

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Surrealism

Art Break, June 2 and 5, 2020

Mia

Surrealism Overview

- Literary, intellectual, and artistic movement
- Began in Paris by poet André Breton
- 1924 - WWII (1939-45)
- Key influence of Sigmund Freud
- Emphasis on tapping the irrational unconscious mind

**What art movement came just before
Surrealism?**

Dada



Marcel Duchamp, *Fountain*, 1917. Tate Modern



Man Ray, *Gift*, 1921 replicated in 1970 edition of 11. Mia

Backstory

- “Surrealism” first used by Guillaume Apollinaire as early as 1917
- By Oct. 1924 there were two rival surrealist groups
 - One led by Yvon Goll and the other by Andre Breton



Man Ray. *André Breton*. 1931

Andre Breton (1896 - 1966)

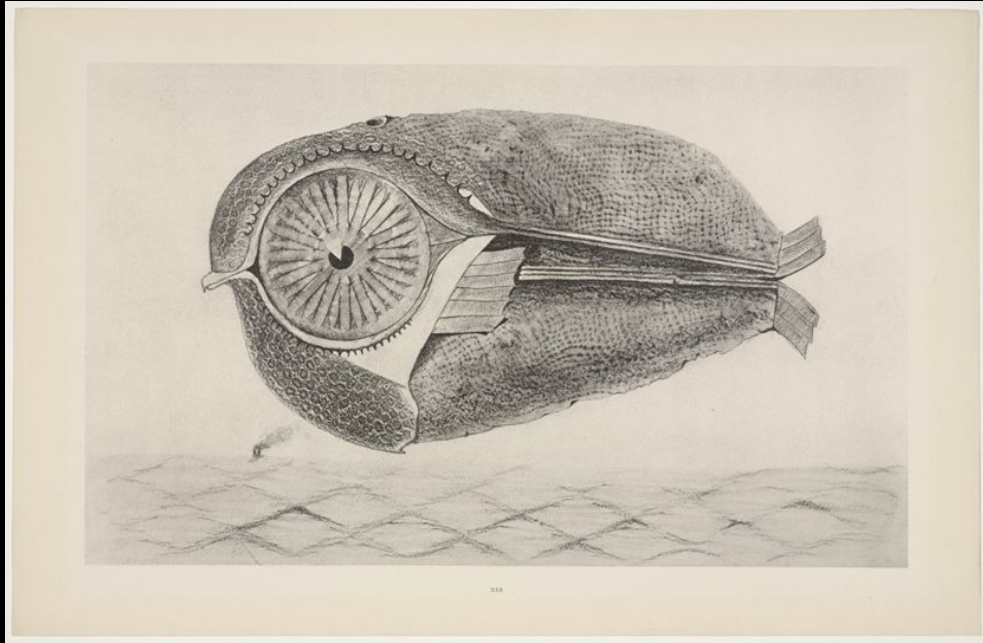


- Went to medical school
- Drafted into WWI
 - Served in a hospital/neurological ward
- Collected more than 5,000 artworks and ran an art gallery
- Far left political views. Marxism to anarchism.

Definition of Surrealism from Breton's Surrealist Manifesto, 1924

Psychic automatism in its pure state by which one proposes to express the actual functioning of thought. Dictated by thought, in the absence of any control exercised by reason, exempt from any aesthetic or moral concern.

— André Breton



Max Ernst. L'évadé (The Fugitive) from *Histoire Naturelle* (Natural History). 1926 (Reproduced frottages executed c. 1925). MoMA

- At first Breton didn't see how visual art could be useful in a Surrealist movement
- How could automatism be part of visual art?
- But techniques like frottage helped him see the possibilities

