

Global Culture- Surrealism and Dali- Art of Spain K-5

Objective: Students will use printed images in collage to create a work of surrealism.

Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

Surrealism: a mash-up of the words 'super' (as in supernatural, magical) and 'realism' the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully.

Materials: magazines, newspaper, old books, scissors, glue sticks, construction paper, copy paper, pencils

Background information: One of Spain's most celebrated artists was a pioneer of surrealism, a new type of art in the early 20th century: Salvador Dali was once even quoted to have said "I AM surrealism." This style of art was like illustrating one's dreams. Featuring imagined landscapes and fantastic, wild placements of ordinary objects or animals, the paintings of Dali became well known and highly prized status symbols of the modern age. Salvador Dali was a grand personality of the 20th century and was well known for being provocative and behaving in ways many people then and now would consider VERY strange!



Opening activity: Students should pair up and create lists: once person in the pair would write down a list of 8 feelings or qualities (old, thin, magical, groggy, hungry, etc) and the other should write down a list of 8 nouns (toes, tires, tissues, trains, tops, etc). Then, they'll write a new list, pairing the first feeling word with the first noun, second feeling word with the second noun, and so on (in this example: old toes, thin tires, magical tissues, groggy trains, hungry tops, etc). Each group should take turns sharing their new 'fantastic' combined list with the group. Have students imagine creating a work of art that represented each of these items as described- what a strange illustration that would be!

Core Activity: Have students pull out images from the magazines and cut them out to be used in a collage: the STRANGER the better! Distribute the magazines, other printed matter, and scissors. They'll assemble the pieces for their Surrealist masterpiece on a piece of construction paper. Once they have finished laid out their collage, distribute the gluesticks for students to affix the full collage to the construction paper.

Reflection: As students are cleaning up the space, have them share: how does your painting demonstrate the SUPER realistic?