

Beyond Reality: Mixed Media Surrealist Art

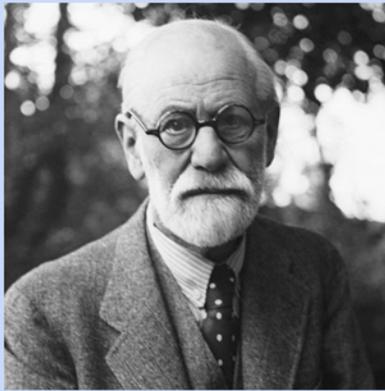


Surrealism

- An literary, philosophical, and artistic movement founded by poet André Breton in Paris in 1924.
- Its goal was to liberate thought, language, and human experience from the rational order of the society.

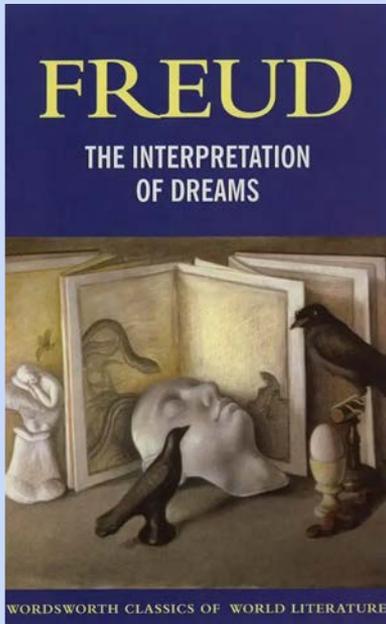


It's about challenging the norms and finding beauty in the unexpected, uncanny and unconventional.



Sigmund Freud

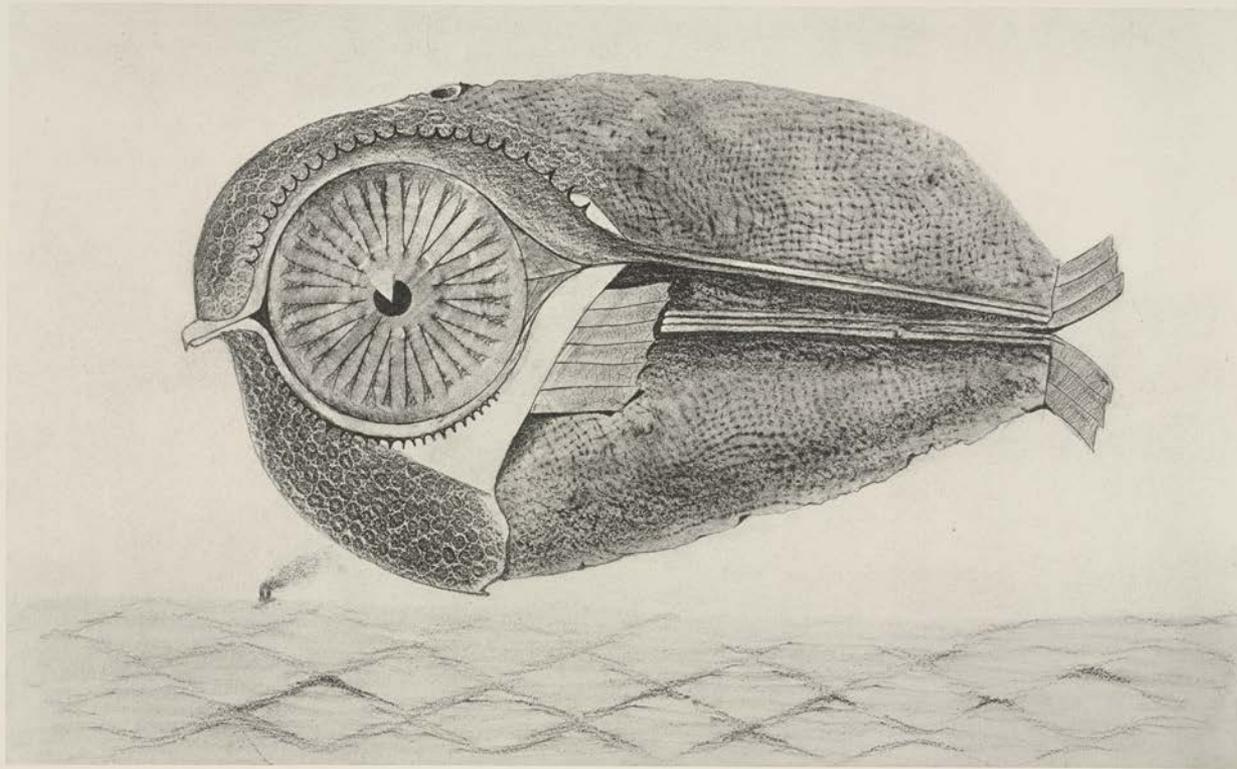
- Sigmund Freud was an Austrian neurologist and the founder of psychoanalysis. His ideas and theories had a huge impact in the surrealist movement.
- His book, “The interpretation of Dreams,” is very important to the surrealists, who were inspired by Freud’s idea that **dreams could reveal hidden meanings about our inner desires and conflicts.**
- They began to incorporate some of Freud’s techniques (and invent their own) to delve into their own dreams and unconscious mind, as a way to stimulate their writings and art creations.