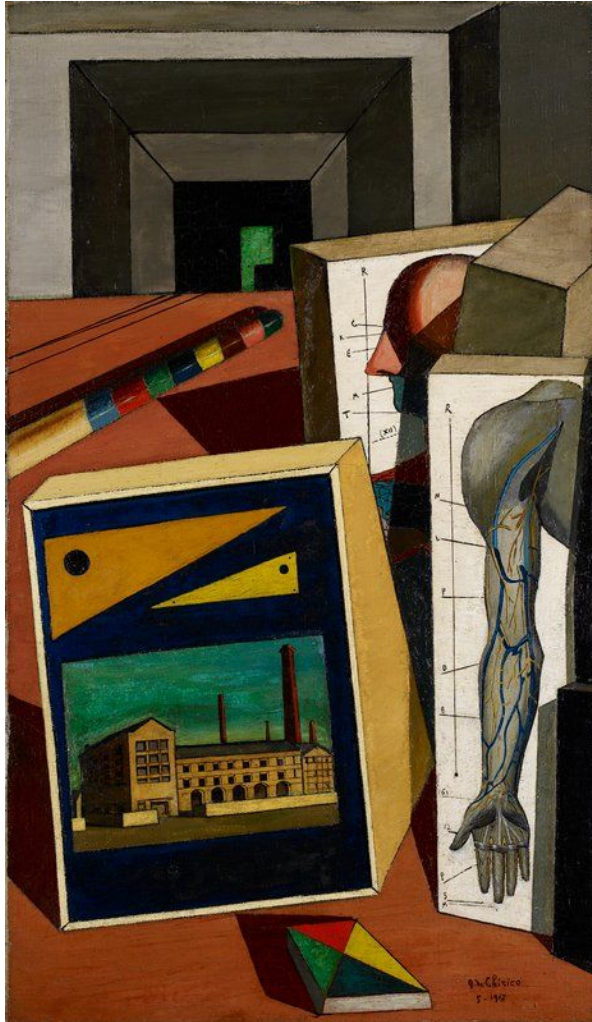
Transition from Dada to Surrealism



André Masson's automatic drawings are often used as the point of transition in visual art from Dada to Surrealism.

André Masson. *Automatic Drawing*. 1924. MoMA

Transition from Dada to Surrealism



De Chirico's metaphysical art

Giorgio de Chirico, *The Scholar's Playthings*, 1917. Mia

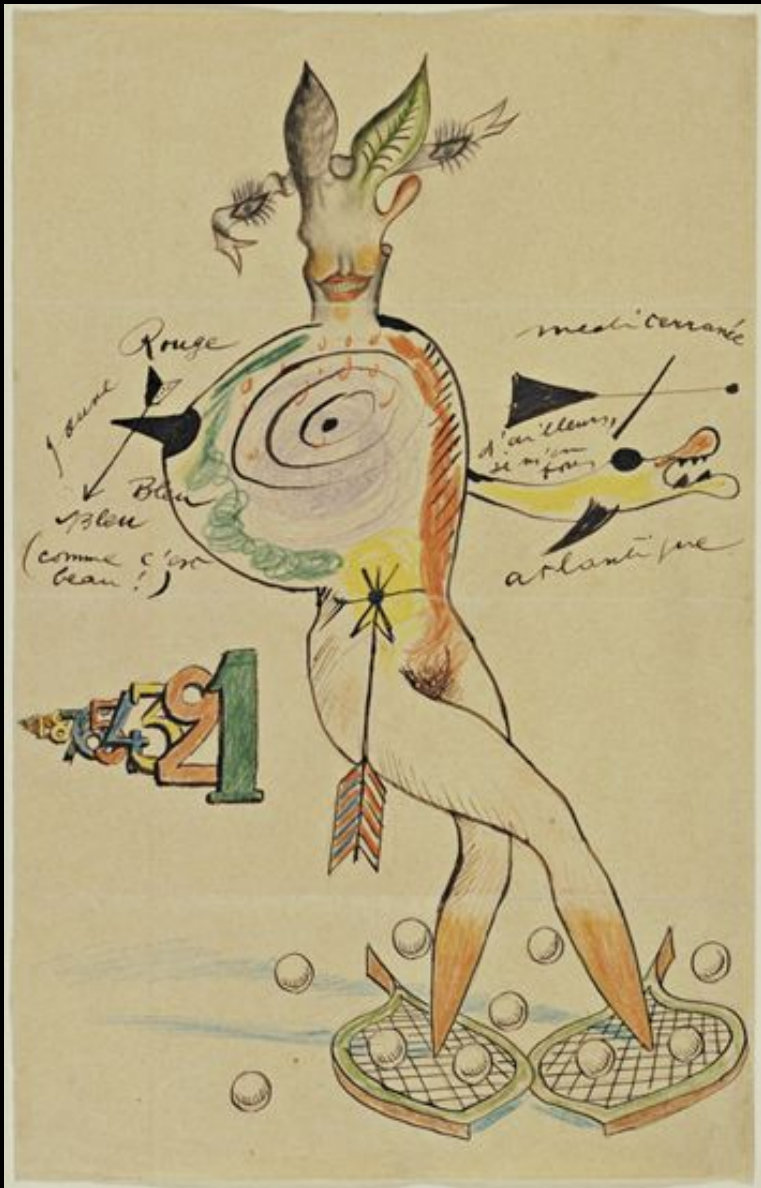
1925 First Surrealist Exhibition in Paris

- Joan Miro
- Man Ray
- Paul Klee
- Andre Masson

Tapping Into the Unconscious: Automatism and Dreams



Miró. The Birth of the World. Montroig, late summer-fall 1925. MoMA.



