

# Surrealism



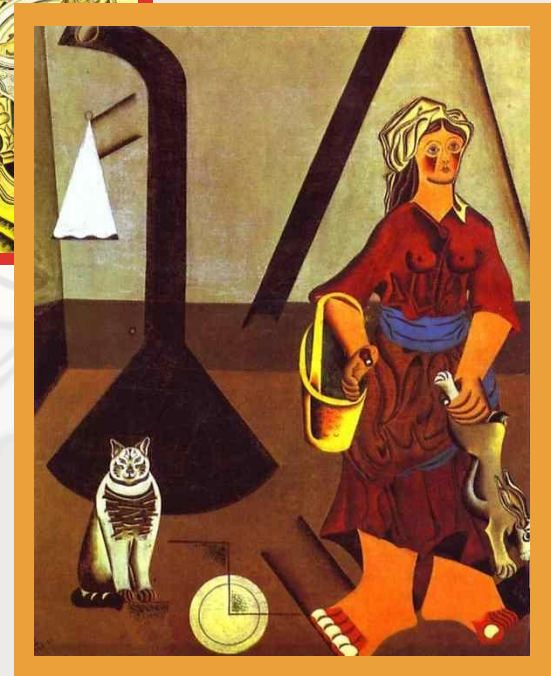
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# Magical Realist

Joan Miró was a Spanish Catalan artist, born in Barcelona in 1893.

From 1920, Miró painted in a magical realist style. He painted carefully, and made things look quite realistic. Some parts of these paintings seem slightly strange or unusual.

These paintings feel almost real, but as if something is not quite right. This creates a feeling that the paintings are magical, or like a dream.



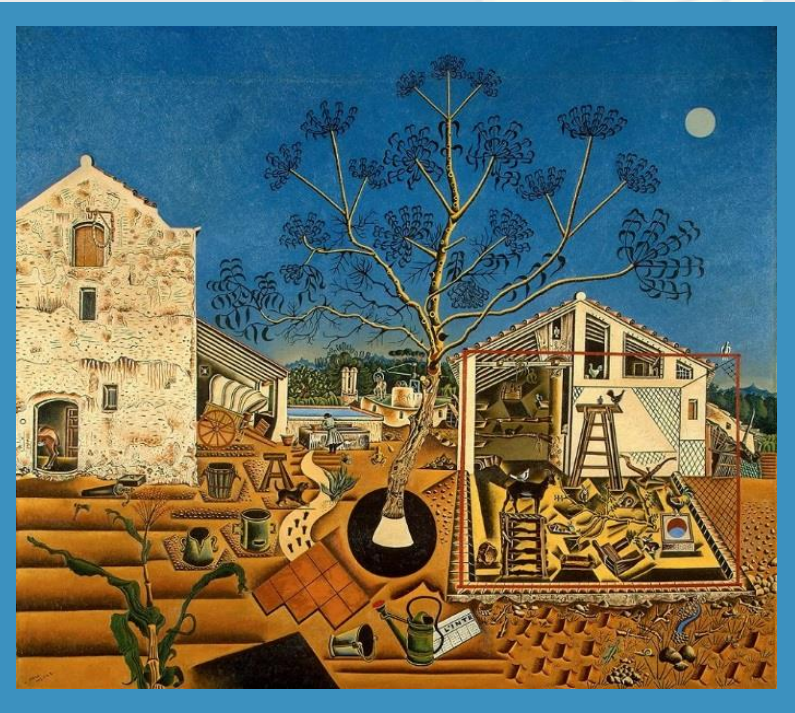
# Magical Realist

We looked at Miró's painting, 'The Farm'.

'The Farm' was painted in a magical realist style. It includes lots of carefully painted different elements.

Each individual item is painted in detail, and seems realistic whilst some of the things seem too big or too small.

The painting seems almost realistic, but also slightly magical.



The Farm, 1922

# Surrealism

- Surrealism was an art movement that began in the 1920s.
- Surrealist artists wanted to combine dreams and reality in their artworks.
- Surrealist paintings included everyday objects and strange creatures.
- Several things which would not normally be seen together were painted in the same piece.
- The unusual combinations made for strange and powerful pictures, which made viewers feel like they were in a dream.



