

**Truth Pursues through the Dreamworld:
Chagall and the Metaphysical School**



Marc Chagall, *Paris Through the Window*, 1913, Oil on canvas, 53 1/2 x 55 3/4 in.



Marc Chagall (1887-1985), Painter, printmaker, and designer.

Chagall studied painting in St. Petersburg, and moved to Paris in 1910. His art do not fit into a category or movement but their sense of fantasy anticipated aspects of Surrealism.

Marc Chagall, *Homage to Apollinaire*, 1911-13

Oil, gold, silver powder
on canvas

Stedelijk Van Abbe
Museum, Holland.



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“...You float on nocturnal waves
The flame is my own heart reversed...”

Guillaume Apollinaire



Marc Chagall. *Birthday*. 1915. Oil on cardboard, 31 3/4 x 39 1/4"
(80.6 x 99.7 cm)

De Chirico and the Metaphysical School (1913-20)



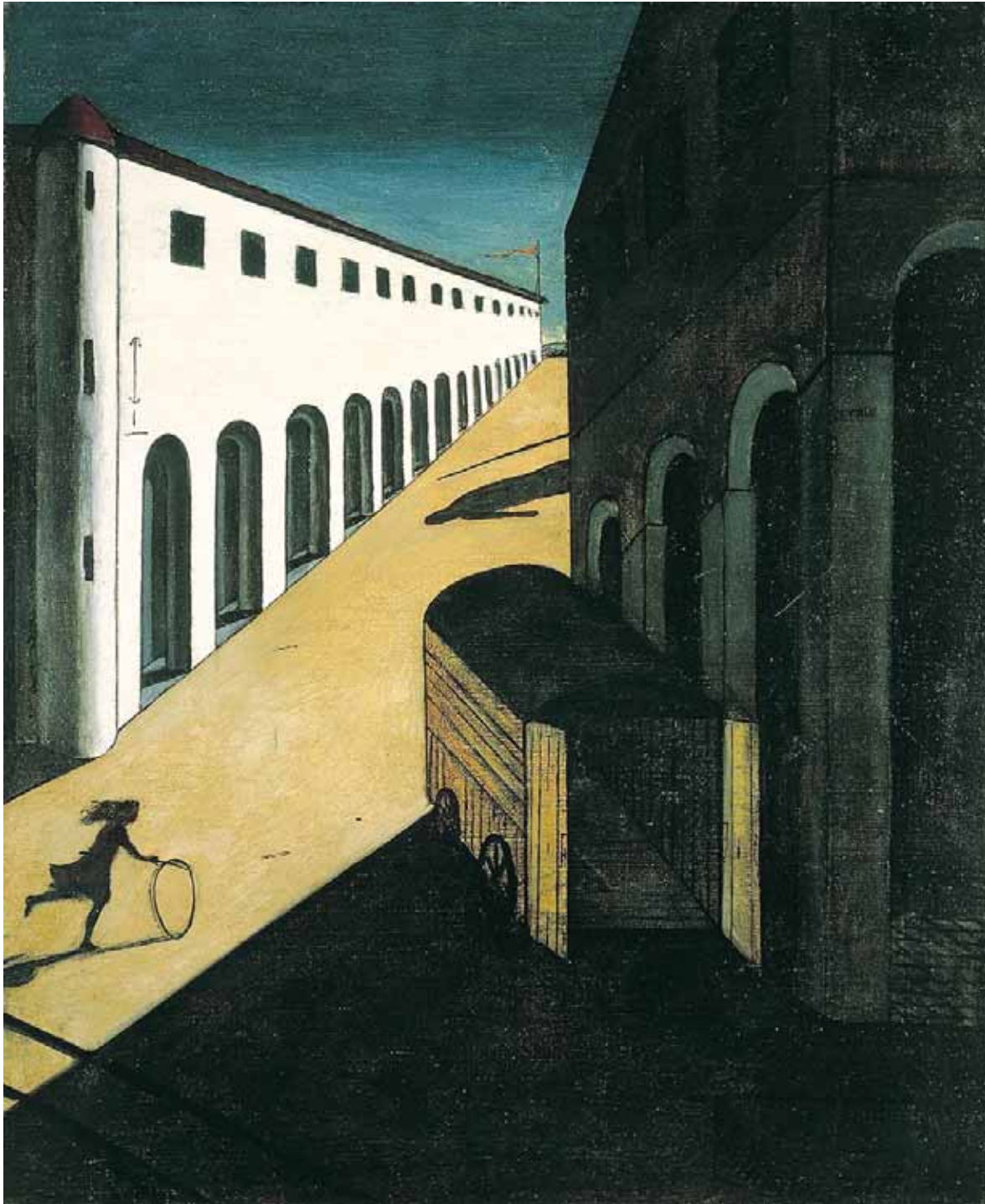
Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978), Italian painter.

Born to Italian parents in Greece, studied art in Munich and began painting images juxtaposing the fantastic with the commonplace.

He lived in Paris, as well as the United States (1936–38), but he spent most of his life in Italy. he produced scenes of deserted piazzas with Classical statues, isolated figures, and oppressive architecture.



Giorgio de Chirico, *Self Portrait*, 1960



The Metaphysical School

The movement began with de Chirico, whose dreamlike works with sharp contrasts of light and shadow often had a vaguely threatening, mysterious quality.

Their representational but dream like imagery produces disquieting effects and had a strong influence on Surrealism in the 1920s.

Giorgio de Chirico, *The Melancholy and Mystery of a Street*, 1914, oil on canvas, 2' 10 1/4" x 2' 4 1/2".



The roots of the Metaphysical school are in Romanticism and Symbolism,

Henri Rousseau, *The Sleeping Gypsy*, 1897

Arnold Böcklin (Swiss Symbolist) *Isle of the Dead*. 1883



Caspar David Friedrich (German Romantic). *Monk By the Sea*. 1809





Giorgio de Chirico, *The Soothsayer's Recompense*, oil on canvas, 1913 Oil on canvas 53 3/8 x 70 7/8 inches (135.6 x 180 cm) Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Sleeping Ariadne.

Roman copy of
Hellenistic sculpture.
2nd c. BCE. Vatican
Museums, Rome



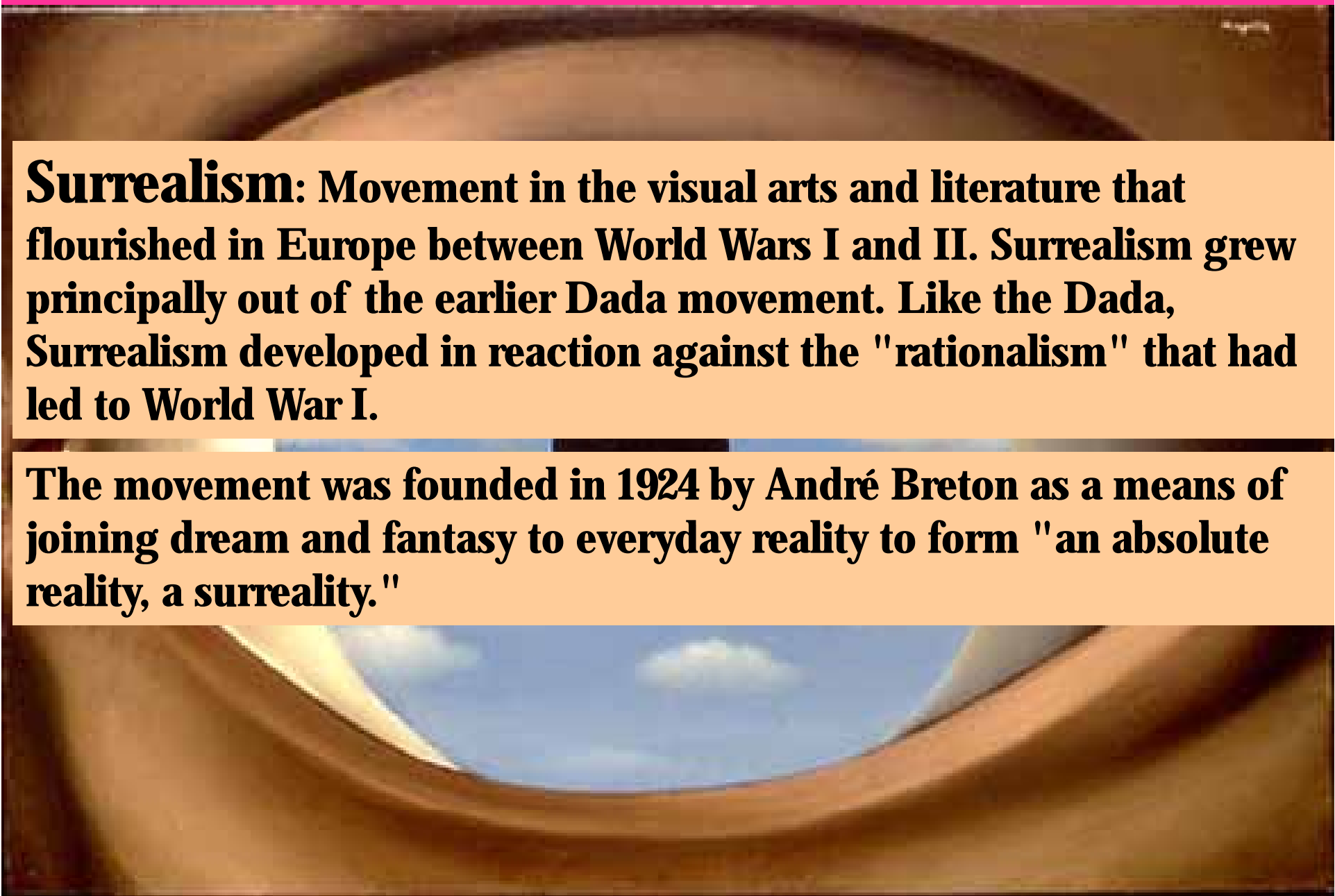
Giorgio de Chirico, *The Soothsayer's Recompense*, oil on canvas 1913



