

Surrealism Research Resources

These are some resources to research the founding and history of the Surrealist Movement. This list only represents a small selection of what is available. Surrealism has had a major effect on the pop culture of today and has inspired many other forms of art, including Fantastic Art, Pop Surrealism and more.

Surrealism Art Characteristics

Visual characteristics of surrealism are the following:

- The element of fantasy
- Metaphysical atmosphere
- Dreamlike and uncanny imagery depicting mysterious environments and landscapes
- Representation with almost photographic precision. Hyper-realistic rendering of form and volume
- A distortion of reality with contradictory elements and random associations
- Eccentric, shocking, and mysterious
- Eerie creatures and fantastical forms from everyday objects
- The use of the visual form to express and translate the unconscious
- Experimental techniques and forms such as collage, frottage, doodling, decalcomania, and grattage.

Surrealists experimented with various mediums, such as writing, painting, experimental techniques, objects and sculptures, photography, and film. Nevertheless, the imagery in surrealist paintings is possibly the most distinct element of the movement. Surrealist works possess an element of surprise with unexpected, uncanny juxtapositions, and absurd themes. Surrealists were interested in the interpretation of dreams and viewed them as expressions of suppressed emotions and desires. Each artist utilized recurring themes and motifs from the dreams and unconscious mind.

Here are a few of the best know examples



Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dali



The Son of Man by René Magritte



Self Portrait by Frida Kahlo



Object by **Meret Oppenheim**



The Jungle by Wilfred Lam

Websites:

<https://www.britannica.com/art/Surrealism>

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/surr/hd_surr.htm

<https://www.theartstory.org/amp/movement/surrealism/>

<https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/features/surrealism-global-politics-1234624356/>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/art-terms/s/surrealism>

Explaining Exquisite Corpse, the
www.artsy.net

The rules of this collaborative art exercise are simple: Grab some friends and a single



Videos:

Madonna's Bedtime Story (music video)

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CSaFgAwnRSc>

Jean Cocteau films:

Beauty and the Beast

Orphic Trilogy:

Blood of a Poet

Orpheus

Testament of Orpheus

Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dali films:

An Andalusian Dog

Golden Age

Books:

"Surrealism Beyond Borders" by
Stephanie D'Alessandro and Matthew Gale, THE MET

"In Montparnasse" by Sue Roe,
Penguin Books

"Surreal Lives" by Ruth Brandon,
Grove Press

“Surrealists & Surrealism” by Gaëtan Picon, Bookking International

“Surrealist Poetry; An Anthology” edited by Willard Bohn, Bloomsbury Academic

List of Male Surrealists to investigate:

Max Ernst
Joan Miro
André Masson
René Magritte
Yves Tanguy
Wilfred Lam
Salvador Dali
Pablo Picasso
Giorgio de Chirico
Man Ray
Jean Arp
Paul Delvaux
Marc Chagall
Paul Klee
and more

List of Female Surrealists to investigate:

Frida Kahlo
Dorothea Tanning
Leonora Carrington
Remedios Varo
Leonor Fini
Jacqueline Lamba
Dora Maar
Kay Sage
Susanne van Damme
Méret Oppenheim
Bridget Tichenor
Elsa Schiaparelli
Valentine Hugo
Toyen
and more