# Surrealism: Miró's Surrealist Paintings



The Tilled Field

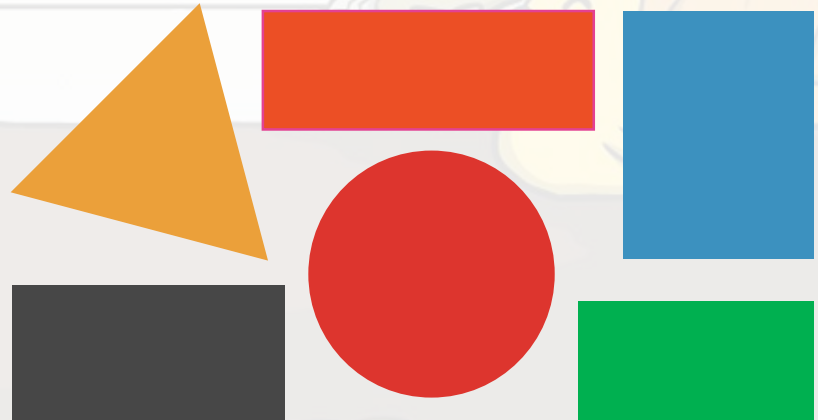
In 1922, Joan Miró began exploring surrealism in his paintings. He began painting in a more abstract style.

This meant that the things he painted were less realistic, and might not look exactly like they do in real life.

He started using strong colours, such as black, red, yellow, green and blue and painted shapes and lines in his artworks.

# Surrealism

- Some shapes are geometric, such as triangles and squares.
- They have a certain number of edges and vertices.
- Some shapes are organic.
- These shapes are irregular.
- An example of an organic shape is a leaf or a puddle.



# The Tilled Field, 1923-24



# The Tilled Field: Miró's Surrealist Paintings

In this painting, Miró has combined lots of different things in one painting.

He has used shapes; I can see triangles, ovals, and rectangles. I can see some organic shapes too.

He has used lines; I can see straight lines, wiggly lines, and a spiral.

- I can see a building.
- I can see some flags.
- I can see an eye and an ear.
- I can see the sun, some moons, and a cloud.
- I can see some plants and trees.





# The Tilled Field, 1923-1924

What animals can you see?



Look carefully at the painting.

Draw or write all of the animals that you can see.

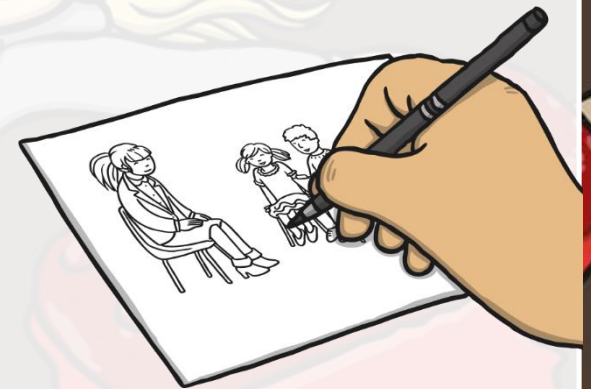
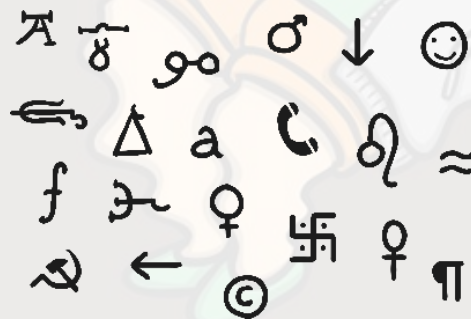
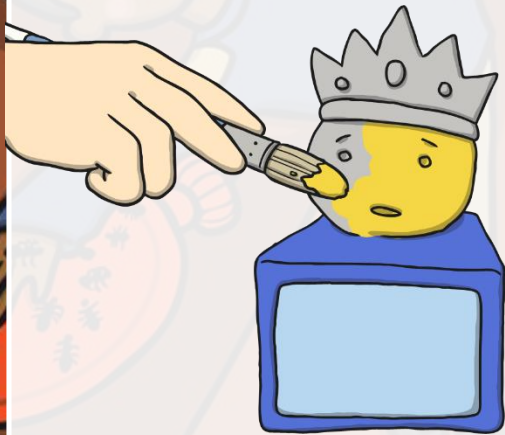
Do you notice anything unusual about any of the animals?