One of the techniques is called **Automatism**. In automatic drawing/writing, you would suppress your conscious control over the making process and let your unconscious mind take over.

André Masson.
Automatic Drawing. (1924)



The Fugitive from
Natural History
(1926)

Max Ernst

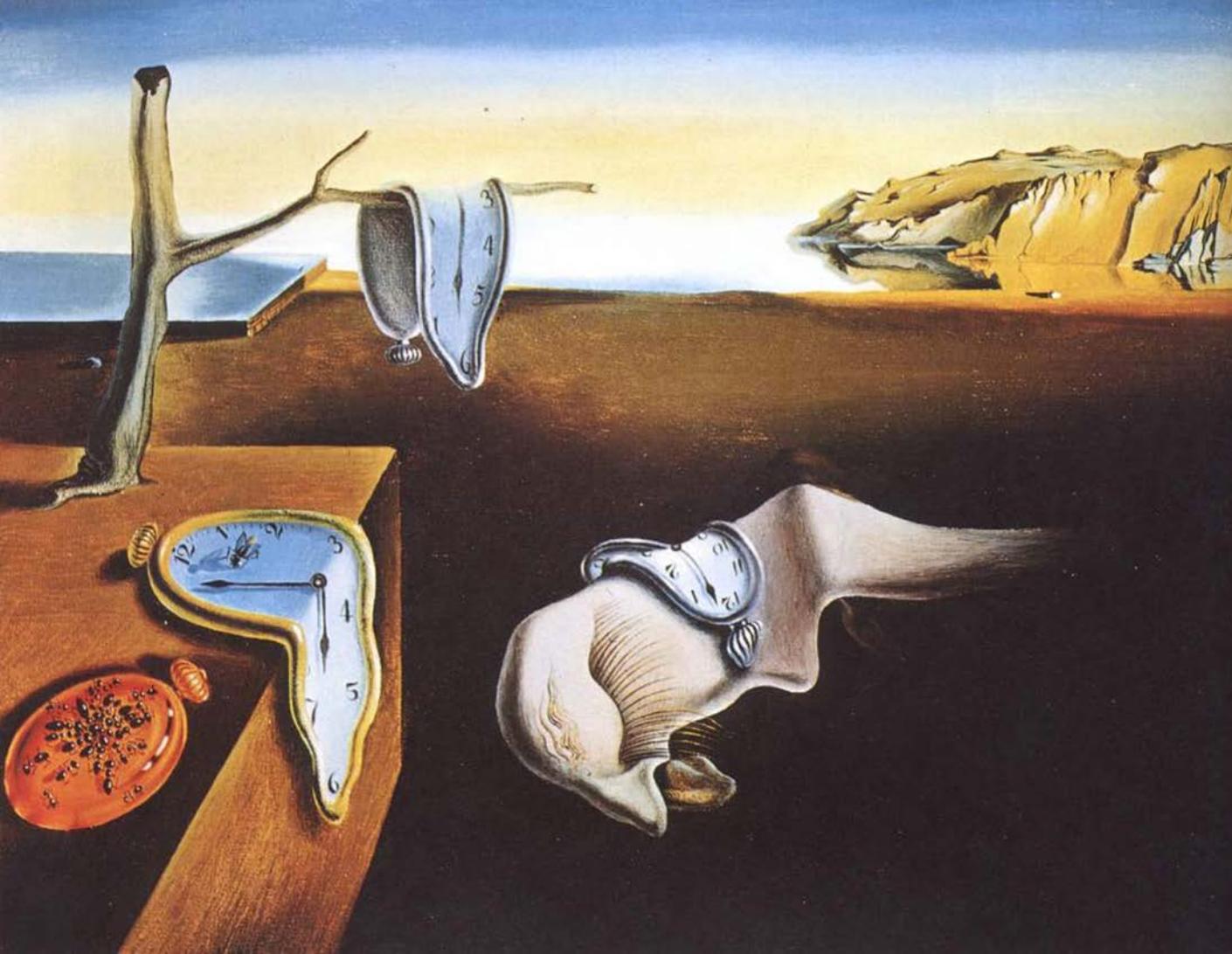
Uses technique of
frottage, or rubbing,
as a way to probe the
subconscious mind.

Salvador Dali

- Spanish surrealist, one of the most famous surrealists
- Played with a range of mediums--surrealist paintings, sculptures, film, photography...
- Developed a method called **Paranoiac-critical method** to open up his creativity. It is a unique way of perceiving the world.

(The method involves self-induced psychotic hallucinations. Dali would put himself in this state and later capture what he saw through his paintings which he called “Hand painted dream photographs.”)