Giorgio de Chirico, *Ariadne*, 1913. Oil on canvas, Metropolitan, NY

Surrealism





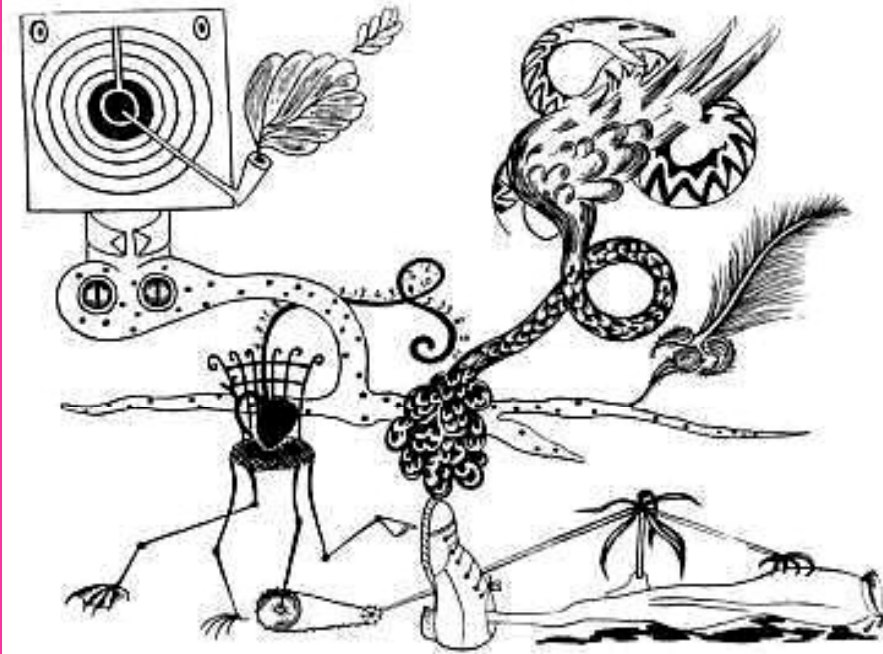
Surrealism: Movement in the visual arts and literature that flourished in Europe between World Wars I and II. Surrealism grew principally out of the earlier Dada movement. Like the Dada, Surrealism developed in reaction against the "rationalism" that had led to World War I.

The movement was founded in 1924 by André Breton as a means of joining dream and fantasy to everyday reality to form "an absolute reality, a surreality."



André Breton, 1896–1966, French writer; founder and theorist of the surrealist movement.

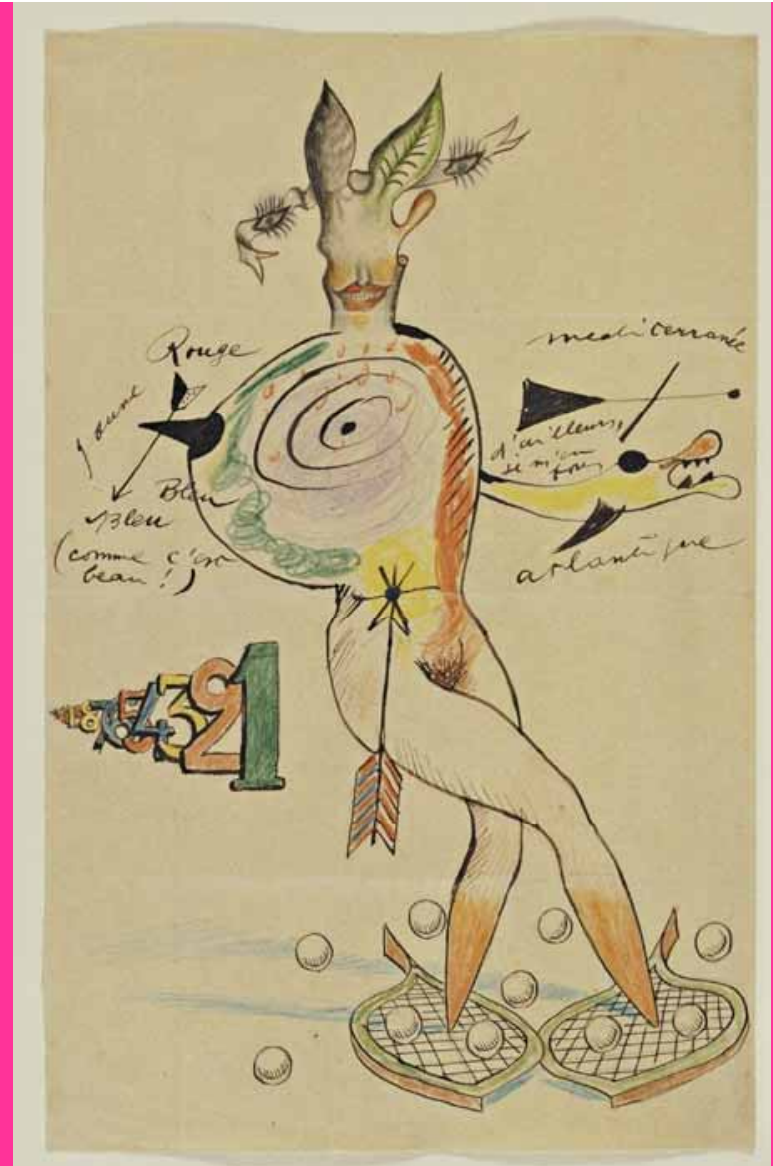
- In 1919 he helped found the Dada magazine.
- Drawing on the theories of Sigmund Freud, Breton concluded that the unconscious was the wellspring of the imagination.
- He wrote poetry using the automatic-writing technique.



Andre Breton, Valentine Hugo, Greta Knuston, Tristan Tzara, *Exquisite Corpse*, c. 1930. Ink on paper. 9x12"

"Exquisite Corpse"

A technique of serial blind composition.



Joan Miró, Max Morise, Man Ray, Yves Tanguy. *Exquisite Corpse*. 1926-27. Ink, pencil, and crayon on paper.

The Two Strands of Surrealism

1. Biomorphic or Abstract Surrealism (Miro, Masson, Matta)

- Automatism – “dictation of thoughts without control of the mind”
- Abstraction
- Originated from the experiments in chance and automatism carried on by Dadaists and Surrealist writers.



