

Art Appreciation



Salvador Dali (1904-1989)
***The Persistence of Memory* (1931)**



Rene Magritte (1898-1967)
***Golconde* (1953)**

Today your child learned about Surrealism in Art Appreciation. We studied two artists of the Surrealist method, Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte. While many may not know the actual title of many of their works, they are responsible for two very iconic works (see above). Dali's *The Persistence of Memory* has been reproduced in many forms and fashion of "melting clocks" and other misfigured images inspiring artists to do what he described as "hand-painted dream photographs". Magritte's paintings *Golconde* and *The Son of Man* have spurred many to reproduce images of "men in bowler hats" and of people with their face concealed.

We covered the main purpose of Surrealism, which put plainly was to look at ordinary things in different ways. That one can express either through written word, spoken word, or art medium the real functioning of thought. The Surrealist movement began in France around 1924 by writers such as Andre Breton. Later artists began to paint in the same style of free thought. Both Dali and Magritte had periods they strayed away from the Surrealist style yet their works seemed to always reflect it.

We ended by creating personal interpretations of Magritte's *The False Mirror* (1928), which is the image of a large eye with the pupil of the eye filled with clouds and sky. Students were allowed to create any image/design that was not a pupil itself.

"Art evokes the mystery without which the world would not exist."
Rene Magritte