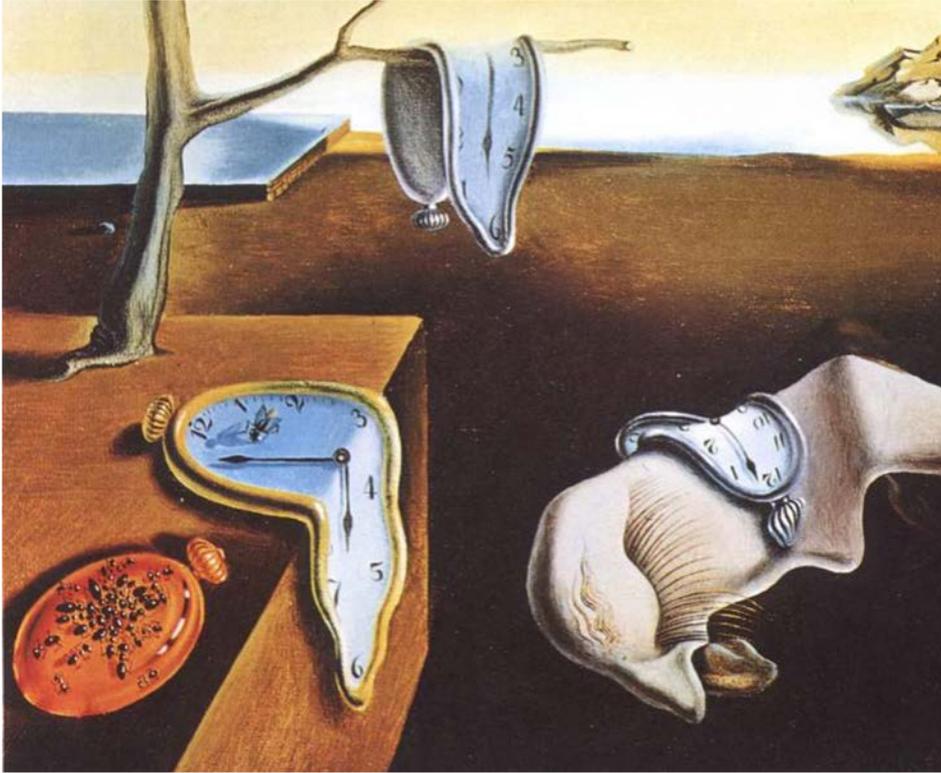




Salvador Dalí
The Persistence
of Memory, 1931

What do you see
in this painting?

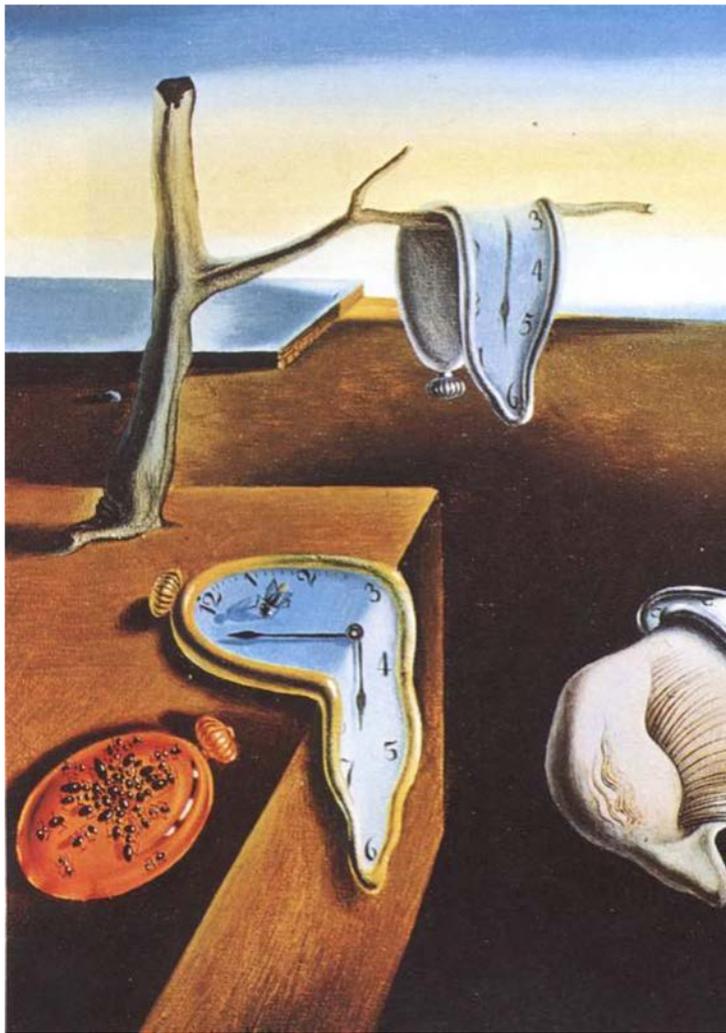
“Hard or soft, what difference does it make! As long as they tell time accurately.”