Joan Miro

2. Naturalistic or Illusionistic Surrealism (Dali, Tanguy, Magritte)

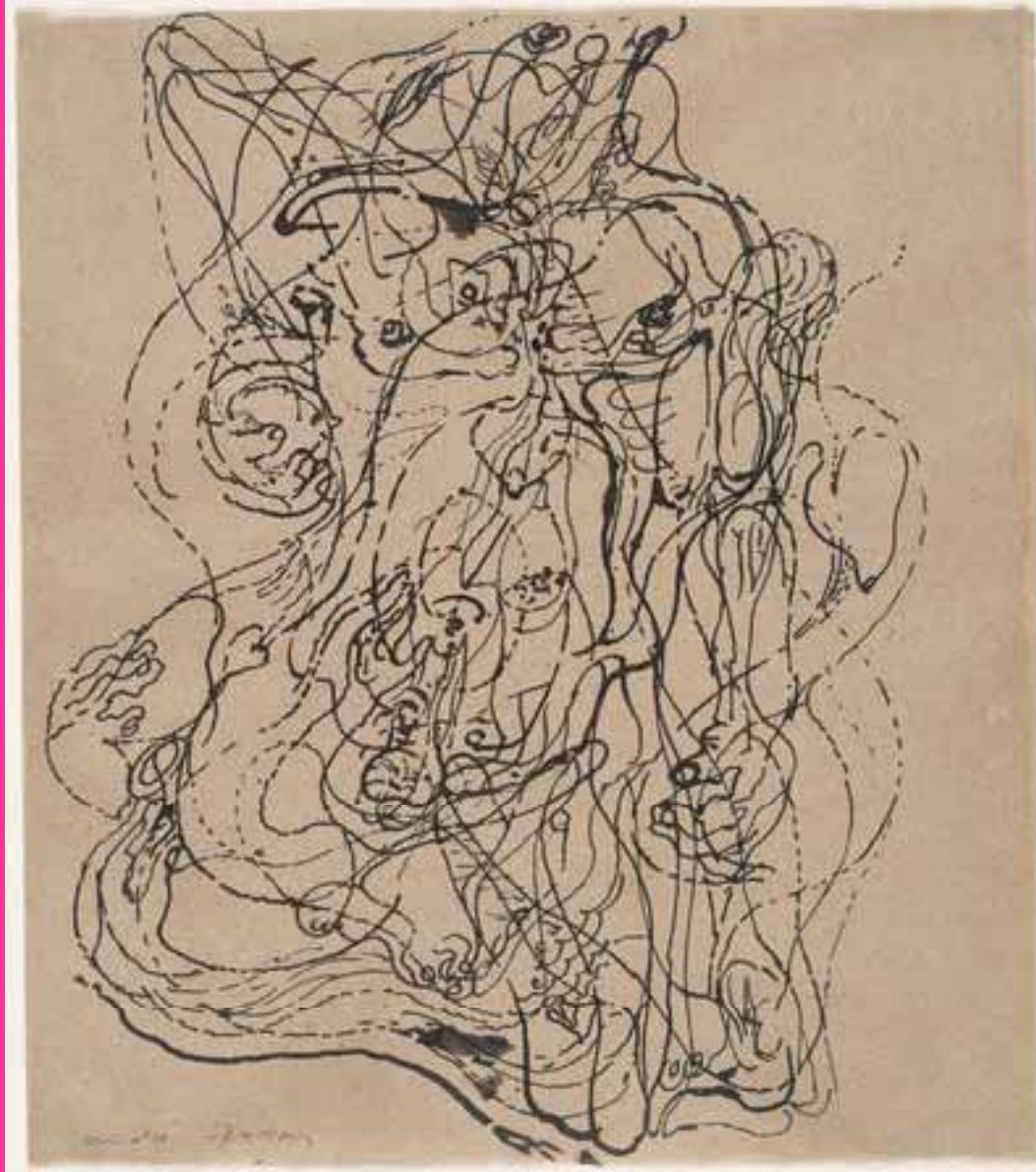
- Recognizable scenes and objects that are taken out of natural context, distorted and combined in a fantastic dreamlike way.
- Predecessors: Henri Rousseau, Chagall, Ensor, de Chirico, the Romantics



Magritte "The Listening Room"

Automatism

- **A method of painting or drawing in which conscious control is suppressed, allowing the subconscious to take over.**
- **Andre Breton wrote in the Surrealist Manifesto of 1924 of 'pure psychic automatism', of art being produced in the state of a dream.**
- **The Dadaists showed interest in such artistic phenomena but it was the Surrealists who developed them and later influenced Jackson Pollock and the Abstract Expressionists.**



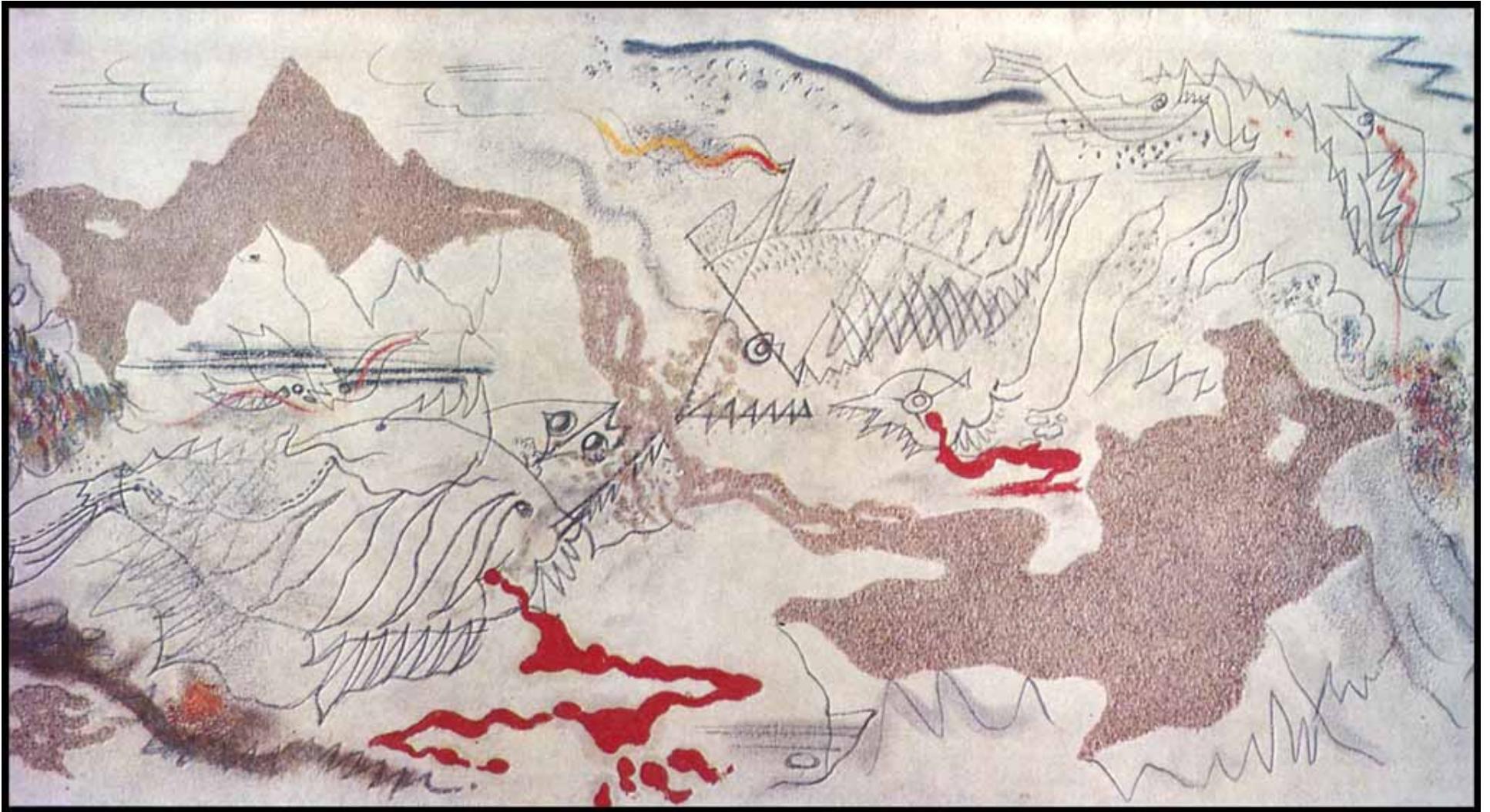
André Masson. Automatic Drawing. (1924). Ink on paper, 9 1/4 x 8 1/8" (23.5 x 20.6 cm). Museum of Modern Art, New York



André Masson. Automatic Drawing. (1924). Ink on paper, 9 1/4 x 8 1/8" (23.5 x 20.6 cm). Museum of Modern Art, New York



Dada: **Jean Arp. Automatic Drawing.** (1917-18) (inscribed 1916). Ink and pencil on paper, 16 3/4 x 21 1/4" (42.6 x 54 cm). Museum of Modern Art, New York



André Masson. (French, 1896-1987). *Battle of Fishes*. 1926. Sand, gesso, oil, pencil, and charcoal on canvas, 14 1/4 x 28 3/4" (36.2 x 73 cm). MoMa, NY

Masson, who was physically and spiritually wounded during World War I believed that, if left to chance, pictorial compositions would reveal the sadism of all living creatures.

André Masson,
The Blood of the
Birds, 1925-1926.

Tempera, sand, and
feathers on canvas,
29 1/2" x 29 1/2".





