**Masterpiece:** Swans with Elephants & Persistence of Memory  
**Artist:** Salvador Dali (DAH-LEE)  
**Concept:** Surreal Collage  
**Lesson:** Dream Photographs

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**Objectives:**
A. Create a picture using real things in unreal situations.
B. To experiment with collage and painting.

**Vocabulary:** Surrealism, collage, symbols, message, reality, fantasy.

**Materials:**
- 8" x 10" watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Water cups
- Magazines pages for cutting out pictures
- Scissors
- Glue
- Black sharpies for titling artwork and name

**Alternative Mediums:** watercolor pencils, watercolor markers

**Please Note**
Do not allow the kids to go through the magazines or it will take too long and the class could get out of hand. Rather volunteers can pre-select and tear out pages of pictures that are clear and uncluttered from magazines. Organize pages by categories and save the pictures in shoe boxes. Keep in mind, large pictures of animals, people, toys, and food make good subjects.

**Troubleshooting Thoughts**
Pick the pictures, cut out, and set aside, paint the watercolor background, then glue the magazine picture onto the watercolor paper. Avoid painting with black and brown as it could make their surreal image difficult to see.
Process:
1. View and discuss the surrealist works of Salvador Dali
2. View the short PowerPoint presentation. Tell the students they do not have to use “a play on words” such as the PowerPoint did.
3. Explain to the students to use their imagination to make a surreal image using the magazine picture in some way that is surprising, unexpected, or impossible. For example, the picture of a bowl of cereal glued to the paper may become the boat on which a family of hand-drawn mice sails across a strange ocean. Or the picture of a woman’s face could be used in a drawing as the face of an animal, such as a lion, dog, or bear. Cut-outs of coins could be glued on a drawing to represent flowers. The imaginative possibilities are endless.
4. Pass out watercolor paper, watercolor paints, brushes, scissors, magazines pages and glue.
5. Next, have the students go through the magazine pages and pick out some of their favorite clear images. Limit the amount to 3-4 if possible otherwise their picture will be too crowded.
6. Have the students cut the pictures out. DO NOT GLUE YET. Rather have them arrange their pictures on their watercolor paper and think of a simple background.
7. Next, take the pictures off of the paper and set aside.
8. When their background idea is in mind they can begin painting on the watercolor paper with the watercolor paints. Keep it simple such as a sunny day, a garden, a sunset, mountain, an ocean, etc… they do not need to sketch with their pencil first. Tell the students to use lighter colors so their magazine pictures will show up. Avoid black if possible… Show examples.
9. When they are done painting their background, next, glue the chosen magazine pictures to their “surrealism” image. The goal is to make it look dreamlike or strange.
10. In addition, imagine a title or name for the drawing that is equally unexpected. For example, the animal drawing with the woman’s face might be titled, “Grizzly Girl” or “My Mom Can Roar”. Or, the coin flowers might be called, “Allowance in Bloom”, or “Rich Rewards”.
11. Sign your name to the front and add the title with a black sharpie.
12. Volunteers can mount the artwork to 9” x 12” colored construction paper when dry.
13. Hang outside classroom for all to enjoy!
6th GRADE--PROJECT #5

Artist: Salvador Dali
Masterpiece: Swans with Elephants & Persistence of Memory
Lesson: Surreal Collage/Dream Photographs

Project Samples:
Art Masterpiece – Swans Reflecting Elephants
Salvador Dali (1904-1988)

Salvador Dali was born in Spain in 1904. His father was a wealthy business owner who built Dali his own art studio. Dali eventually went to study art in Madrid and had his first art show at 21 years old. He became internationally famous for his surrealist art. His paintings are filled with strange scenes and objects from his imagination or dreams. Your young artists created their own surrealist masterpieces today in class; please ask them about what they learned.
Salvador Dali

(1904-1989)
Art Masterpiece: Persistence of Memory, 1931—Salvador Dali

Keywords: Surrealism, Surrealistic Terms: Levitation, Juxtaposition, Dislocation, Scale Change and Replacement

Hint: Additional examples of Surrealist art are helpful for this lesson. (i.e. Magritte and Tanguy prints or magazine ads that demonstrate the Terms.)

Grade: 6th

Lesson: Surrealism Watercolor Collage

Form of Art: Surrealism. “Sur” means beyond, so surrealism means “beyond realism”.
Surrealism is a major artistic movement where artists attempted to represent the world as seen by the unconscious mind. These artworks were inspired by dreams and imagination and usually contained scenes that were very fantasy-like and unreal. Surrealism depicts bizarre images of objects that may be based in reality but the artist has changed them so they look more dream-like. Some of the methods an artist uses to create surrealist art are:

- **Dislocation**: Placing an object in unusual or unfamiliar surroundings. (a train coming out of a fireplace)
- **Scale Change**: Changing an object’s usual size. (an enormous apple next to a man).
- **Replacement**: Replacing an expected object with an unexpected one. (a car steering wheel that is a clock.)
- **Levitation**: Floating objects, defying gravity. (Islands floating in the air).
- **Juxtaposition**: Joining two images in an impossible combination. (a rock sitting on top of a fragile flower).

