

## 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.

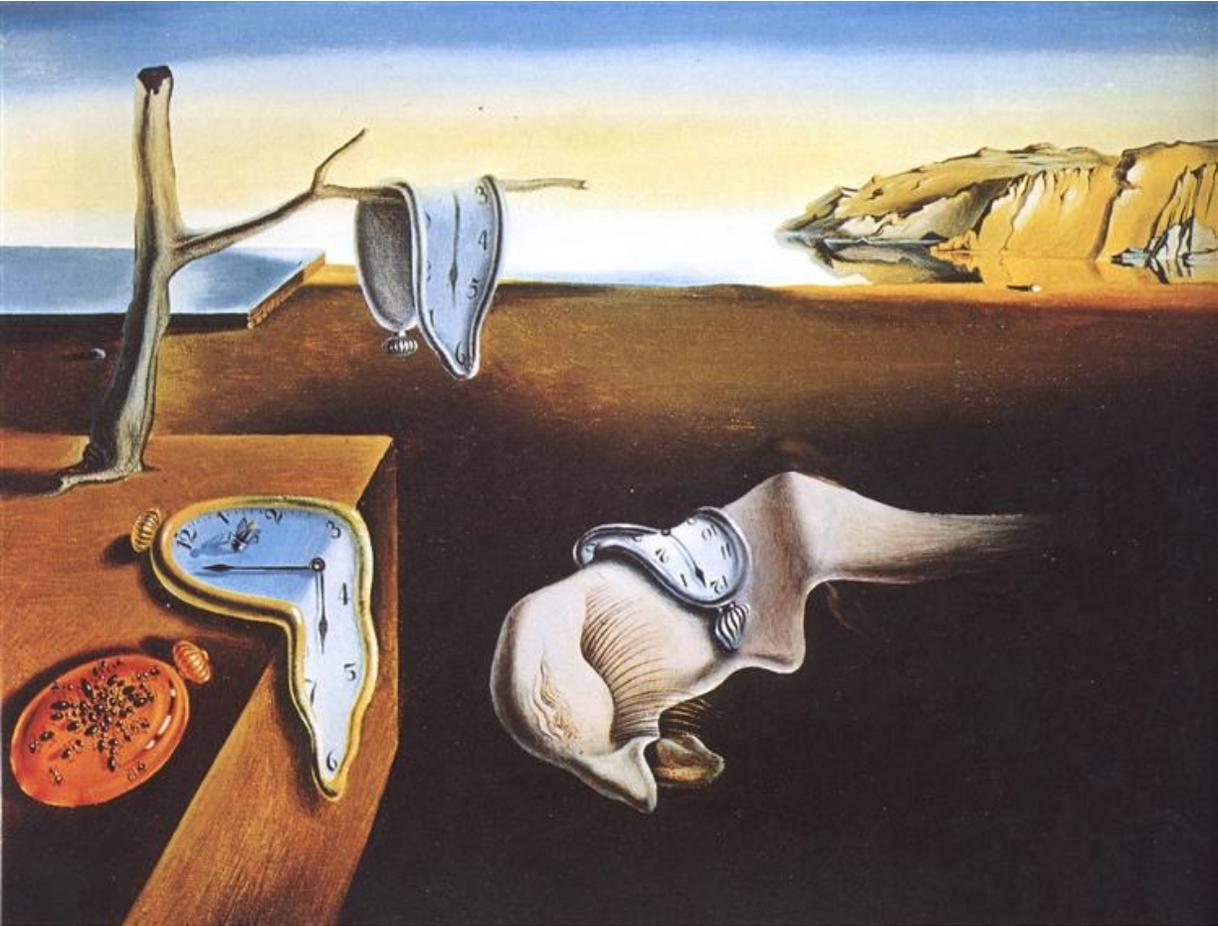
## Surrealism Art Characteristics

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.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