Joan Miró, *Carnival of the Harlequin*, 1924-1925. Oil on canvas, 26" x 36 5/8". Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York,



Joan Miró, *Carnival of the Harlequin*, Detail. 1924-1925. Oil on canvas, 26" x 36 5/8". Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York,

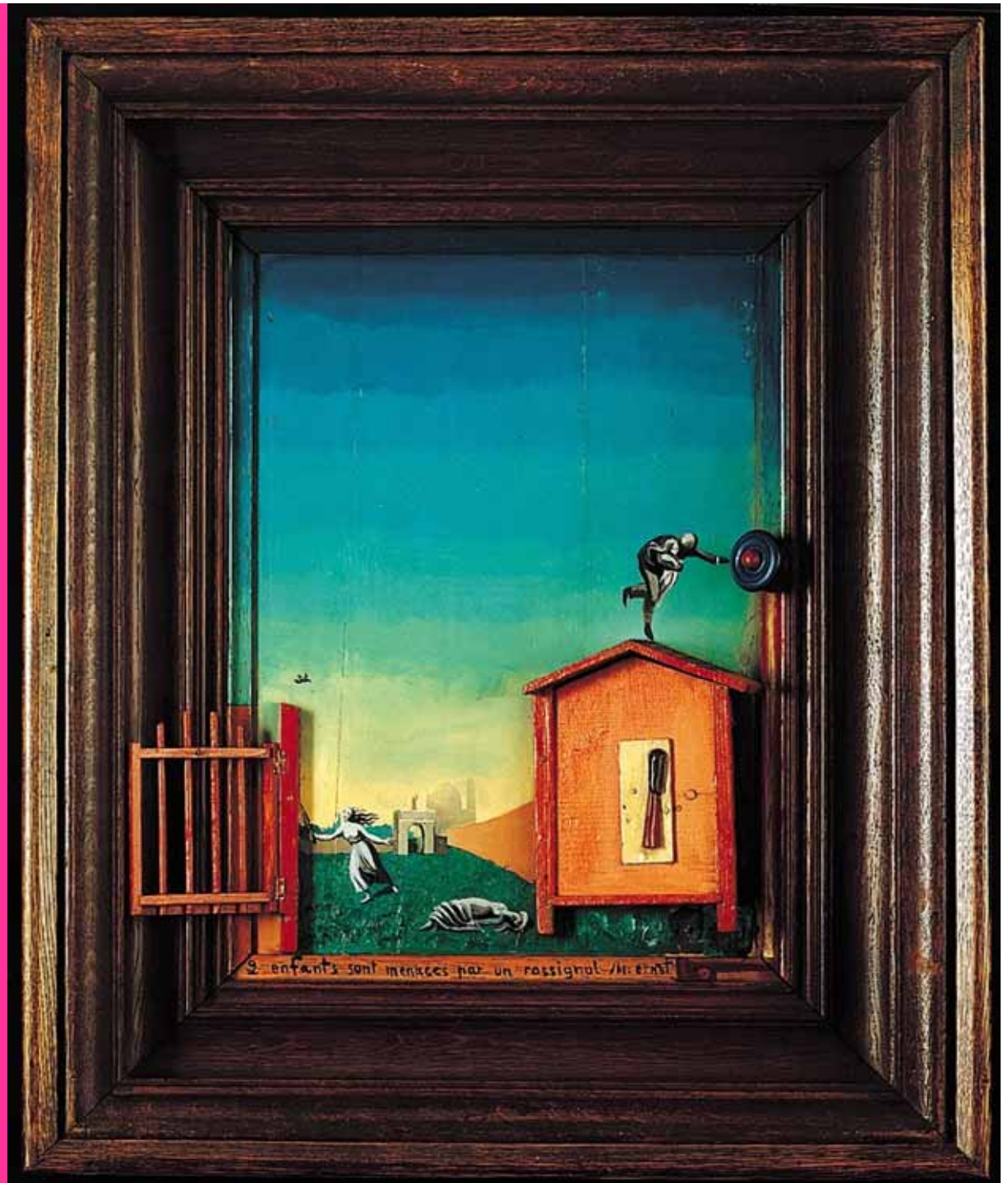


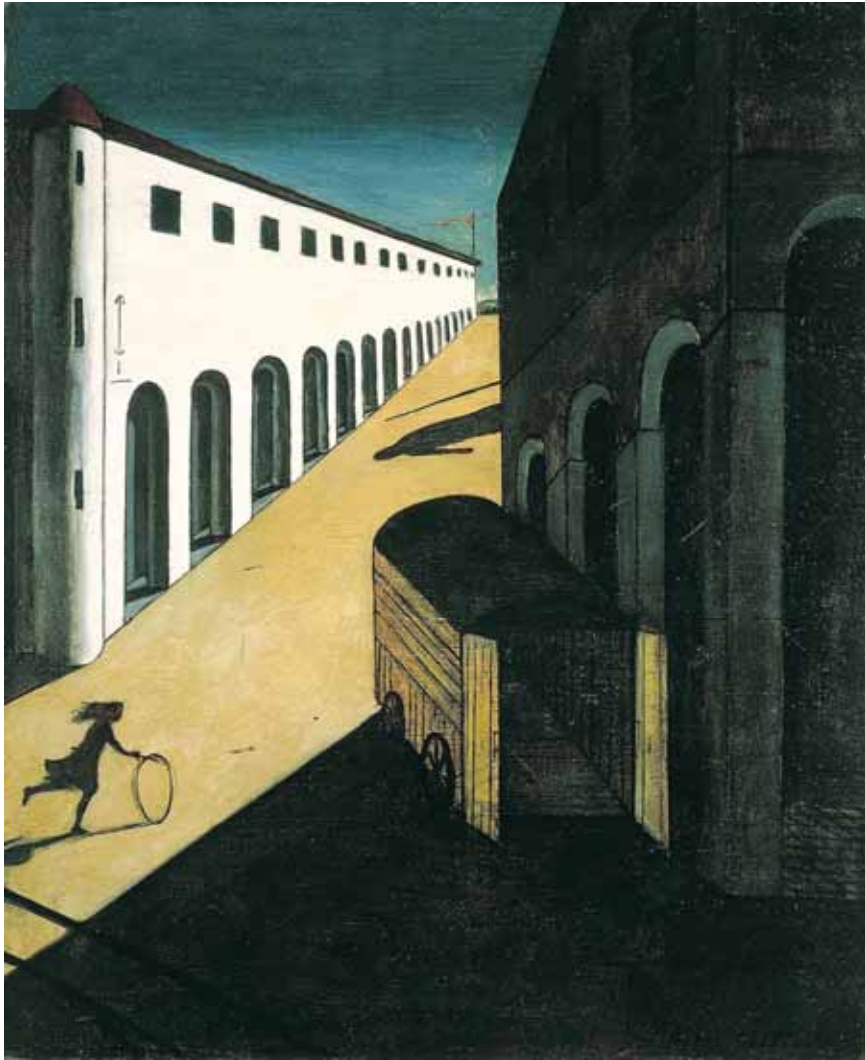
JOAN MIRÓ, *Painting*, 1933. 5' 8" x 6' 5". Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Ernst gave two autobiographical references for the nightingale: the death of his sister and a fevered hallucination he experienced in which the wood grain on a panel near his bed took on "successively the aspect of an eye, a nose, a bird's head, a menacing nightingale, a spinning top, and so on."

