

## Poster design

Some of the surrealists, including Dora Maar, were renowned for their manipulation of black-and-white prints depicting a dreamlike world. Design a poster for a retrospective exhibition of the artist's work. Think about the following:

- The exhibition needs to attract a young audience.
- The exhibition title should be integrated into your poster design. *Which of Dora Maar's works would you use? Why do you think this work would particularly appeal to young people?*

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- *Where would you place your poster for maximum publicity? For example, would you position your poster on a billboard, in a cafe window, on the side of a bus?*

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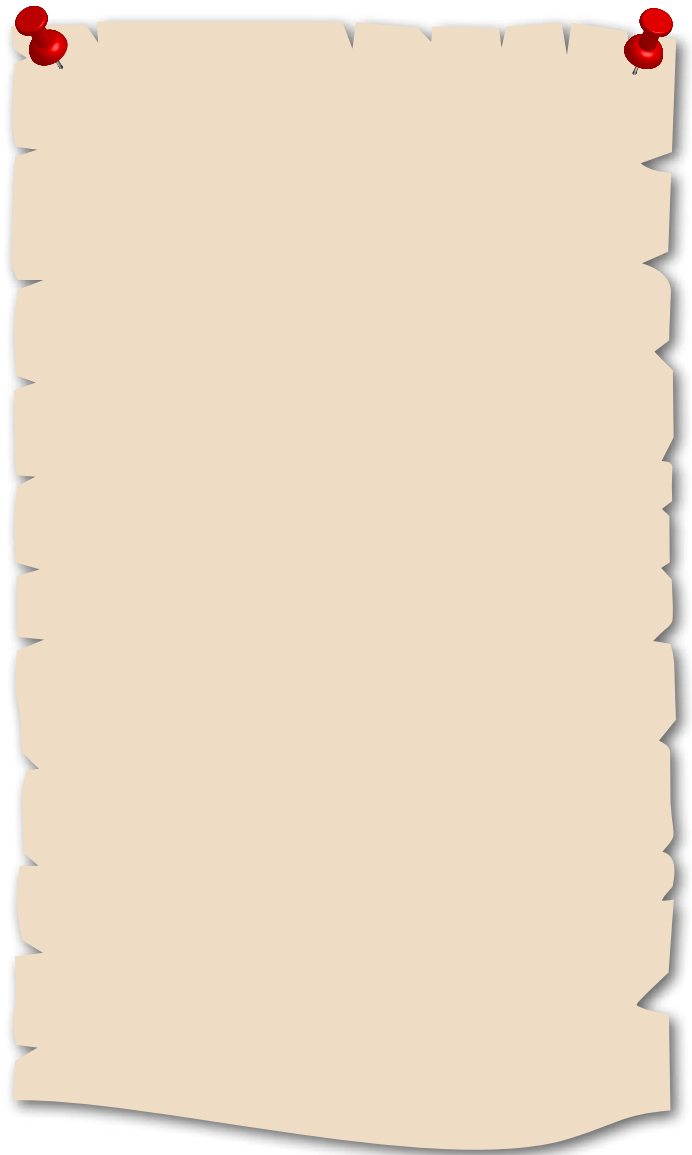


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- Draw a quick sketch of your poster design.



Victor Brauner used juxtaposition — the combination of common, everyday objects in unusual or unexpected ways — as an artistic device. These combinations could be shocking, disturbing or humorous, or all three. Strange combinations also appear in the English language and conjure funny or strange images. Try to fill in the missing details in the table below.

COLLOQUIAL PHRASE	carry on like a pork chop	like a stunned mullet	Your turn . . .
MEANING	behave foolishly		
DRAWING			

# SURREALISM

THE POETRY OF DREAMS

## STUDENT WORKSHEET | Secondary

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes the surrealists used metamorphosis to create art works; this involves morphing or changing an object or person into something else, like an animal or an object. In one painting, Dalí morphed one of his favourite artists into a table.