Melting Clocks

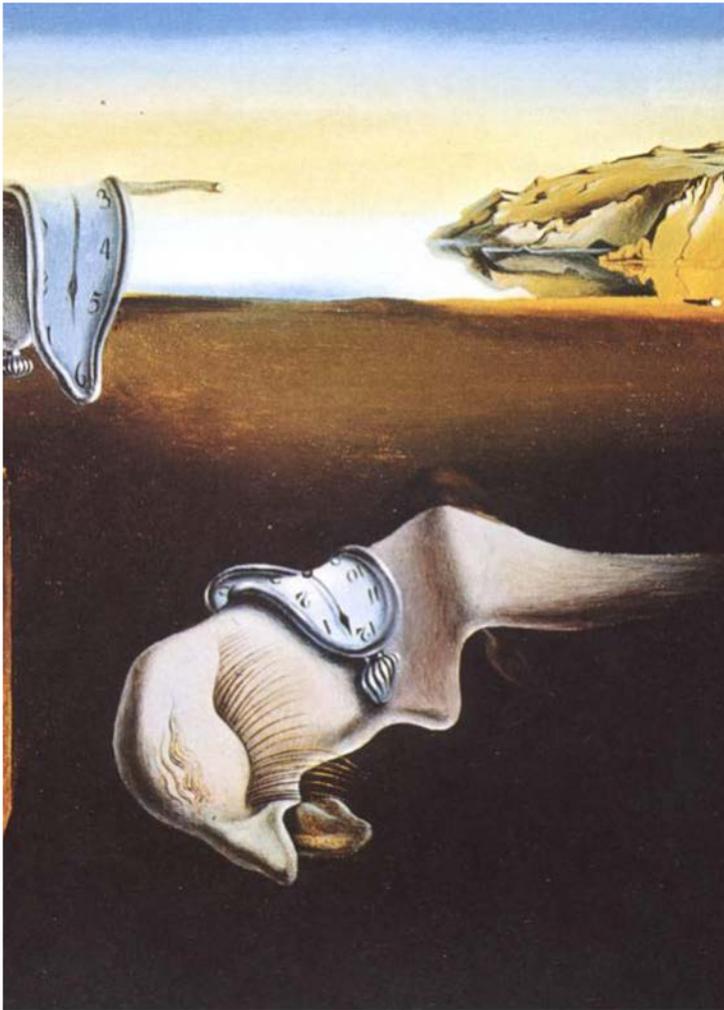
Dali compared these soft watches to a french cheese. He called it the “camembert of time,” suggesting that the concept of time had lost all meaning in the unconscious world. In dreams and memories, time is bent and inconsistent.

By changing the physical quality of a watch, from something firm and hard to something soft and melting, Dali is playing with our sense of reality.