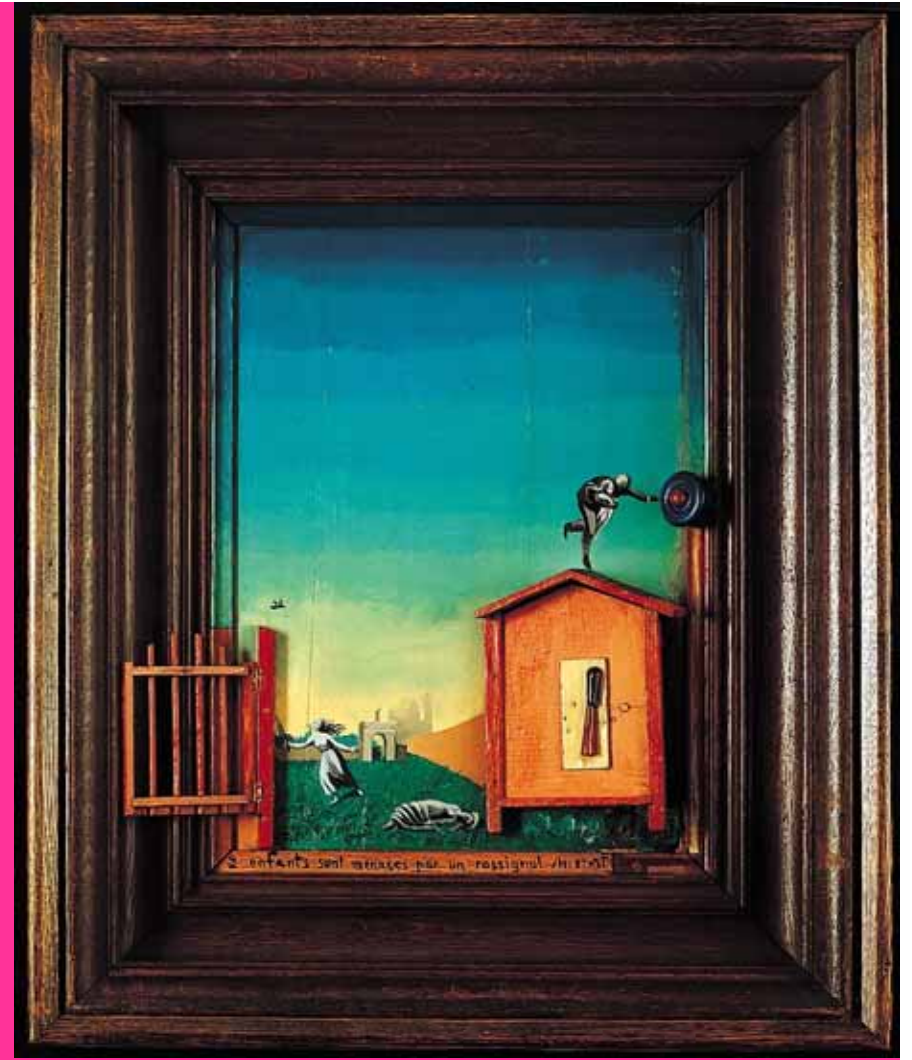
MAX ERNST, *Two Children Are Threatened by a Nightingale*

1924. Oil on wood with wood construction, 2' 3 1/2" high, 1' 10 1/2" wide, 4 1/2" deep. Museum of Modern Art, New York.





Giorgio de Chirico, *The Melancholy and Mystery of a Street*, 1914, oil on canvas, 2' 10 1/4" x 2' 4 1/2".



MAX ERNST, *Two Children Are Threatened by a Nightingale* 1924. Oil on wood with wood construction, 2' 3 1/2" high, 1' 10 1/2" wide, 4 1/2" deep



“Dali Atomicus,” or Dali with everything in suspension, photograph by Philippe Halsman, 1948



Salvador Dali with pet rooster, 1955

Salvador Dali: (1904 - 1989). Spanish painter, draughtsman, illustrator, sculptor, writer and film maker. One of the most prolific artists of the 20th century, his fantastic imagery and flamboyant personality also made him one of the best known.



Dali and his pet ocelot, Babou

"Galarina"; 1944
portrait of Gala Dalí
by Salvador Dalí.



Gala, was the wife of first
Paul Éluard, then Salvador
Dalí, and an inspiration for
them and many other writers
and artists.

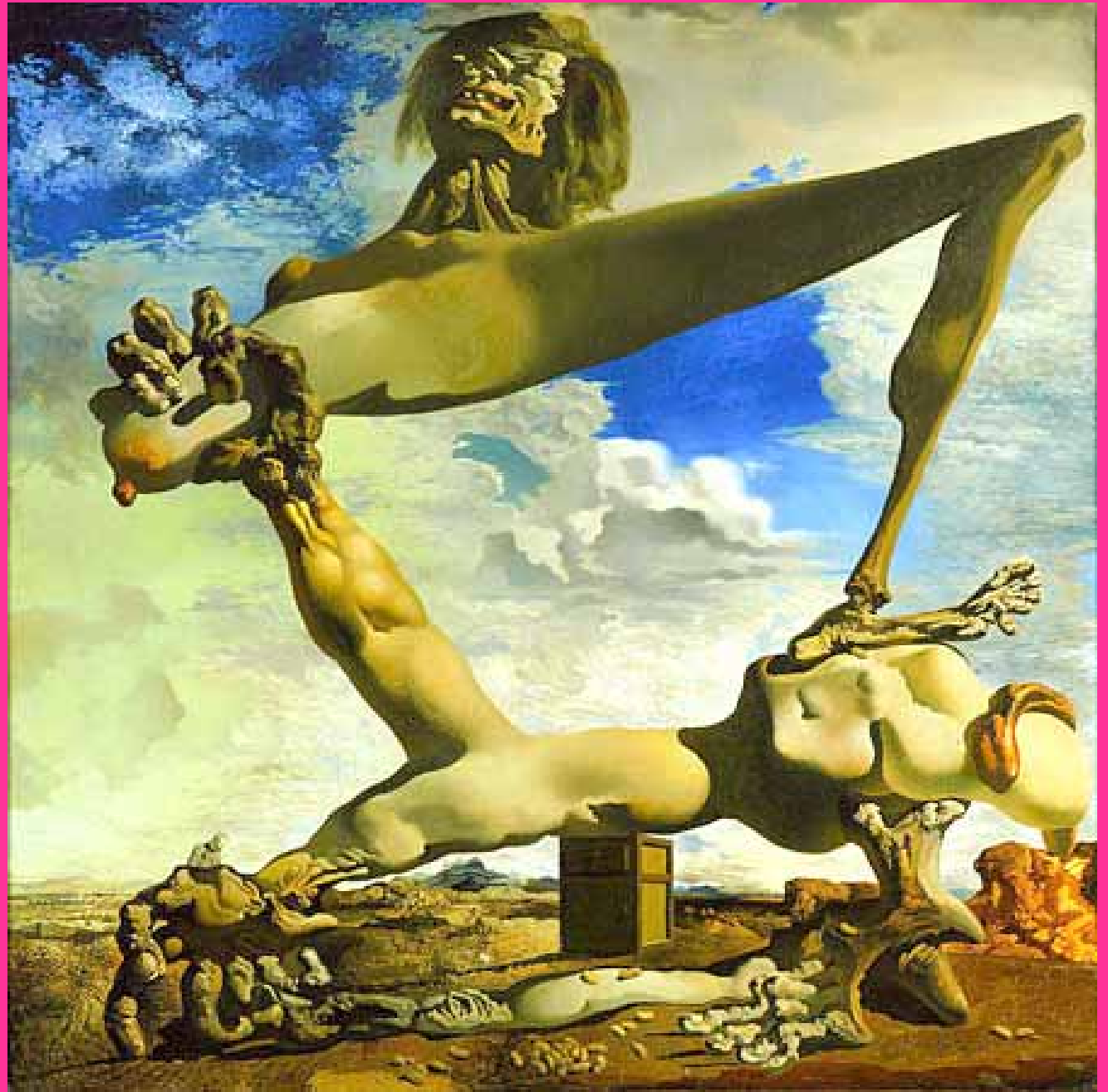


SALVADOR DALÍ, *The Persistence of Memory*

1931. Oil on canvas, 9 1/2" x 1' 1". Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Salvador Dali,
Soft
Construction
With Boiled
Beans
(Premonition of
Civil War), 1936,
oil on canvas.
39x39".
Philadelphia
Museum of Art