Yves Tanguy, Joan Miro, Max Morise, and Man Ray. *Nude*. 1926-27. MoMA.



Yves Tanguy, *Through Birds, Through Fire but Not Through Glass*, 1943

Surrealist Object and Assemblages



Meret Oppenheim. *Object*.
Paris, 1936. MoMA.



Salvador Dalí, *Aphrodisiac Telephone*, 1938. Mia

Dali and Magritte

1930's Hey Day of Surrealism



Salvador Dalí, *The Persistence of Memory*, 1931, MoMA



Rene Magritte, *The Treachery of Images*, 1928-29. LACMA



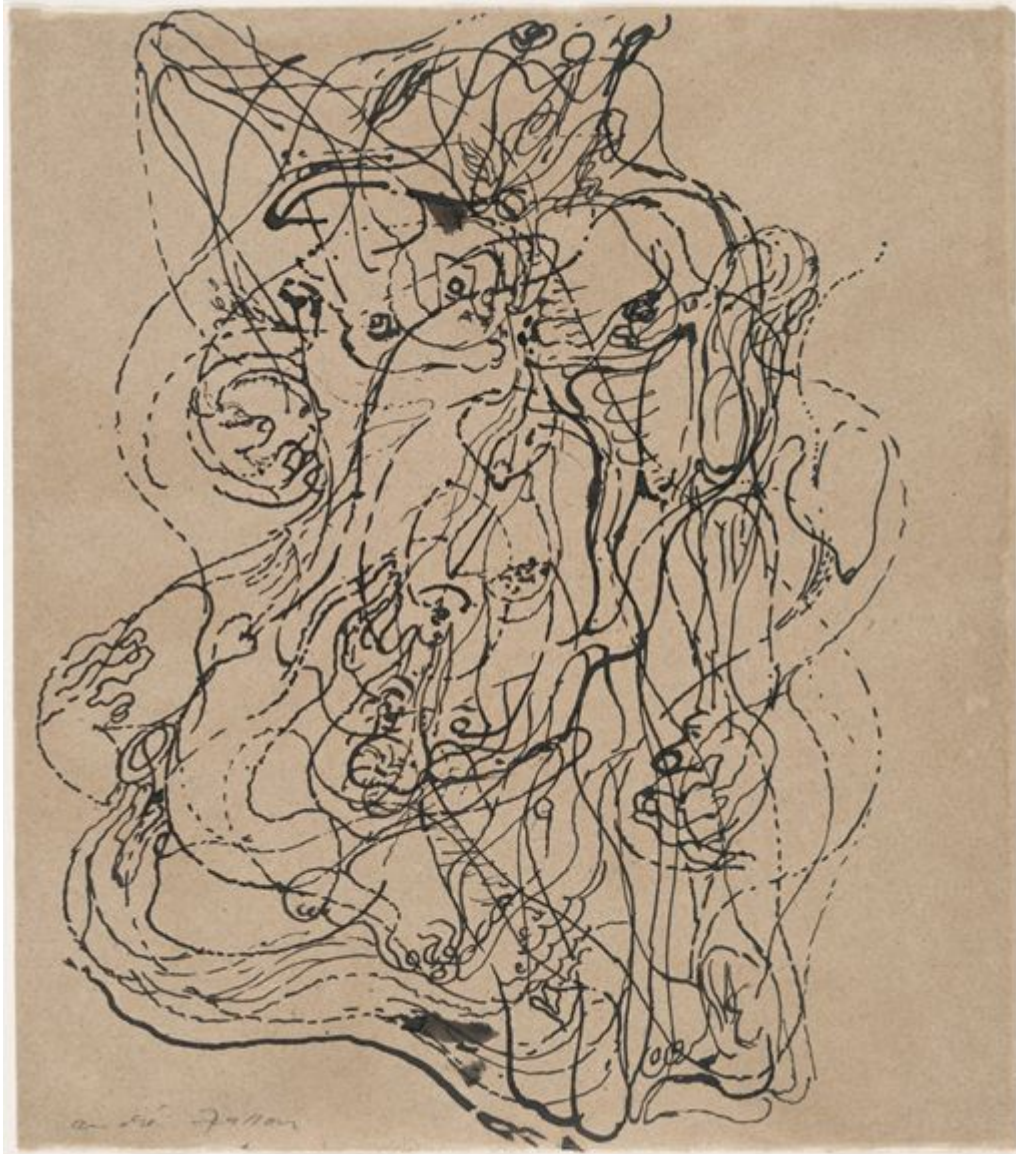
René Magritte, *The Promenades of Euclid*, 1955. Mia

