



Do Now:

What do some of the objects in the painting look like to you?

For example, what does that large cone shaped object in the back look like? How about the tan shape down on the bottom of the painting?

Yves Tanguy, *The Extinction of Useless Lights*, Surrealism



Yves Tanguy, *The Extinction of Useless Lights*, Surrealism

What if you were told that Yves Tanguy spent a lot of his time by the seashore or the Brittany coast? Does that change how you look at this painting?

Many of his works take on the feel of an empty underwater world, of foreign objects, at immense depths.

Surrealism

Developed by Andre Breton – 20th Century

Based on the work of Freud and his theories of the subconscious...

There are two types of Surrealist work:

- A style using amorphous shapes (Like Joan Miro)
- A style with realistic landscapes/backgrounds with fantasy-like imagery and subject matter (Like Salvador Dali)
- Major Artists: Joan Miro, Salvador Dali, Yves Tanguy, Renee Magritte.

Joan Miro

- Miro was a Spanish artist (1893-1983).
- Some of Miro's paintings include unreal, imaginative figures such as in Carnival of Harlequin (shown next).
- Other works are flat areas of color and shapes which stem from Miro's imagination.

Joan Miro, Carnival of Harlequin, 1924



What do you see?

Can you spot a dragonfly with blue and yellow wings?

Can you find a blue and red circle with a mustache?



Joan Miro, Woman and Bird in the Moonlight, 1949, Surrealism

- This is another style Miro developed where he uses flat shapes and colors which look vaguely like real life objects...much less recognizable compared to Carnival of Harlequin.

Salvador Dali



Salvador Dali was a Spanish Surrealist artist whose works mainly had realistic looking backgrounds and objects that are modeled in light and shadow (look three-dimensional), but have some dream-like, nightmarish, aspect about them.

Dali met the Surrealists through his friend, Joan Miro.

Salvador Dali, Persistence of Memory, 1931



Why is
this work
dream
like?

Renee Magritte



- Belgian Surrealist Artist
- Magritte's works are a little more subtle about their fantasy like nature. He concentrated more on how we read paintings/images.
- If you have to do a slow take as to what's wrong with the image, or what's different, it is probably Magritte.
- This is in contrast to Dali, who is very Nightmarish and upfront with his images.



Rene Magritte, *Not to be Reproduced*, 1937.

What makes this work by Rene Magritte, Surreal?

If you did not notice the subtlety of the image right away, that is a sign of the work being by Magritte!

Rene Magritte, *The Empire of Lights*, 1954



- How does this work fit into the Surrealist style of art?
- How does it fit into Magritte's style of Surrealist painting?

Time for a Quick Quiz!

- Look at the following works which you have not seen before.
- Using your notes, which artist (Salvador Dali, Yves Tanguy, Rene Magritte, Joan Miro) do you think made each work? Try to have one good reason for your answer.

Who could have created this work?





If you said,
Joan Miro,
you're right!

Notice the flat
shapes and
more vivid
colors. Notice
how the
shapes kind
of look like
real objects
but not really.

Who could have created this work?





If you said, Salvador Dali, you're right!

Notice the realistically looking objects, but with a dreamlike, nightmare like quality to them.

The objects are set in a realistic looking landscape, with light and shadow clearly visible.

Who could have created this work?





If you said, Rene Magritte, you're right!

Who can explain why this is a work by Magritte?

Hint: Look at the "rain"



Who could
have created
this work?



If you said, Yves,
Tanguy, you're
right!

Tanguy created
scenes that look
like you are
underwater, with
different three-
dimensional
looking forms.