# Surrealism

## 1924



Atomica Melancolica (1945)



# Surrealism

1924

Originally a literary movement, it explored dreams, the unconscious, the element of chance and multiple levels of reality.

“more than real”

“better than real”



# *WHY* Surrealism in 1924?

What was happening in the world around this time?

# *WHY* Surrealism in 1924?

What was happening in the world around this time?

- World War I (1914-1918)
- Sigmund Freud

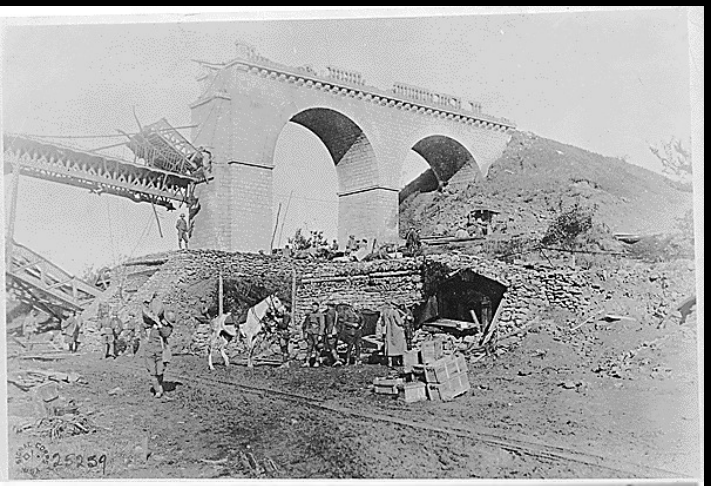
Physically and psychologically,

WWI destroyed Western civilization





Source: Dr. F.X. O'Connor Fonds, Queen's University Archives

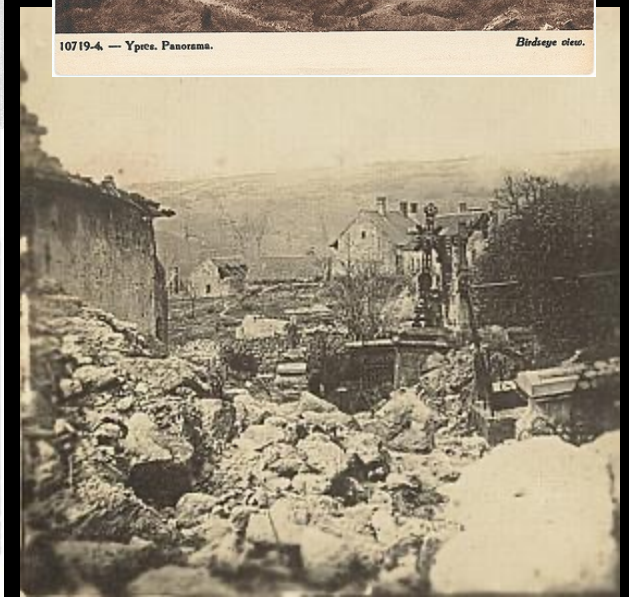




10719-4. — Ypres. Panorama. *Birdseye view.*



Source: Dr. F.X. O'Connor Fonds, Queen's University Archives



**Countries Involved:**

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Canada
France
Germany
Great Britain
Greece
India
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Montenegro
New Zealand
Poland
Portugal
Rhodesia
Romania
Russia
Serbia
South Africa
Turkey
United States

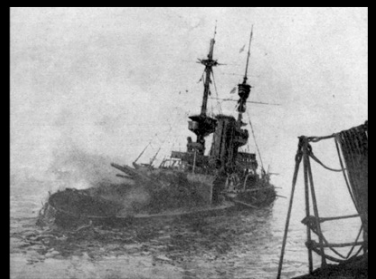










"The logic, science and technology that many thought would bring a better world had gone horribly wrong.

