

Tarian Martinez

1905027

Illustration BA

M4X01560

Tasks in the order I received them:

Task One: Reflective writing (Jon task) = 477 words

Task Two: Observational writing (Ryan's task) = 311 words

Task Three: Manifesto Writing (Julia's task) = 361 words

Task One: Reflective writing (Jon's task)



Magritte 1946

The painting by Magritte is mainly an oil painting of a man with an apple in front of his face. There's a cloudy sky in the background, sea, a wall and a man with an apple in front of his face. Though the whole point of the painting is that his face is obscured. He "paints himself with a bowler hat and an oversized apple floating in front of his face obscuring his actual identity." (Chernick, 2018).

The painting would seem to be a simple painting if only the apple wasn't there.

The painting was started at the start of 1946, where Magritte's style was influenced somewhat by realism and impressionism. Though his usual metaphor in his paintings seemed to be that everything is not what it seems. It could be said that being part of the surrealist movement with other artists such as Dali, Picasso and others would have influenced him. The piece has no religious allegory. Even with apples relating to Christianity with Eve eating the forbidden fruit, which was an apple. Magritte seems to not use religious symbolism or meanings in his work. Though even then it has no mythology allegory either nor does it relate to anything related with apples. It simply seems to be a simple apple.

It was also in 1926 that the Belgian Surrealist group formed around him, composed of individuals with strong personalities, united by an invisible bond of insubordination and rational unreason.

(Roegiers, 2005, p.34)

Magritte's work stood out during his time as it showed normal scenery and imagery which was put in unusual places. Such as calling something a pipe but it's not a pipe or putting an apple in front of a man's face. "Magritte only used familiar objects brought together or combined in a way as to evoke

something else, something unfamiliar.” (Gablik, 1985). Unlike Dali who used extremely unusual images that are warped and twisted with layers of meaning; Magritte uses realism and then one thing that changes the meaning. That reality can become surrealism and influence both.

Magritte’s strategy involves deploying largely familiar images but images whose recognizability is subverted and rendered moot by “impossible”, “irrational” or “senseless” conjunction

(Foucault, 1983, p.8)

Surrealism has had a large impact on my views and influence in art. Giving new meaning to objects and symbols, warping things to make others think, and I like that influence. Creating the unusual to create something meaningful. Using images that come from dreams and the subconscious. Creating something unusual and extraordinary; that seems to make no sense at first. Unless you look at it closer. I want to achieve that in my work. That’s what I believe surrealism has done to influence my work.

The Son of the Man is a very influential painting. Norman Rockwell also created a parody painting; except with a red apple instead of a green one. Though the apple replaced the head as well. His work influenced Contemporary and even Pop art as well. Using realism and then combining it with something else. The impact on myself was that I was rather surprised at Magritte’s surrealist style. The Son of the man doesn’t have the idea of having the piece show loads of images and contrast. It just had the apple. It’s the focal point of the painting. It keeps me thinking, staring at it and interested in it. It gives me the idea that one simple thing can change an entire piece of artwork.

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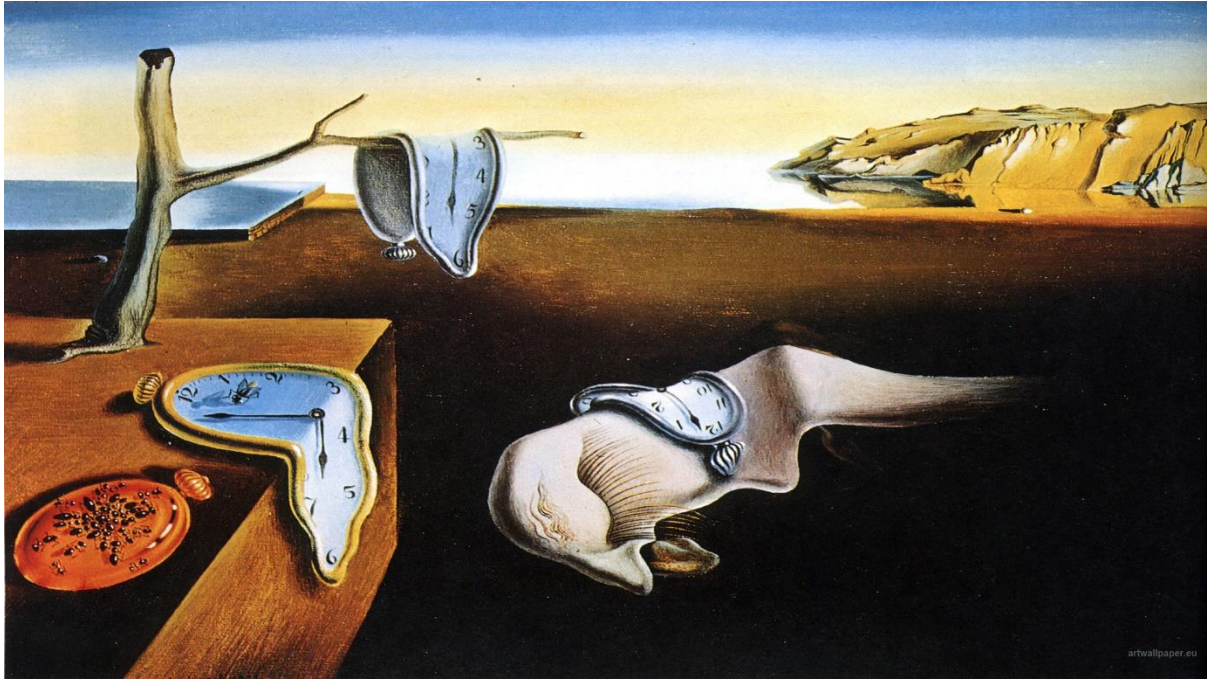
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Task Two: Observational writing (Ryan's task)



