example: large flowers usually aren't seen growing at a bus stop)
4. Create a google folder in your drive to keep your images - label folder with first and last name + dreamscape images

When you are finished: Begin planning ideas to put the images together - Images are due on Monday 9/29