Surrealism Influenced Ab Ex



Celebration of
instantaneous acts
and human creativity

Jackson Pollock, *Autumn Rhythm (Number 30)*,
1950. The Met

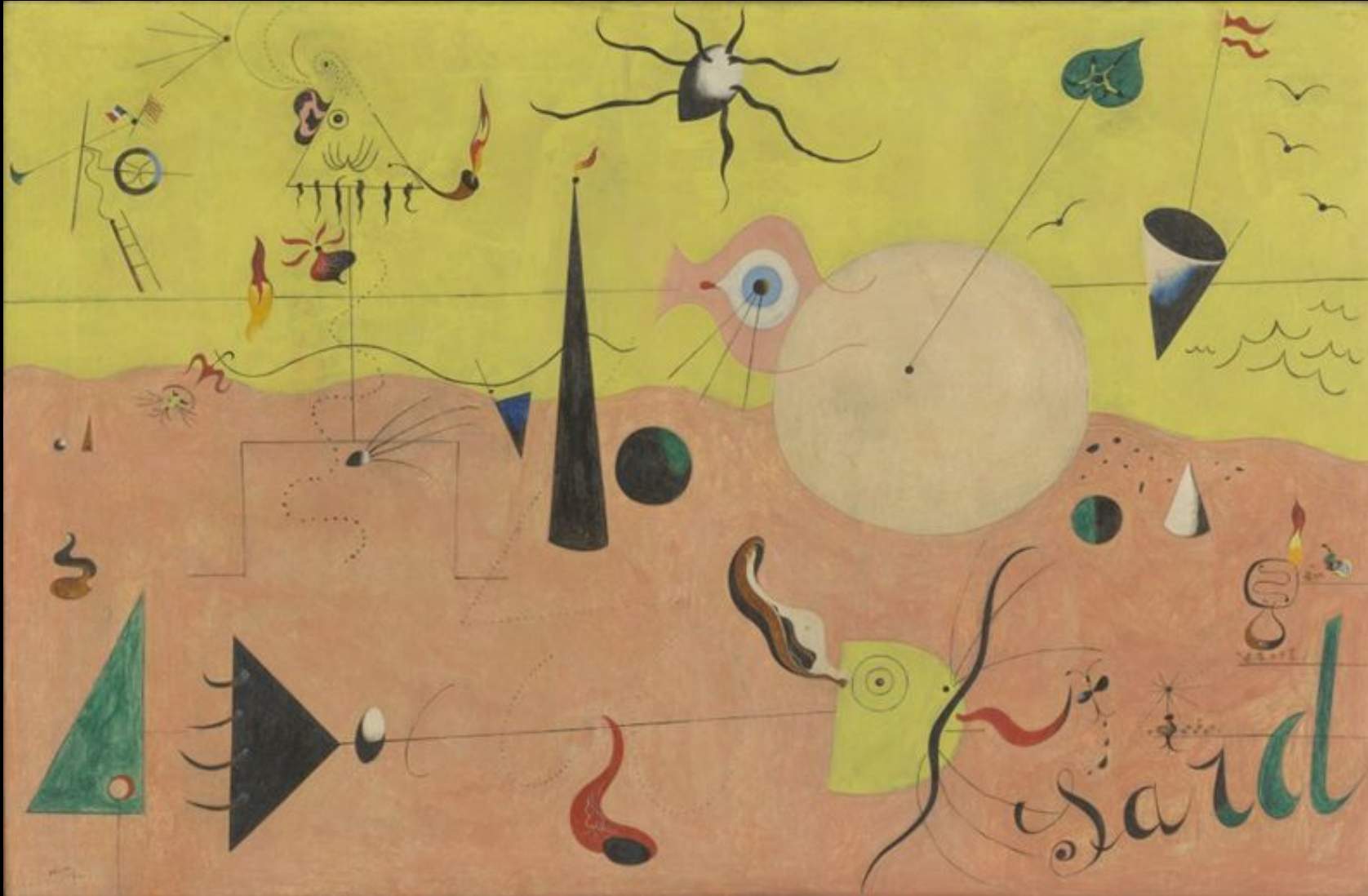


André Masson. *Automatic Drawing*. 1924. MoMA

Surrealist Activity

Questions?

Surrealist Landscapes



Joan Miró. *The Hunter*
(*Catalan Landscape*).
Montroig, July 1923-winter
1924. MoMA

Subhead goes here

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna minim veniam exercitation aliqua. Ut enim minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation.

—Author Name

Subhead goes here

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

- Ut enim ad minim veniam
- Quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip
- Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum eu fugiat nulla
- Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non culpa qui officia

Subhead goes here

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore fugiat nulla pariatur.