

Bazaar

My Exhibition will focus on primarily the Surrealist art movement. Exploring its past and looking at what influence the movement has had on modern day artists.

The movement emerged after the first world war (early 1920) and was used as a response to frustration and disenchantment World War 1 had on traditional values. The movement aimed to explore the realm of dreams free the subconscious and delve deep into fantasies and irrational thinking. Surrealism was very heavily influenced by the Psychoanalytic theory (Sigmund Freud) and the anti-art philosophy of the Dada movement. Surrealist artists aimed to revolutionise perspectives and used various drawing techniques to do so, an example of this is automatic drawing, collages and frottage to shape and construct juxtapositions and illogical origins in their work.

I plan to start off my Exhibition exploring early surrealist artists then transitioning into more modern art. I want to convey the works of Max Ernst, Rene Magritte and Salvador Dali as a start of to my exhibition as they are pioneers in the surrealist movement and still heavily influence modern artists today.



the angel of the home or the triumph of surrealism

This piece was created by Max Ernst who was a German artist who was one of several pioneers to the surrealism art movement. His combination dreamlike paintings and collages made him infamous, and his style was often described as often unsettling or Bizarre



Man in a Bowler Hat.

Rene Magritte was a Belgium artist from (1898- 1967) his work was infamous for challenging perspectives and would often feature mundane objects in obscure contexts. The man in the bowler hat anonymously voiced Magritte's concerns and ideas about integration. In fact, he associated men with bowler hats and commoners with "commoners." The idea of anonymity was a real concern for Brussels Surrealists and Magritte, who saw bowler hats and grey suits as a "self-image." He wanted to connect with us and tried to establish our understanding of the world.



Persistence of a memory

Salvador Dali was a Spanish surrealist from 1904-1989. He is one of the most recognisable surrealist artists and his work was infamous for using distorted images that defied reason and logic. The persistence of a memory is one of Salvador Dalis most recognisable pieces. The persistence of a

memory is an envision of a dreamscape. Discrediting the laws of realities and challenging our perspectives.



Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist who was infamous for her self portraits. Her pictures often included animals and created often bizarre and striking visuals. Her iconic painting depicts Frida Kahlo as a wounded deer pierced by multiple arrows. She painted this painting after her 1946 failed spinal surgery in New York. By presenting this hunted deer, half-human, she shares her own suffering with her viewers. Her decision to portray herself as a male deer, her stag, may be related to her bisexuality. Which links to surrealism discussion of taboo subjects and religious, political viewpoints.

Surrealism is an art movement that explores the world of the unconscious and dreams. It is characterized using strange and unexpected imagery combined with a sense of humour and sarcasm. Dreams and the Subconscious was a popular topic and surrealist art often explored the subconscious with distortion of objects and figures (like in persistence of a memory). Conveying an absurd mindset creating humour and disorientation thus administering the idea of a dreamscape but although surrealism did create strong and strange visuals did also challenge social and political criticism and often delved into topics that were Taboo and unconventional.

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Surrealism had a significant impact on modern-day art, influencing a wide range of art movements and styles that followed it. Here are some of the ways that Surrealism has influenced modern-day art one example of this is pop art which emerged in the 1950s and 1960s which was heavily influenced by Surrealist use of everyday objects and popular culture. Modern Pop artists used collage and assemblage techniques to create works that both celebrated and criticized popular culture, much like the Classic surrealist artist did. Another Genre of art inspired by surrealism is conceptual art, this style emerged in the 1960s, and is influenced on the aesthetic of surrealism.



This is a modern conceptual artist name Julie Curtis has a certain surreal quality and is "everywhere in art and life". Like many of her 20th century predecessors, she is influenced by psychology. Her focus is on unexpected juxtapositions of textures, objects and body parts that take the viewer into surprising new perspectives. In **No Place Like Home (2017)**, Curtis renders a plated turkey, moving her hair where the bird's skin should be. The rounded mass of drumsticks reflects the cleavage of a woman with a bowl. The painting suggests an uneasy relationship between sex and food, between humans and animals, without making any moral or conclusive claims. She believes it's important to allow freedom in her work, And Curtis stands apart from his ancestors. "It seems to me that the surrealists were more concerned with the power of unconscious deconstruction," she explained.



The piece is called Snowflake pink by Inka Essenhigh , her work very much like the classical surrealist artists explores the world of dreamscapes. Her use of bold colours and soft textures creates a dreamscape which is both appealing yet leaves audiences questioning the image.

Essenhigh explains why she creates her work in a surreal way: Even if she takes a picture without distortion, it will be read as surreal. The Surrealist idea of "auto-drawing" or haphazard sketching, which is said to evoke the subconscious of artists, is particularly useful in her practice. Essenhigh paintings allow her to explore "the deep and mysterious nature of the world."



Although it could come as a surprise, I've decided to include Andy Warhol in my exhibition as it can be striking and familiar to audiences but also shows how surrealism is a broad and creative genre of art. His most famous piece is Marilyn Monroe which he created after establishing his own printing company Factory in 1967. Through this he published a large silkscreen portfolio of his signature subjects. He used the same advertisement for the actress that he had previously used for dozens of paintings. Each image here was printed from five screens.

One held the photographic image, and four were used for different colour ranges and sometimes printed out of place. Warhol said of his repetition, "The more times you see the same thing, the less it makes sense and the better and emptier it gets."



My last modern artist inspired by surrealism is Jean Michael Basquiat. Jean-Michel Basquiat was born in Brooklyn to Haitian and Puerto Rican parents in 1960 who seemed to have had a tragic upbringings. He created thousands of pieces. His work looks visually inspired by Picasso but also keeps the ideology of surrealism by creating a distorted visual that makes one rethink and try to understand the picture. This piece is Untitled and was made in 1982. His work followed the neo Expressionist movement which is derived from surrealism. I think that this visual is striking and bizarre and is a very strong note to finish on.

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