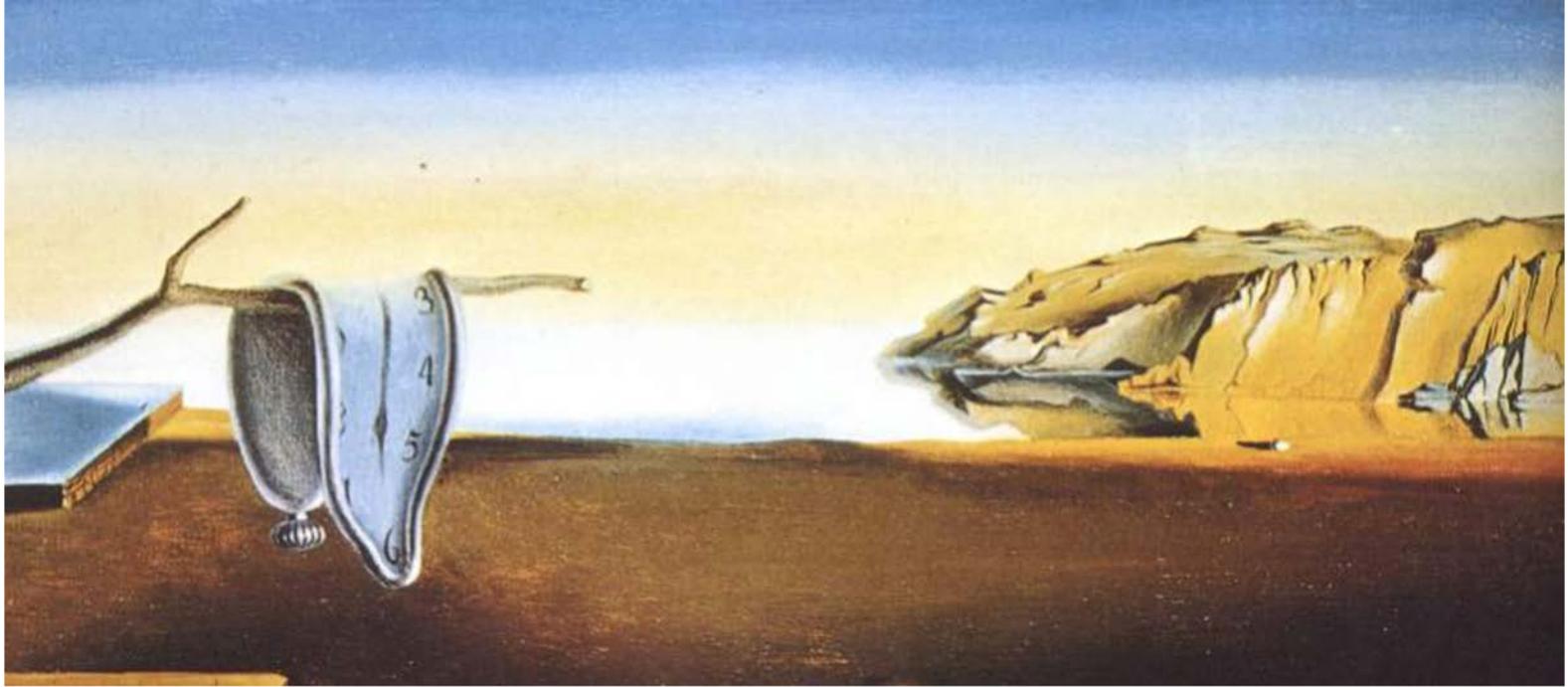
The Ants + Fly

The ants and the single fly that is perched on the golden clock appear as they might be on rotting flesh, alluding to **death and decay**. The dead tree at the back seems to communicate a similar idea.



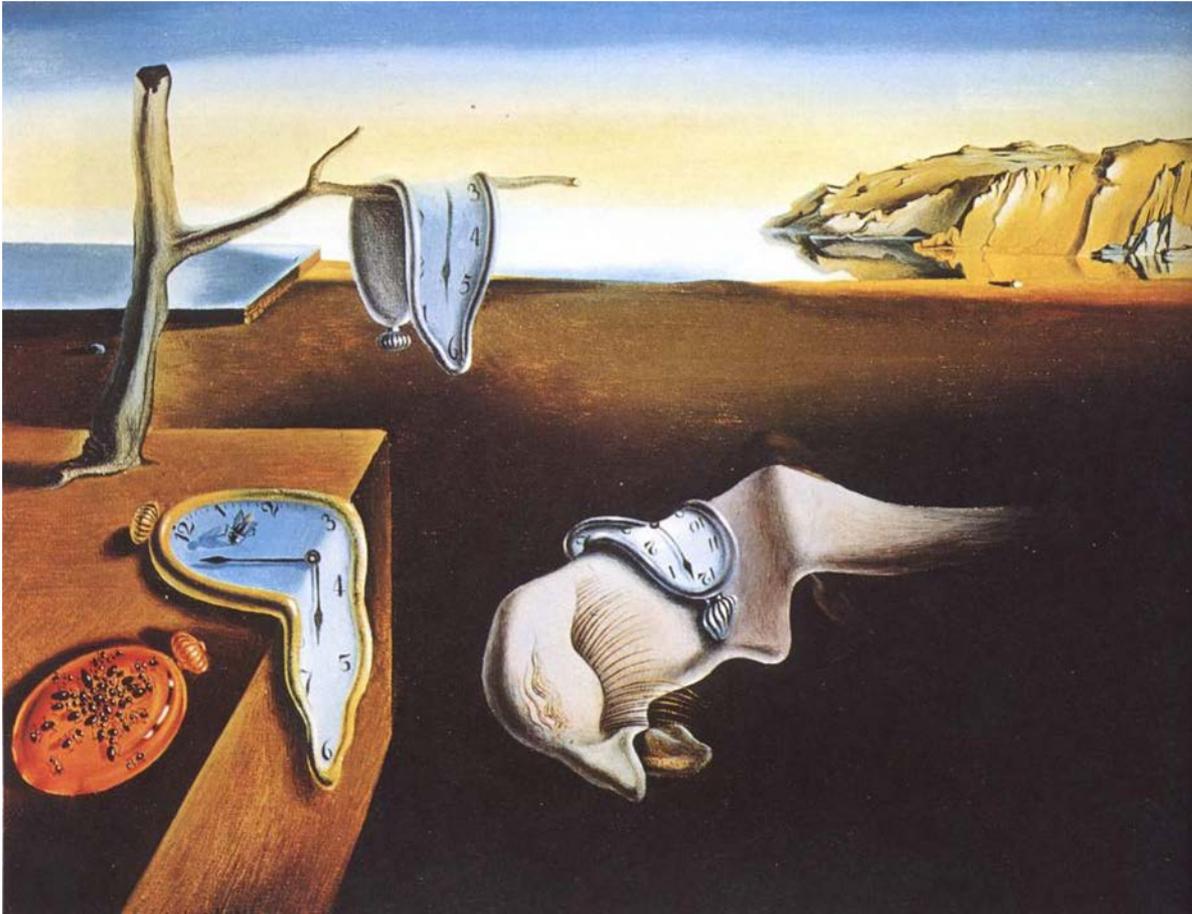
The Face

The strange face in the centre of the painting was believed to be a self-portrait of Dalí himself. He was well-known for his unconventional depictions of human faces and self-portraits, which he incorporated in many of his paintings.