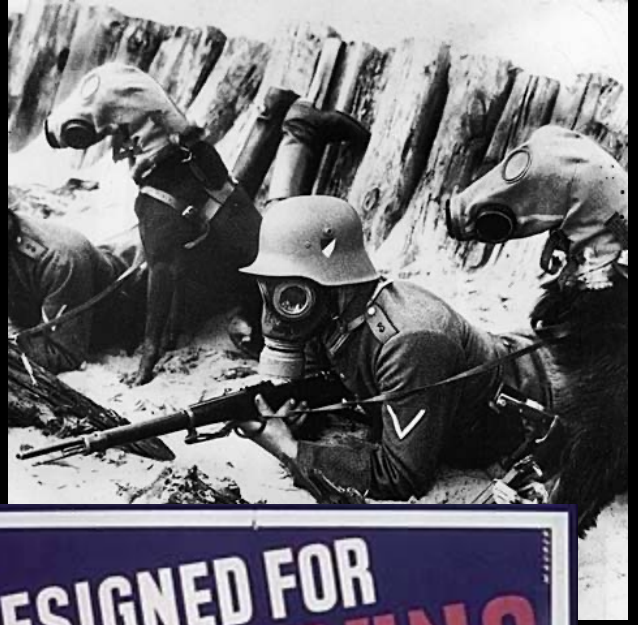
Instead of a better world, the advancements of the 19th century had produced such high tech weapons as machine guns, long-range artillery, tanks, submarines, fighter planes and mustard gas."

(source: Janson)



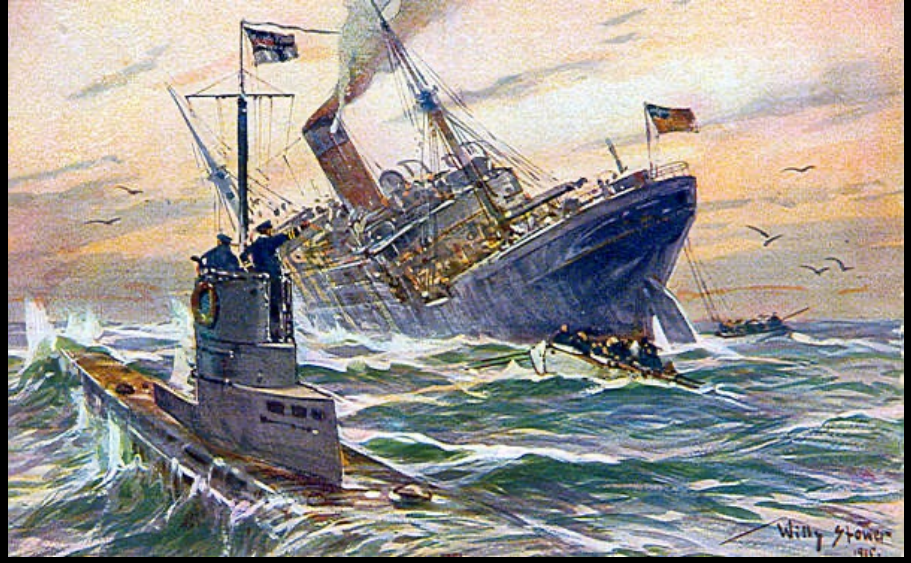



MUSTARD GAS
Smells like
GARLIC ...
HORSERADISH · MUSTARD
STRONG VESICANT




3


DESIGNED FOR LIVING
TAKE CARE OF YOUR GAS MASK
DON'T USE IT AS A KNAPSACK OR PILLOW


Willy Stower







# Staggering destruction and loss of life

**TOTAL WWI CASUALTIES: 11,016,000**



After the battle. A scene on the Menin Road. Wounded waiting to be taken to the dressing stations.





# Sigmund Freud
## (1856-1939)



- The father of psychoanalysis
- In 1900, Freud published *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and introduced the wider public to the notion of the unconscious mind
- theorized that forgetfulness or slips of the tongue (now called "Freudian slips") were not accidental at all, but it was the "dynamic unconscious" revealing something meaningful.
- He said “Dreams are often most profound when they seem the most crazy.”