# Surrealist Pictorial Language

Miró used lots of symbols in his surrealist paintings. He began to use letters and numbers in his art.

He drew different types of line: straight, curved, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, wiggly, zigzag, spiral, and dotted. His paintings began to include fewer people and animals.

When he did paint people, they were simplified, and he created them using shapes and symbols. Miró often used ideas from his dreams to inspire his art.



# Surrealist Pictorial Language

Catalan Landscape (The Hunter), 1923-24



# Surrealist Pictorial Language

What shapes do you see?

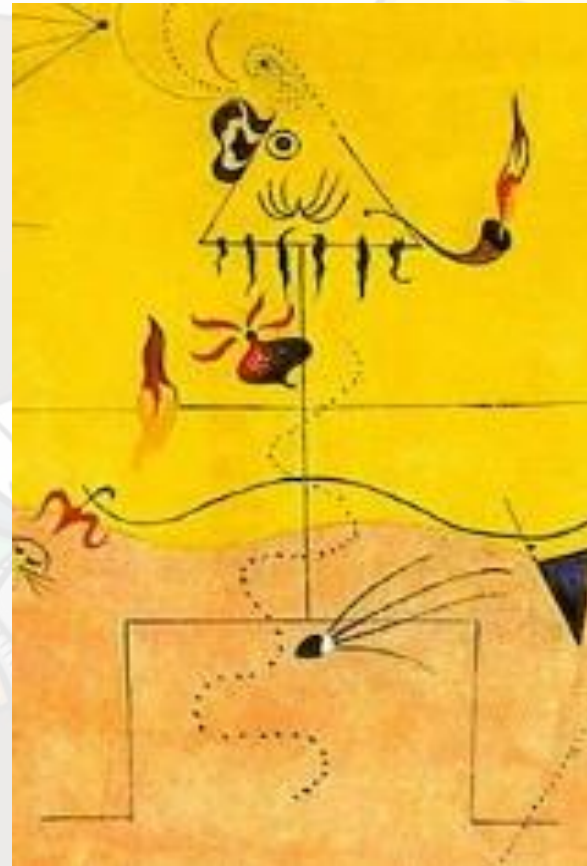


Draw, or write the names of, the shapes you can see in the picture.  
Can you spot any letters?