- The Spanish civil war started in July 1936

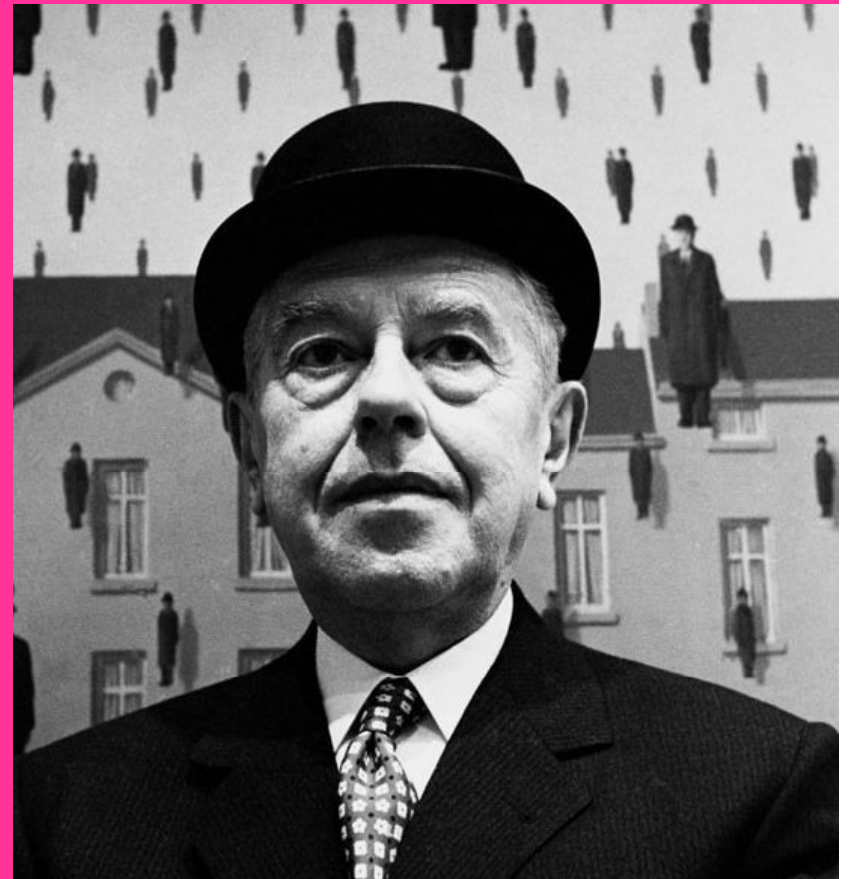
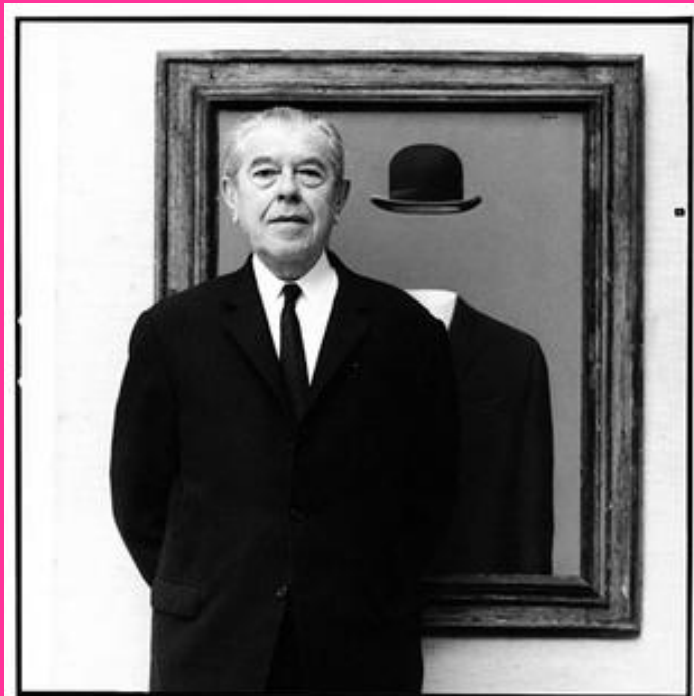


Rene Magritte

Born: 1898, Belgium

A Belgian surrealist artist best known for his witty and thought-provoking images and his use of simple graphics and everyday objects, giving new meanings to familiar things.

Photograph
of Magritte,
in front of his
painting *The
Pilgrim*, as
taken by
Lothar Wolleh



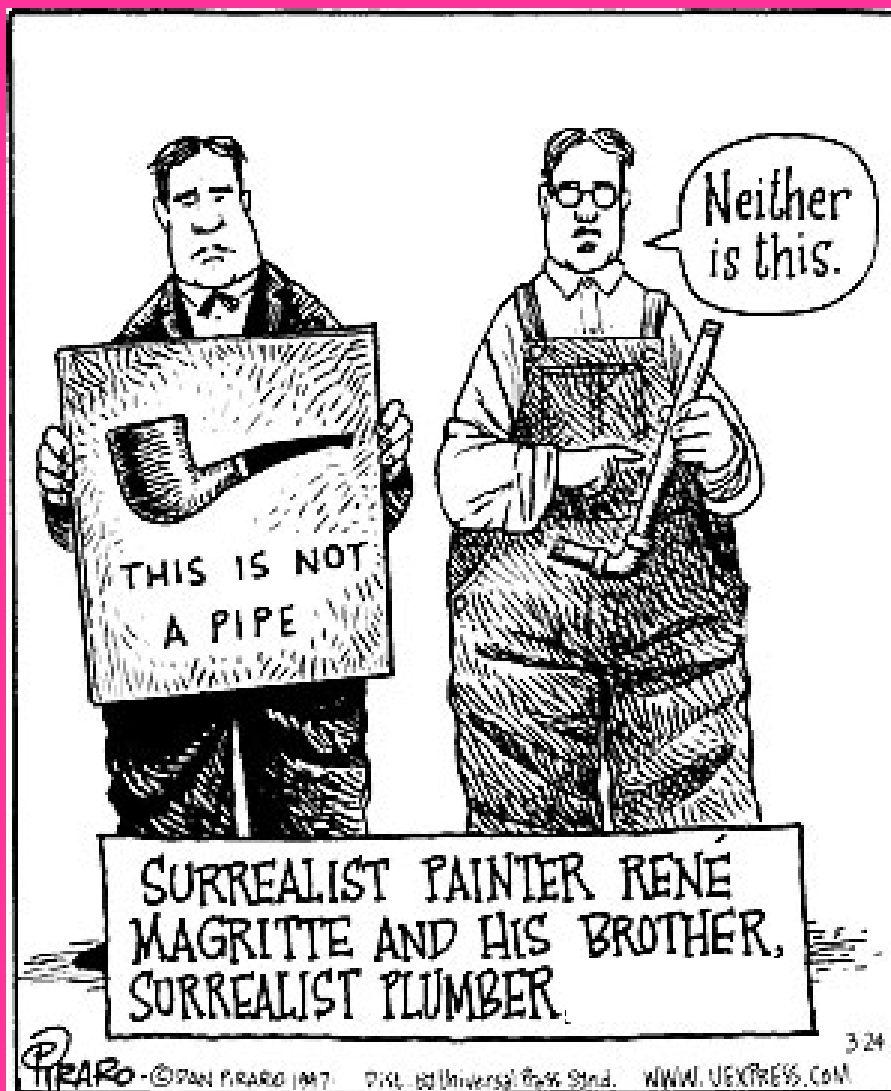


***Ceci n'est pas une pipe -
This is not a pipe***

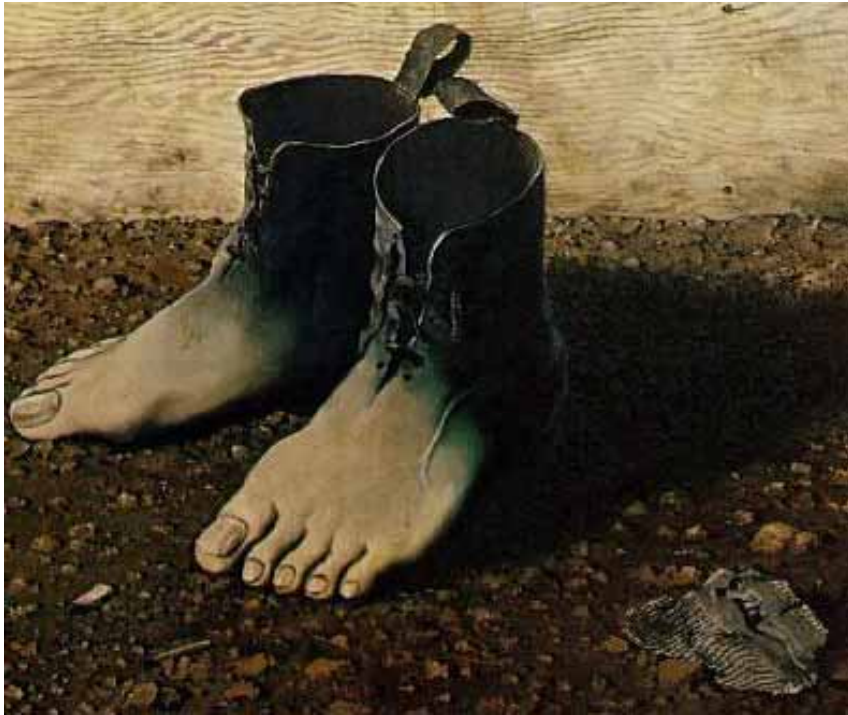
Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