The Landscape

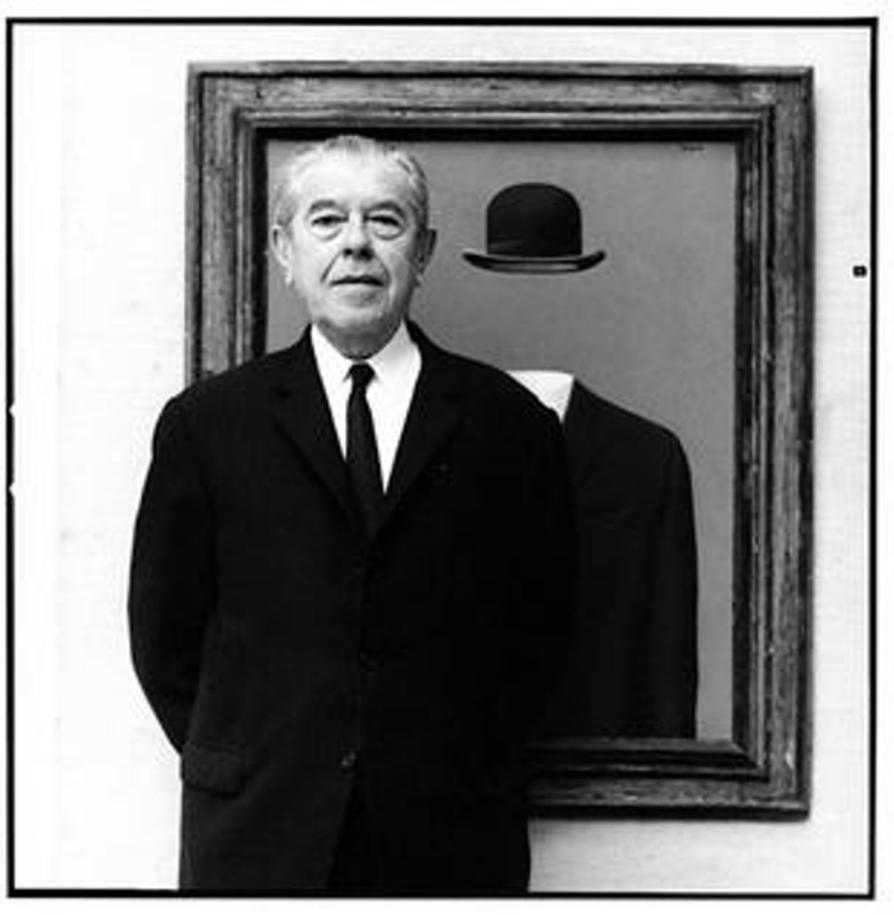
The cliffs in the background represents the coast of Catalonia, Dalí's hometown.



As you can see, nothing in Dali's painting is completely made-up or fantastical.

Everything comes from things that already exists– the clock, the ants, and the landscape..

Dali took these familiar items and represents them in an unfamiliar way.