# Andre Breton Poet





"Surrealism is based on the belief in the superior reality of the dream"

# *Surreal*

Odd

Illogical

Irrational

Exciting

Disturbing



# Characteristics of Surrealism

- Reaction to chaos of WWI
- Influence of Freud: Dreams and subconscious
- Impossible scale
- Reversal of natural laws
- Double images
- Juxtaposition



## Where?

France, Germany, Catalunya, Belgium

## Artists

Max Ernst
Salvador Dali
Joan Miro
Man Ray
Rene Magritte

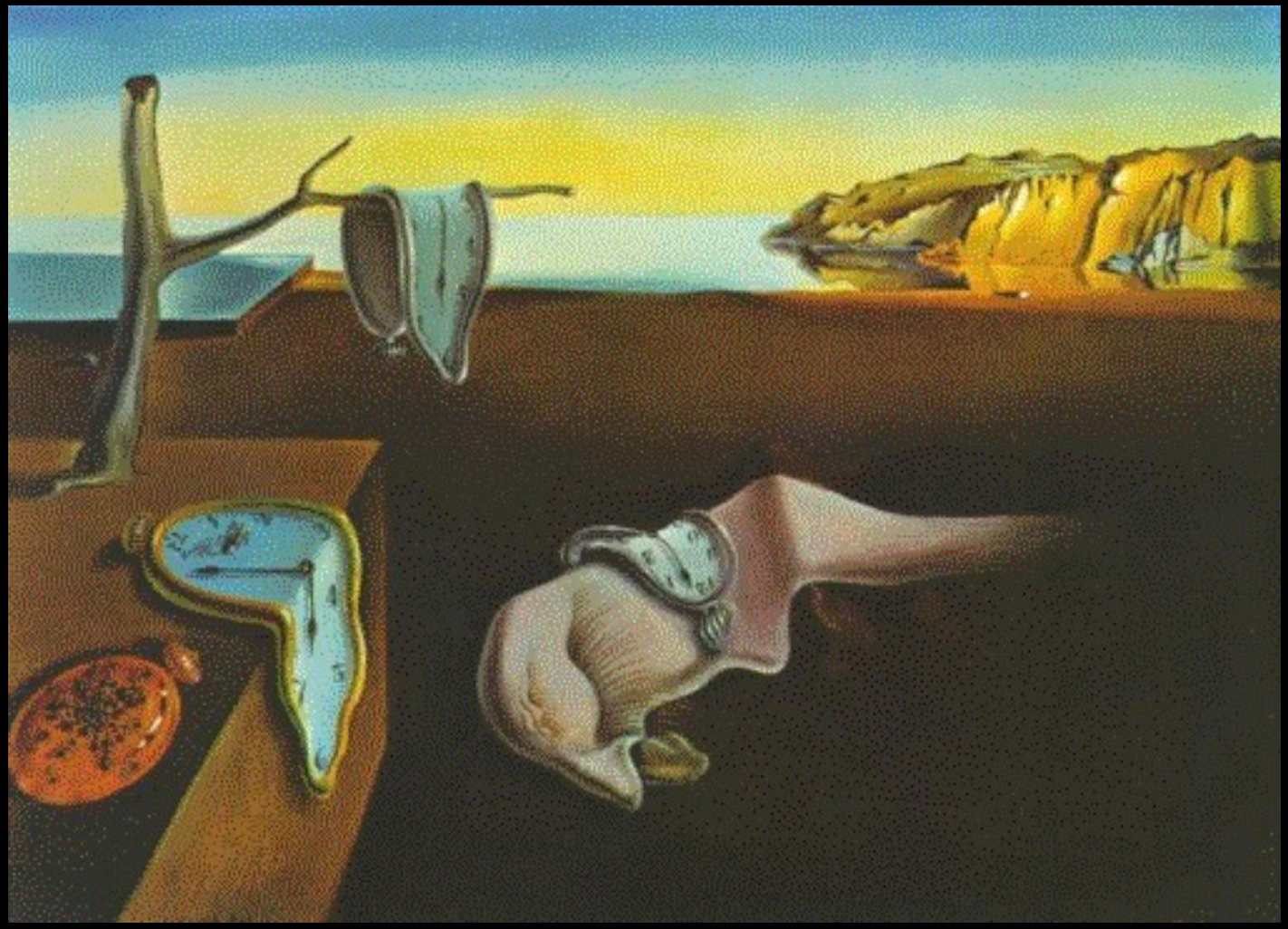


# Salvador Dali (Spanish, 1904–1989)





The Metamorphosis of Narcissus, 1937, Salvador Dali



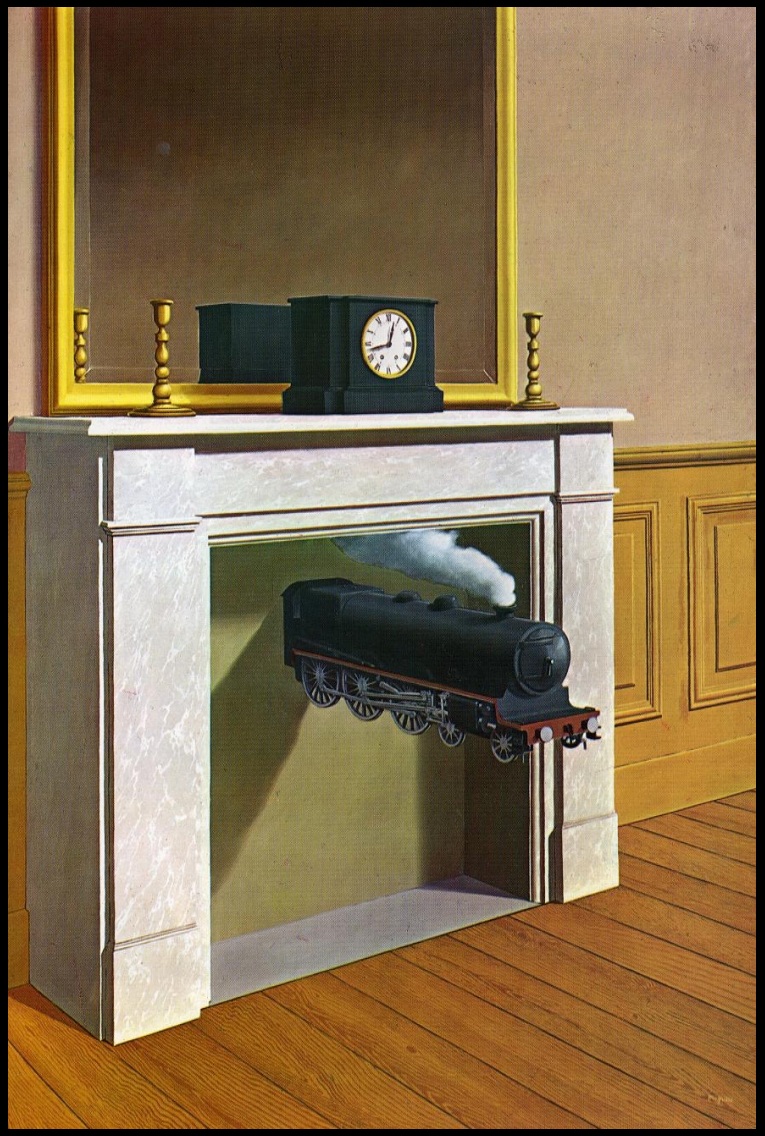
Salvador Dali
*Persistence of Memory* 1931



Salvador Dali
*Apparition*

# Rene Magritte (Belgian)





Rene Magritte



René Magritte
*Les valeurs personnelles*
(Personal Values)
1952



*René Magritte*
*La Chambre d'écoute (The Listening Room)*
*1952*
*(impossible scale)*