# Surrealist Pictorial Language

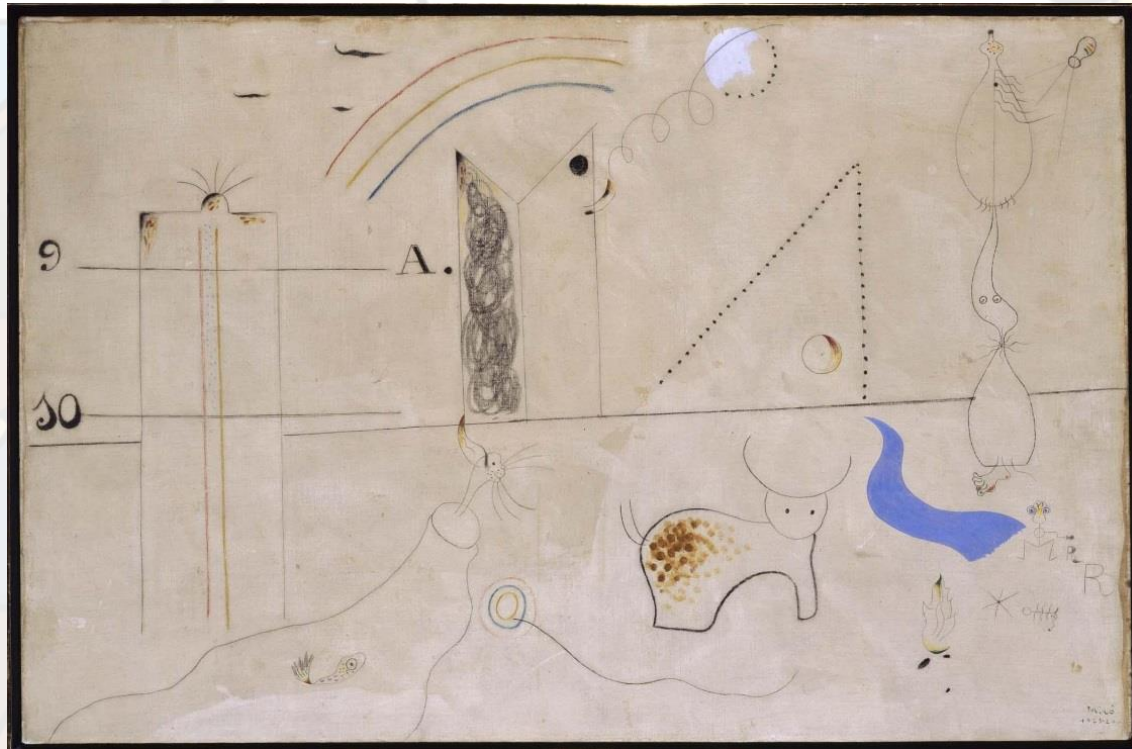
- Can you work out what this combination of shapes, lines and objects represents?
- Miró used a triangle to create the hunter's head.
- He used straight lines to create his body, arms and legs.
- He used curved lines to make a moustache and hair for the hunter.
- What facial features can you spot?

A person!



# Surrealist Pictorial Language

Pastorale, 1923-24



Draw or write the different types of lines that you can see in this picture. Find the cow. What type of line has Miró used to draw the cow?

# Harlequin's Carnival, 1924-25

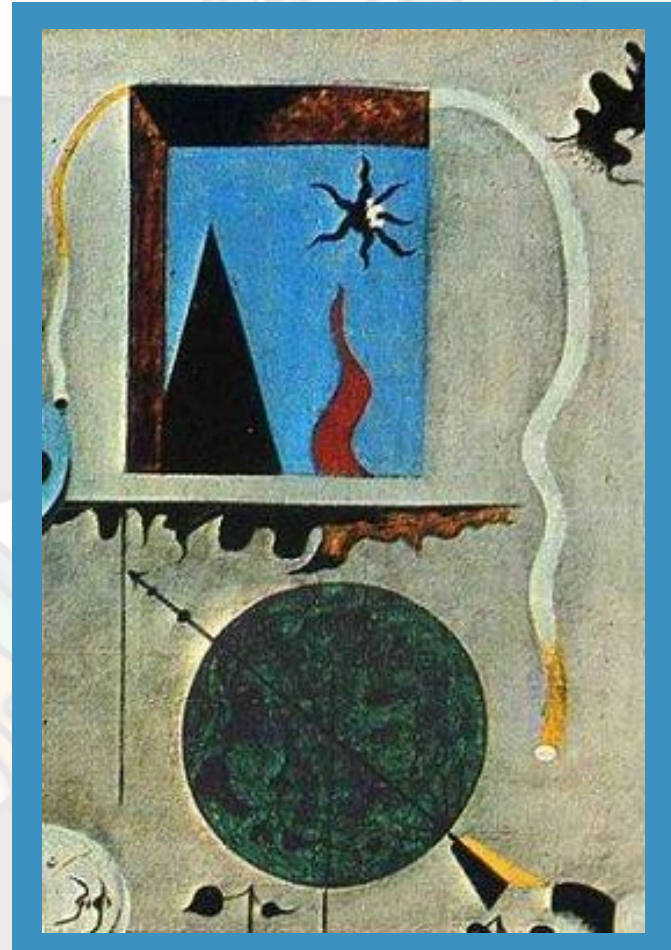
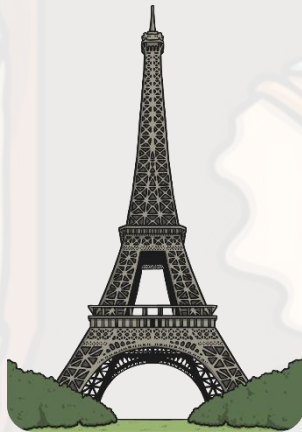
A carnival is a type of party or celebration.  
There is a lot going on in this painting.