René Magritte

- Belgium Surrealist painter

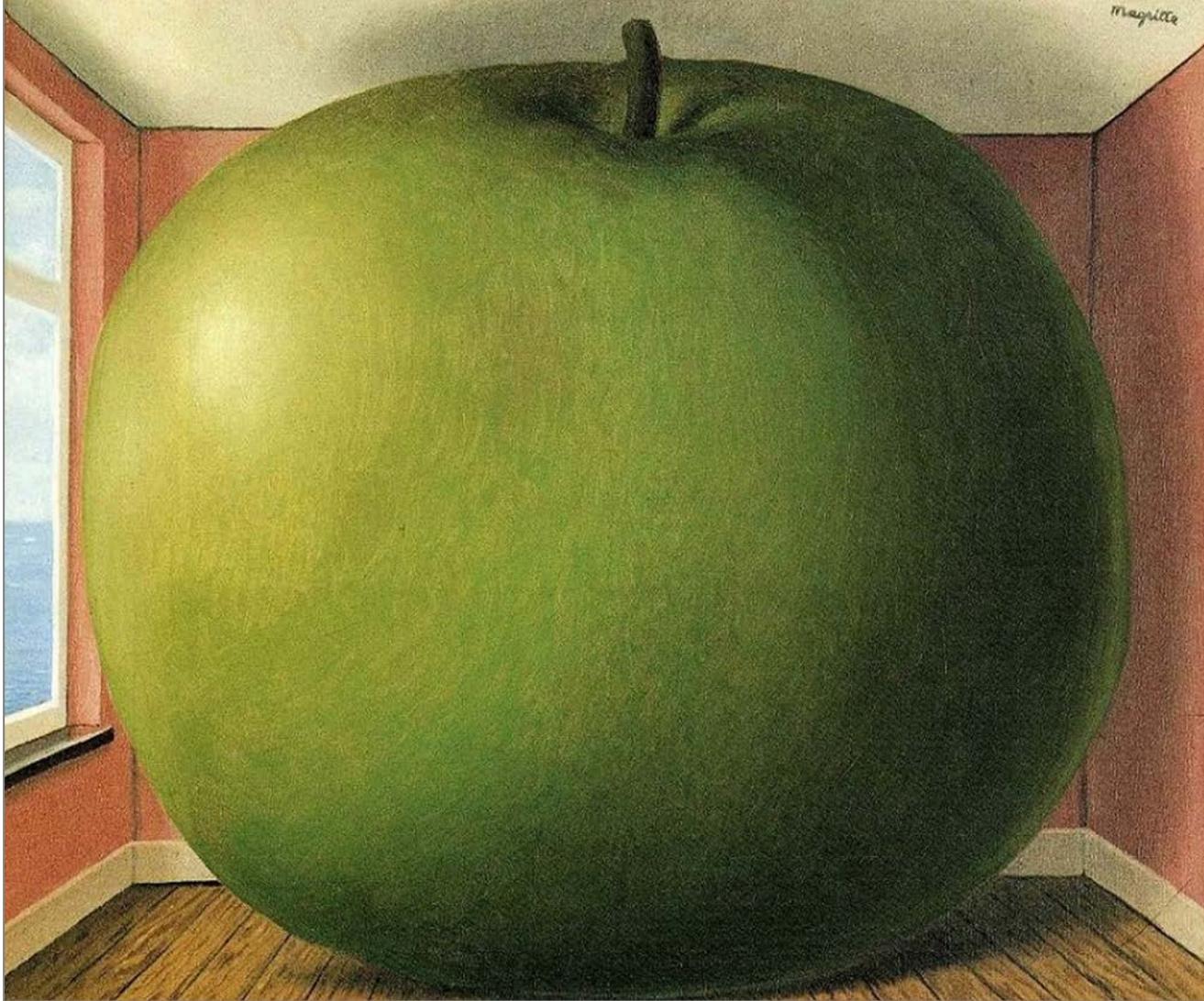
His style of painting is quite realistic, unlike some of the more abstract surrealist artists.

His often takes ordinary objects and places them in unusual contexts to create a strange, uncanny feeling, challenging the notion of reality and representation.



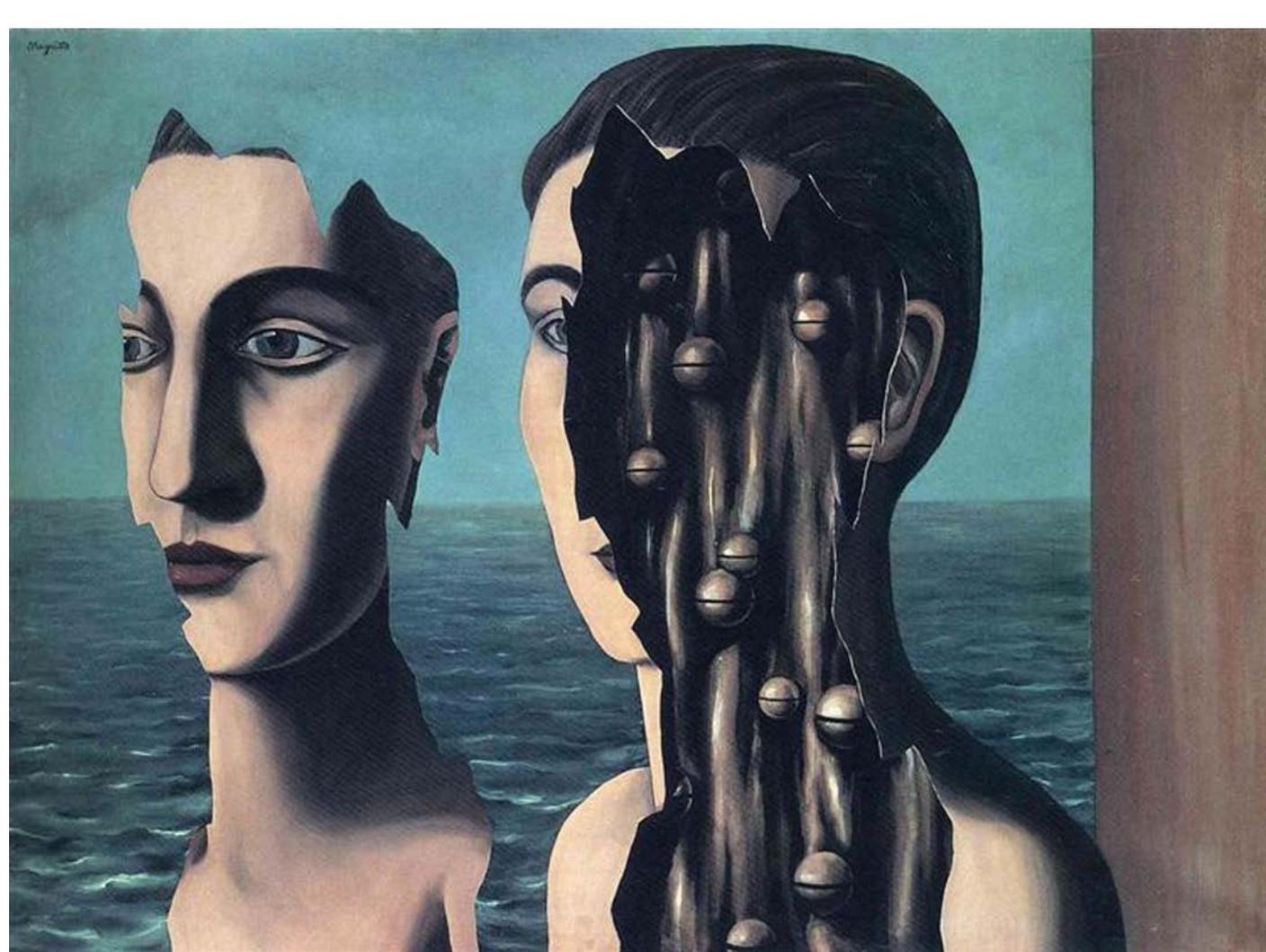
“Everything we see hides another thing, we always want to see what is hidden by what we see...”