Meet The Artist:

- Salvador Dali was born in Spain in 1904 (around the time of the invention of the car).
- Had his first drawing lesson at the age of 10. His father was a wealthy business owner who built Dali his own art studio.
- Dali eventually went to study art in Madrid and had his first art show at 21 years old.
- During the next 7 years he became internationally famous for his surrealist art. His paintings are filled with strange scenes and objects from his imagination or dreams.
- Dali loved attention and was quite a showman. He wore a long curled up mustache (picture attached). He hosted a ball where everyone came dressed as their favorite dream and once he arrived to an event in a limousine filled with cauliflower.
- Dali died at the age of 85 and will always be one of the 20th century’s most famous and unusual artists.
Meet The Artist:

Questions

What adjectives would you use to describe this scene?

Is this a realistic painting? Why or why not? What makes it surreal? (Dreamlike imagery)

Do you see examples of Dislocation? (clocks and square structures in barren wasteland. Dead tree coming out of the square structure.)

Do you see examples of Scale Change? (large, soft clocks)

Why do you think the artist titled it Persistence of Memory?

What do you think soft clocks are a symbol of?

How does this painting make you feel?

**The Persistence of Memory, 1931

Salvador Dali got the idea for this painting after an evening meal when he found himself looking at the remains of runny Camembert cheese. His painting consists of drooping forms of clocks as well as the 'soft self-portrait' melting on rocks underneath it, which he added to a barren landscape. In contrast to these elements of softness are the large rocks and strange blocks in the painting. All that is man-made or human has been conquered by time. In this dream-like artwork, time that is measured by mechanical clocks is not important, as all things human are temporary. When compared with the permanence of the landscape, mechanical measurement of time has no importance. The live ants crawling on the solid clock have been said to suggest our inevitable death. We are all conquered by time. (rephrased from: Bradbury, K. Essential Dali. Bath, U.K.: Parragon, 1999, p. 70)
Questions you can ask about Surrealism (and Answers)

Art Masterpiece: Swans Reflecting Elephants & Persistence of Memory
Artist: Salvador Dali

Meet The Artist:
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• Dali eventually went to study art in Madrid and had his first art show at 21 years old.
• During the next 7 years he became internationally famous for his surrealist art. His paintings are filled with strange scenes and objects from his imagination or dreams.
• Dali loved attention and was quite a showman. He wore a long curled up mustache (picture attached). He hosted a ball where everyone came dressed as their favorite dream and once he arrived to an event in a limousine filled with cauliflower.
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Hint: Additional examples of Surrealist art are helpful for this lesson. (i.e. Magritte and Tanguy prints or magazine ads that demonstrate the Terms.)

Form of Art: Surrealism. “Sur” means beyond, so surrealism means "beyond realism". Surrealism is a major artistic movement where artists attempted to represent the world as seen by the unconscious mind. These artworks were inspired by dreams and imagination and usually contained scenes that were very fantasy-like and unreal. Surrealism depicts bizarre images of objects that may be based in reality but the artist has changed them so they look more dream-like. Some of the methods an artist uses to create surrealist art are:

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Questions for Swans Reflecting Elephants

What adjectives would you use to describe this scene?

Is this a realistic painting? Why or why not? What makes it surreal? (Dreamlike imagery)

Do you see examples of Dislocation?

Do you see examples of Scale Change?

Why do you think the artist gave it this title?

How does this painting make you feel?

Questions for Persistence of Memory

Is this a realistic painting? Why or why not? What makes it surreal? (Dreamlike imagery)

Do you see examples of Dislocation? (Clocks and square structures in barren wasteland. Dead tree coming out of the square structure.)

Do you see examples of Scale Change? (Large, soft clocks)

Why do you think the artist titled it Persistence of Memory?

**What do you think soft clocks are a symbol of?
The Persistence of Memory, 1931

The original idea of this painting came from a memory of Dalí’s from childhood. While undergoing a routine physical, the Doctor asked Dalí to stick out his tongue. This phrase in Spanish sounded much like the words for "melting clocks."

The painting was first exhibited in Paris at the Galerie Pierre Colle in 1931, where it was purchased by the New York gallerist Julien Levy for $250. In 1933 it was sold to Mrs. Stanley B. Resor, who donated the piece anonymously to the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1935.

Salvador Dali got the inspiration for this painting after an evening meal when he found himself looking at the remains of runny Camembert cheese. His painting consists of drooping forms of clocks as well as the 'soft self-portrait' melting on rocks underneath it, which he added to a barren landscape. In contrast to these elements of softness are the large rocks and strange blocks in the painting. All that is man-made or human has been conquered by time. In this dream-like artwork, time that is measured by mechanical clocks is not important, as all things human are temporary. When compared with the permanence of the landscape, mechanical measurement of time has no importance. The live ants crawling on the solid clock have been said to suggest our inevitable death. We are all conquered by time. (rephrased from: Bradbury, K. Essential Dali. Bath, U.K.: Parragon, 1999, p. 70)
eggplant
Doctor Pepper
pool table
Baseball Bat
Tap dancers
The King of Pop
Hole Milk