Magritte

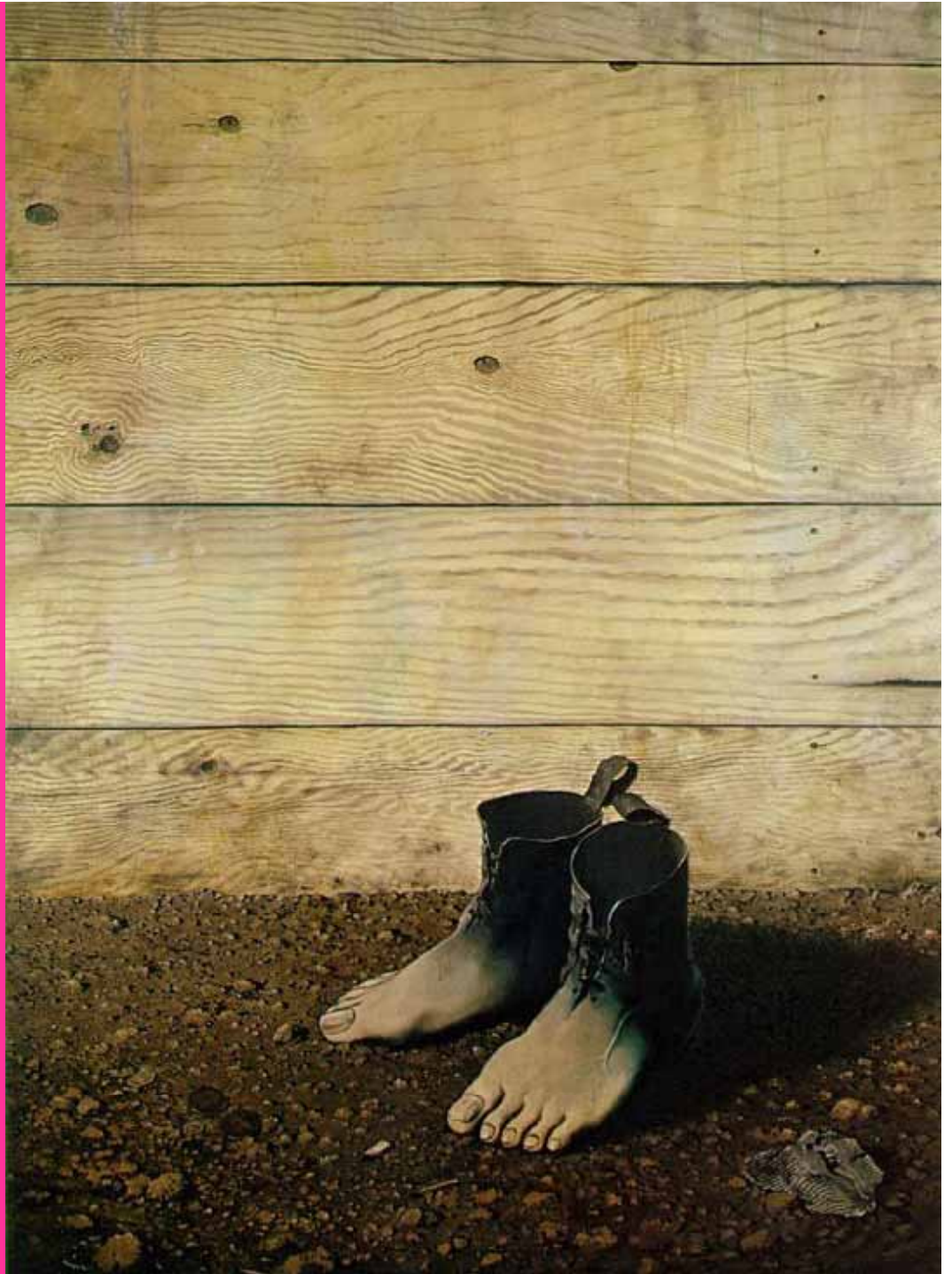
RENÉ MAGRITTE (Belgian painter. 1898–1967), ***The Treachery (or Perfidy) of Images***, 1928–1929. Oil on canvas, 1' 11 5/8" x 3' 1". LA County Museum of Art.



Ceci n'est pas une pipe.



Magritte, Rene
***The Red Model II*, 1937**
Oil on canvas
72 x 53 1/2 in
Edward James Foundation,
Chichester, Sussex



"Everything we see hides
another thing,
we always want to see what
is hidden by what we see."
(René Magritte)

**René Magritte. *The
Son of Man*, oil
painting, 1964**





René Magritte. *The Lovers*. 1928



MERET OPPENHEIM, *Object (Le Déjeuner en fourrure - The lunch in fur)*,
1936. Fur-covered cup, 4 3/8" in diameter; saucer, 9 3/8" in diameter; spoon, 8".
Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Man Ray (Emmanuel Radnitsky; 1890-1976)

American photographer and painter.

Along with Marcel Duchamp, Ray was a founder of the Dada movement in New York and Paris. He is celebrated for his later surrealist paintings and photography. Among his inventions is the rayograph, a photograph obtained by the direct application of objects of varying opacity to a light-sensitive plate.



Noire et Blanche (Black and White)
Made for the fashion magazine Vouge in 1926



*Duchamp & Man Ray playing
chess. 1924*

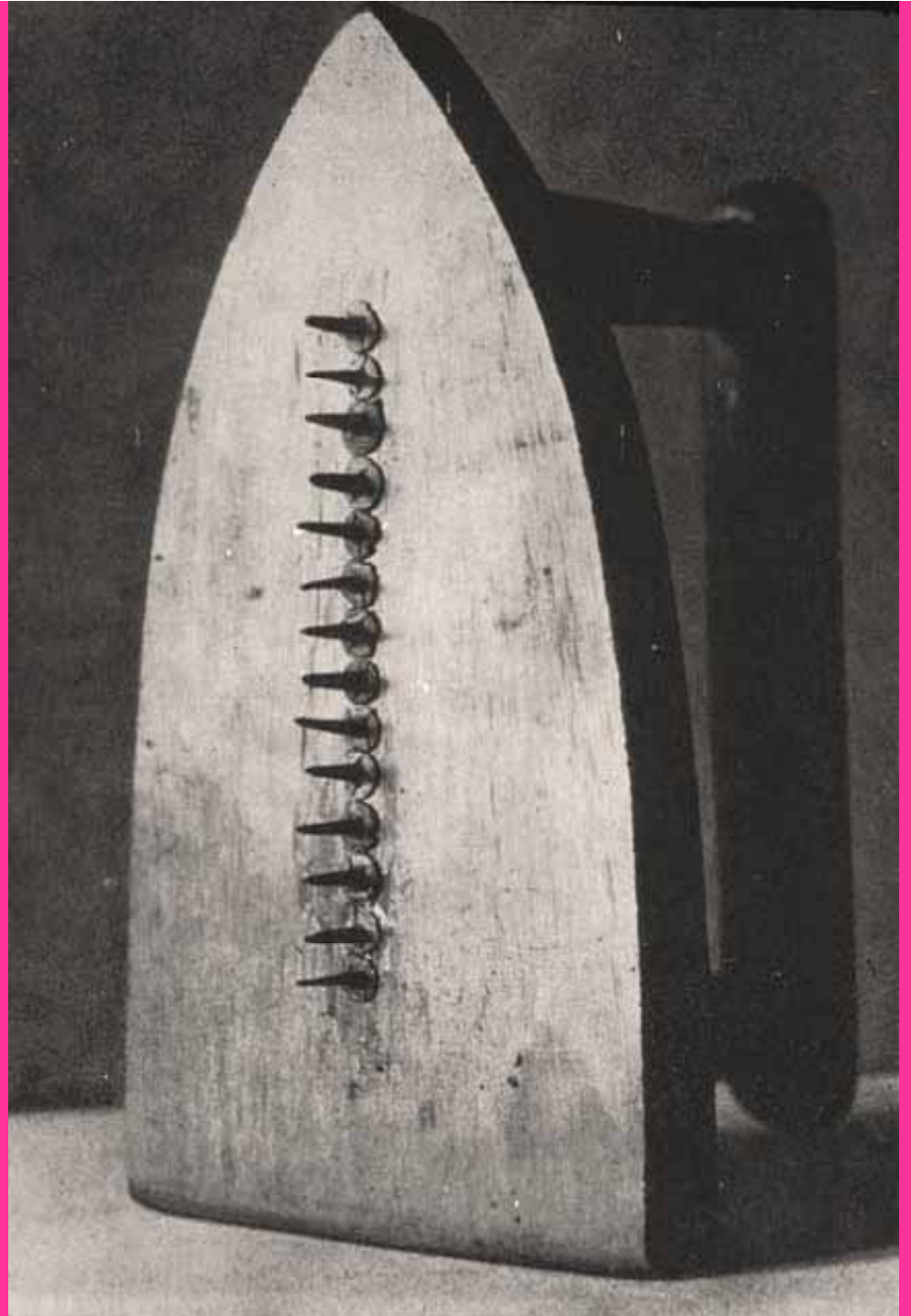


Glass Tears. 1932

Ray teamed up with Duchamp to publish the one issue of New York Dada in 1920, but he soon declared, "Dada cannot live in New York", and he moved to Paris in 1921.

With Jean Arp, Max Ernst, André Masson, Joan Miró, and Pablo Picasso; Man Ray was represented in the first Surrealist exhibition at the Galerie Pierre in Paris in 1925.