(Dali, 1931)

Dali's painting 'The Persistence of Memory' is known for its melting clocks and empty landscape. Being very well known in Surrealism; Dali painted it with themes of the subconsciousness and dreams. There are four clocks, three melting and the other clock covered in ants. There's a sky, a mountain, two ledges, a dead tree and something that is limp on the floor. There are many connections in the painting and many meanings.

In another 1931 painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, the ants swarm on the case of a watch like a biological memento mori. These images of decay have, as Dali frequently recalled, sources in his childhood.

(Ades, 1982, p.54)

What can be denoted in the picture is insects, melting clocks, a dead tree and a thing on the ground. Though what can be connoted from the picture is different. Just like the source from Ades, linking ants to decay and rot. Linking that to death and rotting bodies. That meaning also links to the fly on the clock. Even that links to the clocks themselves. Clocks symbolise time, life and the past and present and future. A sign that one's biological clock is ticking. It's used in the expression that a person would die soon. The entire painting is based on the clocks melting. One can easily point to death and time in the painting; though the clocks melting is another meaning entirely.

When a surrealist creates, he is not controlled by his intellect or any moral standards; he creates with his subconscious mind. A Raphael sought harmony; a surrealist tries to disturb.

(Dali and Halsman, 1954, p.123)

'The Persistence of Memory' is a Surrealist piece so that would mean that Dali used his dreams and mind as inspiration and would have some bias in his work. He took inspiration and meanings from his childhood. His obsessions with death and desire are also seen in other works. Though 'The Persistence of Memory' really shows Dali's obsession with death.

My understanding of the picture has changed. A painting that looks like a dream, with newer meanings; it's a painting about death and time. "The Persistence of Memory, no bigger than a sheet of typewriter paper." (McGirk, 1989, p.89) Even then the painting is small and finely detailed. Dali made sure in his painting to put lots of meaning into it. 'The Persistence of Memory' is a painting of metaphors.

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Task Three: Manifesto writing (Julia's task)

1. Art is subjective
2. Anything can become art and art can become anything
3. Variety is important in both art and life
4. Experience builds art
5. Change happens whenever we want it to or not
6. Always continue to do what makes yourself happy
7. To get better at something, you must continue to work at it
8. Learn new things and exploration is key to becoming flexible in art

Keywords & images

Keyword: Subjective



Magritte, 1929

1. Subjective means that an opinion is based on one's emotions rather than logic. Subjective means that something could have many views and opinions. That is the same with art as one piece would have hundreds of ideas and opinions about it.

There is no right or wrong in artwork; any piece of work will have hundreds of opinions of all sorts. It's true for any art movement, painting, sculpture, photography and any other medium in the arts.

There is no one style of using paint, no one criterion of perfection: the artist is using a medium to express certain sensations or ideas and he is not to be judged by the manner in which he conveys the sensations or ideas.

(Ades et al. 2006. p. 63 & 64)

Everyone has different opinions, but many believe that there is such a thing as good or bad art. The reality is that there are billions of people on the planet, leading to the impossibility of correct or incorrect view in art. Such as with surrealism where every judgement is singular, and all is correct in its own way.

Keyword: Variety



Haversham, 2018

2. Variety is a part of life as almost every little thing will have some sort of detail to it. Even things such as furniture and money will have maybe an indent or scratch on it. Variety also spread to art as well.

One thing in art is that variety is key. There are many art styles, mediums, ideals and creative ways to express oneself. Martha Haversham who created *Skates on* used still life with props. Giving a simple piece an almost fantasy image. Legs bursting from an egg and running away. Using two different pieces, putting them together and giving an image of variety from people who see it and the artist who created it. "Nontraditional art materials resuscitate images and arouse optically exhausted viewers." (Weintraub. L and Mcevilley. T, 1997) exactly points out the unusual materials to create a greater image.

Keyword: Exploration



Pollock, 1949

3. One such thing to improve skills and abilities in art is exploration of other techniques, mediums and colour. Getting out of your comfort zone and trying new things is important in this day and age.

“Jackson Pollock’s achievement did not inhere in the employment of a certain procedure but in the radicality of the works he produced with its aid.” (Emmerling, 2009). This source shows that Pollock’s work was pushed by the exploration of colour and shapes of the paints. I believe that his work shows the ideas of exploration in art. Doing something that might not work at first but later you realise works well on the page.

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