- Who is your favourite artist?
- What piece of furniture would you morph them into? Draw a quick sketch below, or you may wish to make a sculpture once back in the classroom.

Another surrealist photographer, Man Ray created the 'rayograph', a camera-less picture made by placing an object on photographic paper and exposing it to light. The paper would be imprinted with the object's ghostly shadow. In a sense, Man Ray was allowing found objects to 'draw themselves'.

Unlike a print made from a negative, each rayograph is a unique art object born of an unpredictable process. It was this element of chance which was highly prized by the surrealists.



### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1938, Brauner lost his left eye in a violent argument between the artists Oscar Domínguez and Esteban Francés. Brauner attempted to protect Francés and was hit by a glass thrown by Domínguez. Prior to this, Brauner had created many works in which eyes were mutilated or injured, including self-portraits. He could never explain why he created these works, although later it would be interpreted as a premonition.

THE SURREALISTS EMERGE

1919-1924

In the 1920s, a group of artists, writers and poets gathered in Paris; they were attracted to the ideas of the poet André Breton, the founder of Surrealism. These artists dedicated themselves to revising the standard definition of reality, creating fantastical images, recounting dreams and exploring the subconscious.

Surrealism is an art movement that . . . (Tick the statements which are true)

- formed in Paris in the early twentieth century
focused on making art that was realistic, like photographs
dealt with making art that was surprising and unexpected
developed before Dada
grew out of a protest over the horrors of World War Two.

THE AUTOMATIC

1924-1929

The domestic interior became a staple theme of Surrealism. Surrealists were preoccupied with the symbolism of dreams. They turned to Sigmund Freud's techniques of free association and automatic writing in order to free themselves from the constraints of the conscious mind.

The home no longer signified domesticity and security. For example, cellars, stairs, doors and attics were symbolic of both psychic and physical scenarios.

Can you find any other symbols in this space that may represent ideas about the home? What might they mean?

Blank lines for writing answers to the question about symbols in the home.

THE BODY — PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SPHERES

1929-1939

The body became the subject of intense scrutiny — dismembered, fragmented and eroticised. The representation of the body united the spheres of the physical and psychological, and allowed for an exploration of sexuality as an aspect of modernity.

Find the art work by André Masson called the Le labyrinthe.

Why do you think the artist has fragmented the body in this art work?

Blank lines for writing an answer to the question about fragmented bodies.

What are the elements in the art work that the artist has revealed?

Blank lines for writing an answer to the question about revealed elements.

Find another artist in this exhibition who has used the body to explore the unconscious. Compare this work to Masson's art work.

How have both artists used the body to provide a representation of the physical and psychological?

Blank lines for writing an answer to the question about both artists.

IS IT A DREAM?  
**1939-1946**

Surrealism began at a time when Sigmund Freud's theories were very popular. The unconscious is most active when you are sleeping, and that is why surrealist images appeared dreamlike. The challenge was to make their art appear both real and bizarre, just like dreams.

Think of a dream which has puzzled you.


 *Where do you think the ideas in your dream came from?*

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 *Do you keep having this dream?  
Why do you think this happens?*

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 Sometimes there are hidden meanings in dreams.  
*What do you think your dream means?*

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## HOW SURREAL!

In 1940, Salvador Dalí summed up his desire to make objects:


**'I try to create fantastic things, magical things, things like in a dream.**

**The world needs more fantasy.**

**Our civilisation is too mechanical.  
We can make the fantastic real, and then it is more real than that which actually exists.'**

WHAT A COMBINATION  
**1946-1966**

The surrealists were particularly disturbed by the horrors of World War One. They felt that if the rational mind (the mind you think with) had created a society they did not like, then perhaps the unconscious mind (the mind you exercise in your dreams) could build a better world.

 *What aspects of life did the surrealists transform into art?*

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 *How can daily life become a source of ideas for works of art?*

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Salvador Dalí in New York with a rooster named Oscar, 1955 / Collection: Bettmann / Image courtesy: Bettmann/Corbis