Man Ray (Emmanuel Radnitzky, American, 1890-1976), ***Cadeau (Gift)***, 1921 Painted flatiron and nails



Frida Kahlo (1907-1954 aged 47)

Mexican painter. She had polio as a child and at 18 suffered a serious bus accident. She subsequently underwent some 35 operations; during her recovery, she taught herself to paint. She is noted for her intense self-portraits, many reflecting her physical ordeal. Kahlo was influenced by Mexican folk art. She married famed muralist Diego Rivera and in 1940 they divorced for a short time before remarrying.

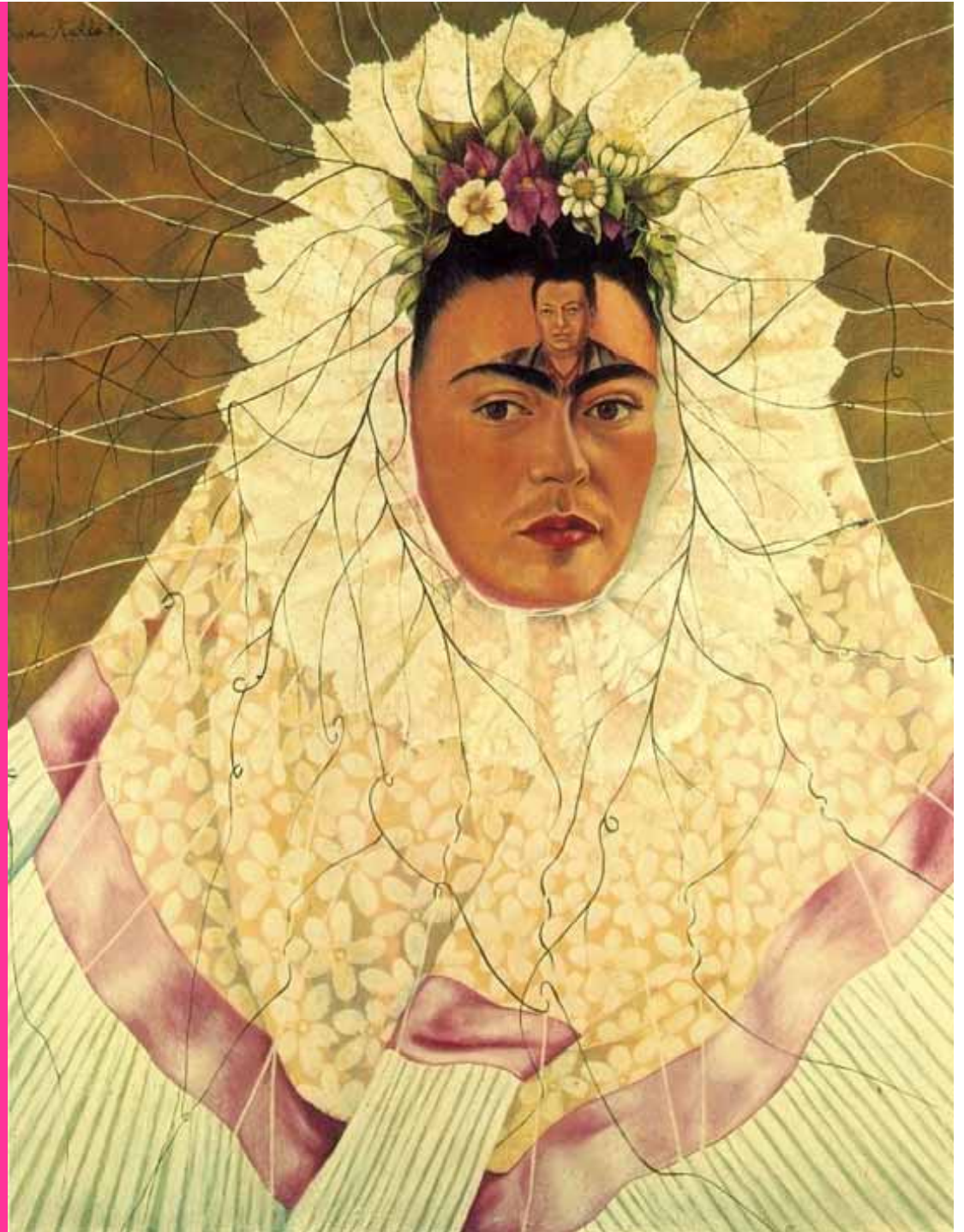


FRIDA KAHLO
The Two Fridas

1939. Oil on
canvas, 5' 7" x 5'
7". Museo de Arte
Moderno, Mexico
City.

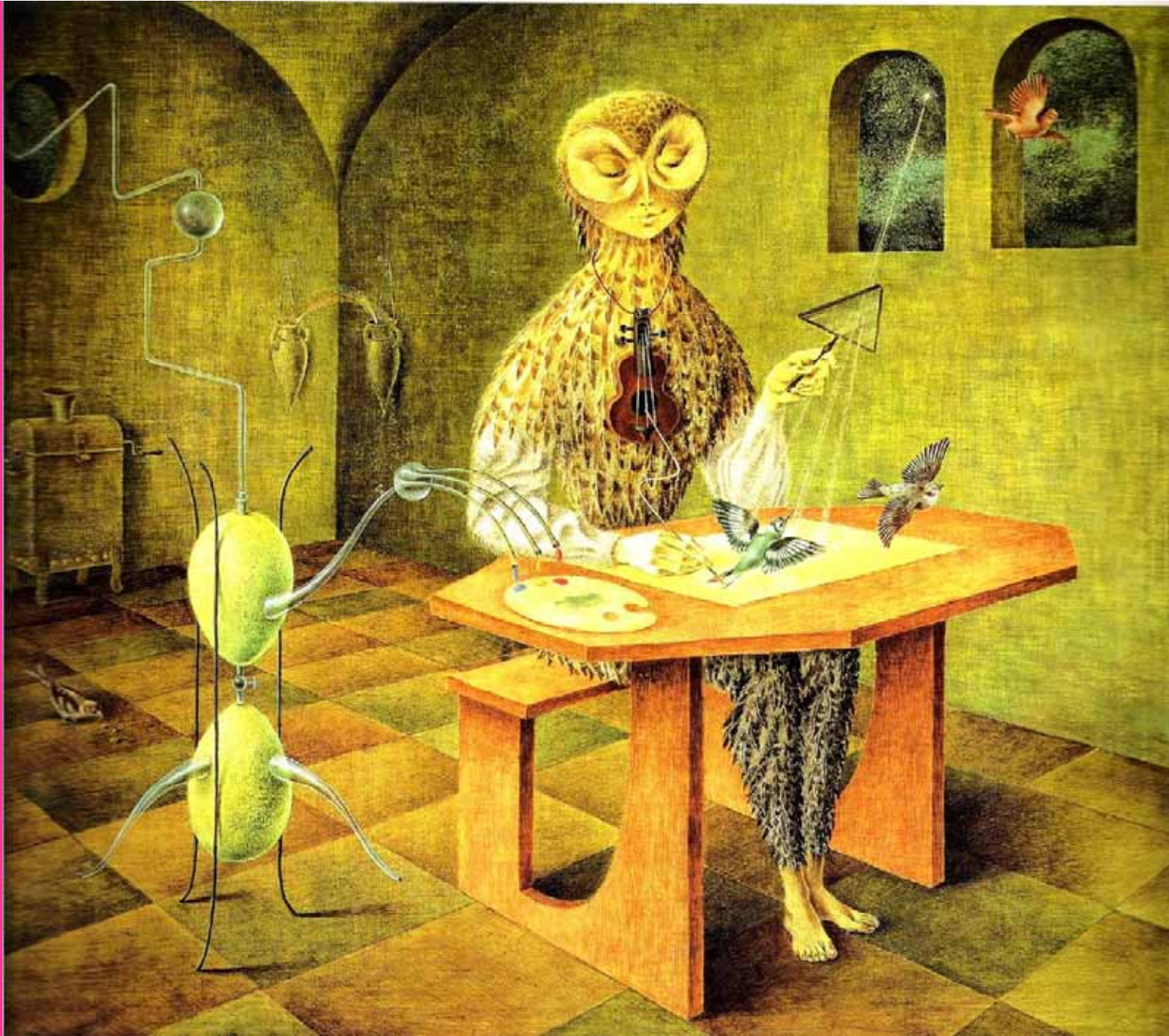


Frida Kahlo. *Diego in my Thoughts*. 1943 Oil on masonite. 11 5/8" X 8 13/16"





Remedios Varo (Spanish-Mexican artist),
Vampiros Vegetarianos
(*Vegetarian Vampires*) 1964.



Remedios Varo, *The Creation of Birds* 1958.