



Objective: To explore the surrealist movement and their techniques.

A) Introduction:

Today we are going to talk about Surrealism. Imagine a person with butterflies for eyes, or a flower the size of a desert. These dreamlike visions were known to unlocked the power of the imagination. A surrealist believed that the part of the mind that could react or sense without knowing was the only part that could truly reveal the most imaginative things. Surrealism art would never copy reality, the imagination would think up impossible scenes by combining objects or events in unexpected places.

(If the vocabulary words have been provided on poster boards, refer to them here. Otherwise, write the words on the board before you start the discussion on vocabulary)

B) Vocabulary:

- **Surrealism:** An art movement and a literary movement that was based on images from dreams and the subconscious mind. The actual definition of Surrealism is “more art than real.” Surrealism is an art movement that was started in Paris in 1924. The movement was inspired by Sigmund Freud who was a psychologist that interpreted dreams and felt that people were motivated by their unconscious mind. It was an art movement that expressed dream and fantasy worlds. Surrealistic artists expressed themselves in two different styles. Some used abstract art or cubism and others used realism with the images juxtaposed in unusual ways.
- **Surrealistic artists** believed that artists shouldn’t copy reality. Some artists painted directly from dreams while others created impossible scenes by combining objects or events that had nothing to do with one another. They put everyday objects in unexpected places and mixed together very different ideas and images.
- **Surrealistic art** was full of surprises and contradicted our idea of reality. Surrealist artists thought up a whole new way of looking at things. They painted mostly what they remembered from their dreams or anything that popped in their minds. The surrealists hoped their strange works of art would make people think and discover feelings they never knew they had and show them a new way of looking at things.
- **Movement:** A style or period of art usually created when a group of artists get together.
- **Sigmund Freud:** A psychologist that influenced the surrealists. He claimed that people did things because of what was hidden in the unconscious mind.
- **Unconscious:** A part of your brain that senses or reacts without you knowing.
- **Juxtaposition:** An artistic device of combining common, everyday objects in unusual or unexpected ways.
- **Realism:** A piece of art that is drawn realistically; the way it really is, not how it is in your dreams or imagination.
- **Abstract Art:** Art that does not represent scenes, objects or figures from the real world. Abstract artist use geometric shapes and lines as well as bold colors.



Vocabulary (Con't)

- **Cubism:** An art movement in which artists made paintings and collages showing a distorted (altered) view of reality by using geometric shapes such as cubes, cylinders and cones.
- **Symbolic:** An image that suggests something else. For example, we associate the symbol of a heart with the idea of love.
- **Collage:** A combination of materials, such as paper, fabric and photos mounted on a background.

C) Artwork:

Title: *Time Transfixed, 1938*

Artist: Rene Magritte; Details: Painting on Canvas

- This work of art is considered traditional. He painted realistically using ordinary objects with simple shapes and colors.
- This artist had several favorite subjects to create with, steam trains, derby hats, umbrellas and fruit. He would often change the scale of the subjects in relation to the things around them or by placing them in impossible settings. What elements in this paintings seem surreal or not real?
- Magritte created strange combinations of objects in his paintings that sometimes seemed funny, surprising or even frightening. He wanted you to think about his paintings and enter a mysterious, magical world.
- His paintings show an interest in everyday life, but it is a world in which strange and unusual things happen.
- Magritte did not paint in an art studio. He painted in his dining room and usually wore a suit while he worked.

Title: *Soft Watch at the Moment of First Explosion, 1954*

Artist: Salvador Dali; Details: Painting on Canvas

- Salvador Dali was the most famous of all the surrealist artists. His paintings are filled with mysterious objects or familiar objects that have been oddly changed. What do you see in this painting? Many of his paintings are from his dreams so are hard to understand.
- Dali was fascinated by the idea of seeing two different pictures in one painting. Do you see two pictures in this painting?
- Dali, the man was almost as famous as his paintings. He was very flashy and did things for attention like arriving at an event in a limousine filled with cauliflower or giving a lecture about his art while wearing a deep-sea diving suit! Besides being a painter, Dali was also a film maker, writer,
- designer of clothes, fancy perfume bottles and ads for magazines. He even worked in Hollywood with Walt Disney.

Reinforcement Activity



Materials provided:
paper with drawing of an eye

Children provide: color pencils, markers,
crayons

Give each student a drawing of an eye. Instruct them to add color to the entire picture, but have them concentrate on adding something within the cornea/pupil of the eye. An object, pattern, anything that would take this realistic drawing of any eye and transform it into a surrealist piece of art.

Ideas to Provided if Needed:

- Basketball
- Wheel of a Bike
- Clock
- Pattern or Design
- Bullseye
- Baseball
- Soccer ball
- Clouds
- Flower
- Ferris Wheel
- Penny
- Rainbow
- Mountain
- Forest