The Son of Man (1946)
Self Portrait



...very familiar objects, an apple, for example, pose questions. We no longer understand when we look at an apple; its mysterious quality has thus been evoked.”

**The Listening Room,
1952**



The double secret

Rene Magritte



Meditation, 1937



What's
strange about
this painting?

Empire of Light, 1950



Meret Oppenheim

- German-born Swiss Surrealist artist, photographer, and sculptor.
- She made a place for herself as one of Surrealism's central artists and produced some of its most powerful works.
- Her work reflected her critical explorations of female sexuality, identity, and exploitation.

“Mundane things presented
in unexpected ways had the
power to challenge reason...”
--André Breton



Meret Oppenheim

Object (1936)

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

He is an indigenous artist of Coast Salish and Okanagan descent, from Vancouver, Canada. He graduated from Emily Carr University majoring in painting.

He is a passionate advocate for indigenous issues in the country. His artwork merges traditional iconography with representations of the environment and the issues of colonization.





Scorched Earth, Clear-cut Logging on Native Sovereign Land. Shaman Coming to Fix

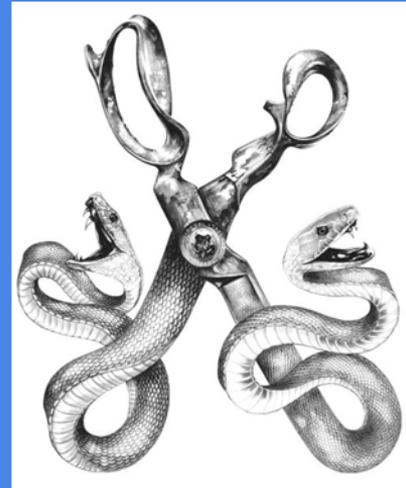
Beyond Reality: Mixed Media Surrealist Art

In this project, you will create a surrealist art using mixed media. You can use any materials and mediums: pencil, paint, ink and watercolours, collage, fabric, clay, found objects...etc. Your artwork will need to include at least 2 different mediums.



Beyond Reality: Mixed Media Surrealist Art

The idea is not to depict a fantastical scene, but to represent ordinary things in a way that is strange, interesting, and unexpected. You can pick whatever subjects you like to draw.



The project focuses on 3 things:

1. Adapt and apply what we know for use in new contexts.
(surrealist techniques, elements & principles...)
2. Create artwork using imagination and inquiry.
3. Use artistic mediums and materials in a meaningful way.

Project Timeline

May 2nd–4th (3 classes): Brainstorm /sketch/ experiment with materials

- Make sure to fully develop your ideas in your sketchbook before you start on the project.

May 5-17th (8 classes): Make the project

- Take pictures of your progress as you create the project
- Time management is key!
- Document and reflect on your final work.

Surrealism Techniques

- Juxtaposition
- Playing with Scale and material quality
- Transformation
- Revealing something hidden



Beyond Reality: Mixed Media Surrealist Art

Pick 1-2 techniques to focus on for your project. Brainstorm and sketch out your ideas in your sketchbook.

- Juxtaposition
- Playing with the scale and material properties of objects
- Transformation
- Revealing something hidden beneath the surface