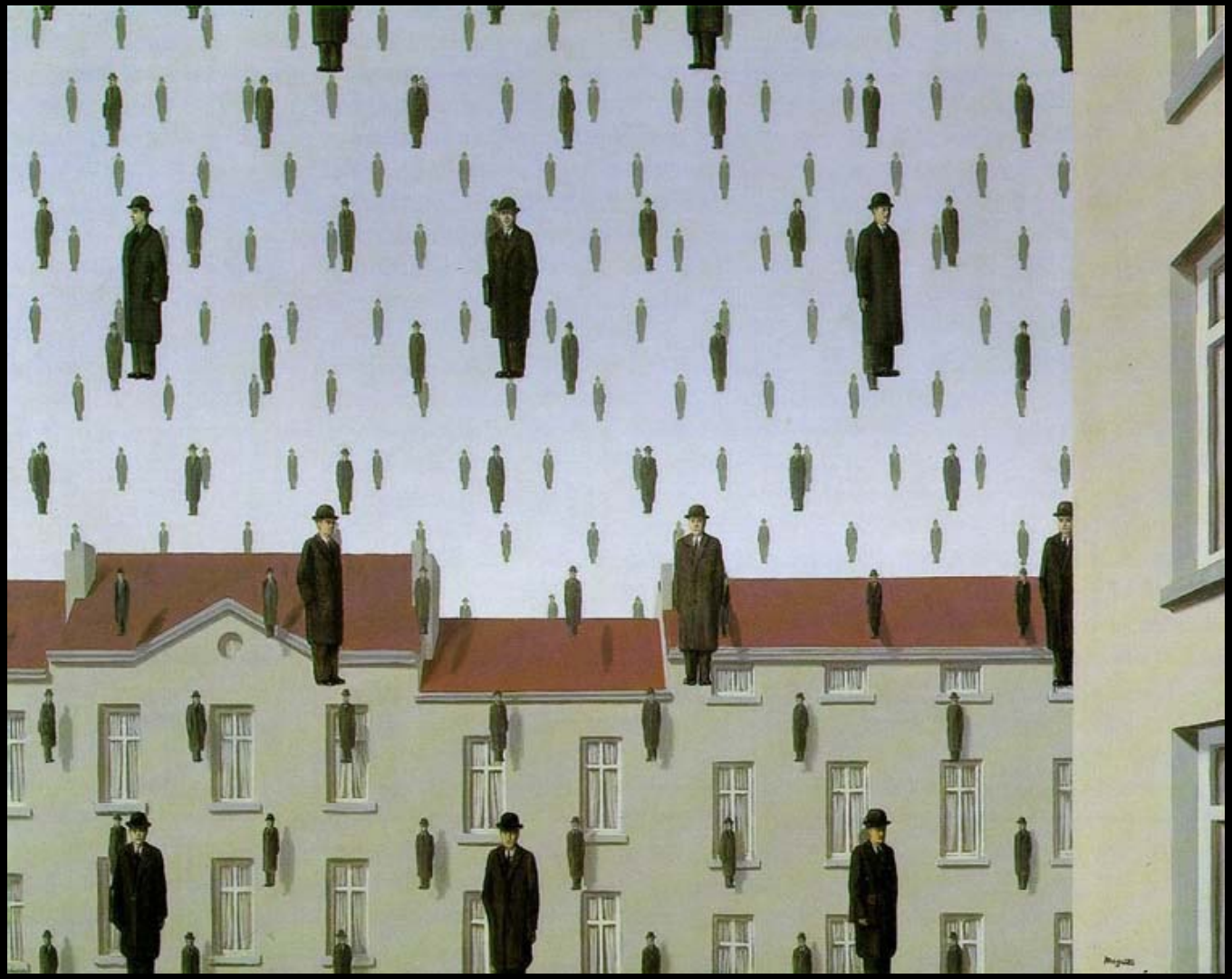


Rene Magritte

*Carte Blanche*




Rene Magritte
*Ceci n 'est pas une pipe*



Rene Magritte

*(Reversal of Natural Laws)*