# Harlequin's Carnival, 1924-1925

Miró explained that the sphere in the painting represents the whole world because he wanted to conquer the world.

The black triangle seen through the window represents the Eiffel Tower. Paris was very important to Miró.





# Harlequin's Carnival, 1924-1925

A harlequin is a comedy character from pantomimes.

A harlequin would usually wear a diamond pattern on their costume and they sometimes played a musical instrument.

Can you spot somebody who might be the harlequin in Miró's painting?

Remember, he might not look like this in the painting.



# Harlequin's Carnival, 1924-1925

Can you find the Harlequin?



# Harlequin's Carnival, 1924-25

Here he is!



The harlequin in the painting seems very sad, even though a carnival is usually a happy event.

He has a guitar for his body, so he can probably play music.  
There is a little bit of a diamond pattern on his body, which is another clue that he is the harlequin.

It is quite hard to tell that he is a person, because he has a very long neck, and he is made up of different shapes and symbols.

# Automatic Drawing

Miró, and other artists, created lots of their art using a technique called automatic drawing.

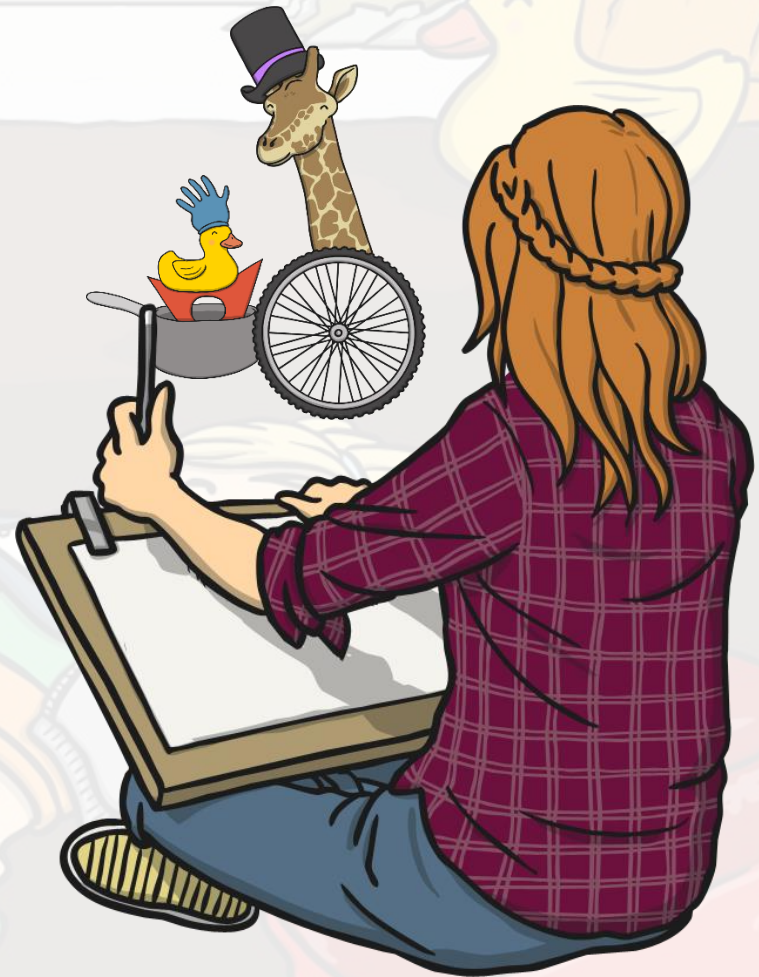
They tried to draw without thinking about what they were doing.

They wanted to draw what was in their unconscious mind.



# Automatic Drawing

1. Close your eyes and think for one minute.
2. Open your eyes.
3. You have three minutes to draw whatever comes into your mind.
4. Don't think too much about what you are drawing, just let your ideas flow.
5. Now show your partner and talk about your drawing.





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