Dada, Surrealism, and Their Heritage

by William S. Rubin

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New York, November 1967  
W. S. R.
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Dada, Surrealism, and Their Heritage
FEMME!
TU VOUDRAIS BIEN TE LIRE DANS CE PORTRAIT
ELLE N’A PAS LA PEUR DU PLAISIR
HURUBERLU
ELLE n’est pas de forme
materialité
le sacri\c e
cause
par
ELLE

VOILÀ ELLE

1 left-hand portion MARIUS DE ZAYAS, Elle; right-hand portion FRANCIS PICABIA, Voilà Elle. (1915). Whereabouts unknown, reproduced from 291 (New York), November 1915
The plastic arts played only an ancillary role in Dada and Surrealism; they were held useful as means of communicating ideas, but not worthy of delectation in themselves. The more pressing concern of these movements with philosophy, psychology, poetry, and politics stamped the art they encouraged with a character much in contrast to that of prevailing avant-garde ideals. At a time when modernist abstraction seemed to be claiming autonomy for painting, the Dadaist reaction was to "humiliate" art, as Tristan Tzara advocated, by assigning it "a subordinate place in the supreme movement measured only in terms of life." Later, the founder of Surrealism, André Breton, would call painting "a lamentable expedient" in a world whose "more and more necessary transformation" was "other than that which can be achieved on canvas."

Dada and Surrealism proposed life attitudes that, particularly in the case of the latter, coalesced into comprehensible philosophies. But they fostered activities in the plastic arts so variegated as almost to preclude the use of the terms as definitions of style. "Impressionism" and "Cubism" designated particular painting styles that already existed; the terms "Dada" and "Surrealism" pre-existed the art to which they were applied. Obviously, a definition of style that, for Dada, must comprehend the work of Duchamp and Arp and, for Surrealism, that of Miró and Dalí, will be problematic. Yet the alternative is not simply to accept confusion. We can distinguish in Dada and Surrealist art some common properties of style and many...
common denominators of character, iconography, and intent.

Dada was baptized in Zurich in 1916, but the instantaneous success of its name reflected the fact that the attitudes and activities it identified had been in the air for some years, in fact since 1912. It arose in a number of cities in Europe, and in New York, in part spontaneously and in part through the interchange of ideas. The détente following the end of World War I created a less fertile environment for Dada and by the early twenties the movement had dissolved. By 1924 much of what remained viable in it had been assimilated into the more programmatic Surrealist movement, whose formal beginnings were marked by the publication of its manifesto in Paris that year. Surrealism survived a number of crises in the interwar period as well as exile in America during World War II, but it lost its leadership of the avant-garde in the wake of that holocaust and for all intents and purposes ceased to exist.

The spread of Dada—the nonsense vocable perfectly connoted its attitudes—was inseparable from the first World War, which seemed to confirm the bankruptcy of nineteenth-century bourgeois rationalism. That logic could be used to justify the killing and mutilation of millions revolted some men of sensibility. “The beginnings of Dada,” Tzara recalled, “were not the beginnings of art, but of disgust.” Bourgeois society might, of course, simply destroy itself in carnage, but its end could be hastened, the Dadaists felt, by subverting what remained of its premises. However they may have differed in their visions of the future, all agreed that it would have to be built around a life that better comprehended and accommodated the irrational in human behavior. “Dada,” wrote Jean Arp, “wished to destroy the hoaxes of reason and to discover an unreasoned order” (ordre déraisonnable).

At the heart of Dada lay the “gratuitous act,” the paradoxical, spontaneous gesture aimed at revealing the inconsistency and inanity of conventional beliefs. When Breton described “the most simple Surrealist act” as “going down into the street . . . and shooting at random into the crowd,” he was recalling the scandalous gestes of two Dada heroes, Arthur Cravan, who punctuated a lecture at the Salle des Sociétés Savantes with random pistol
opposite
7  MARCEL DUCHAMP. Bicycle Wheel. (Original 1913, lost; replica 1951). Bicycle wheel on wooden stool, 50½ inches high x 25½ inches wide x 16½ inches deep. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection

5  MARCEL DUCHAMP. The Bride. 1912. Oil on canvas, 35¼ x 21¾ inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection

6  MARCEL DUCHAMP. Chocolate Grinder, No. 1. 1913. Oil on canvas, 24¾ x 25¾ inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection
hence the logic of the manifestation in which Picabia made drawings that Breton erased as Picabia went along.

Dada's positive contribution varied from center to center; its nihilism was held in common. All Dadaists called for a *tabula rasa* and concentrated on subverting middle-class culture. The Surrealists accepted the end of the bourgeois world as given, and were more concerned with what would come afterward. They would replace anarchic Dada *gestes* by constructive, collective action. With the aid of Freudian theory, they would systematize Dada's concern with the irrational. Through alliances in the milieu of radical politics, a new and better world was to be implemented. The Surrealist goal of self-knowledge was to be achieved through a variety of methods—automatism and dream interpretation foremost among them—and art would be of interest insofar as it provided revelations by such means.

But art cannot be made from life alone, even less from particular psychological methodologies; more than anything else it is made from art. No matter what the radicality of an artist's *démarche*, or his commitment to extrapictorial concerns, he sets out from some definition of art. Hence, despite the postures assumed by some of the Dada and Surrealist artists, they were all in an enforced dialogue with the art that preceded them. The "anti-art" created by Dada pioneers such as Marcel Duchamp and Francis Picabia seemed to reject out of hand the premises of modern painting as they stood on the eve of World War I. But "anti-art" depended from the first on the very presence of the "pure painting" against which it reacted, and it incorporated more of that "art-art" than its authors knew.10

The pure painting that the Dadaists opposed seemed to them incapable of acting—or even commenting—upon a world sorely in need of change. It struck them as escapist, heretically isolated in its aestheticism. "The Dadaist," wrote Richard Huelsenbeck, "considers it necessary to come out against art, because he has seen through its fraud as a moral safety valve."11 Anti-art implied primarily anti-Cubism, the rejection of a tradition that derived from Cézanne, whose "portrait" by Picabia was a collage-relief of a stuffed monkey (fig. 2). Yet despite the infinite disparagement of art in their manifestoes, it was not so much art itself that the Dadaists opposed as "the idea that had been made of it,"12 that is, the autonomy of pure painting.

shots, and Jacques Vaché, who attended the première of Apollinaire's *Mamelles de Tirésias* dressed as an English officer and disrupted the intermission by threatening to "shoot up" the audience. Vaché's was a Dadaist provocation par excellence, as it implicitly criticized the central adventure in which the world was then engaged: if it was realism to shoot a human being because he wore a German uniform, it would be superrealism to apply the principle more broadly.

Not all Dadaist acts were so radical, though each constituted, Tzara proclaimed, "a cerebral revolver shot."9 Many touched in one way or another on the various arts, and if improvisation was always central, there was nevertheless a good deal of "programming" as well. Dada *soirées* or "manifestations," made up of seemingly inane skits, pranks, and performances, were the ancestors of post-World War II "Happenings." The value of art was located more in the act of making it than in the work produced,
Marcel Duchamp was the principal pioneer of Dada. In a period when painting had assumed deep conviction as a way of life, Duchamp gave it up in the midst of success as “not a goal to fill an entire lifetime.” Emerging from the Cubist context of Parisian painting in 1912, he shortly sacrificed paints, brushes, and canvas almost entirely to create an anti-art of “Readymade” objects and images on glass. By 1920 he had become an “engineer” and, after “incompleting” the Large Glass three years later, he retired to a life of chess, punctuated occasionally by the creation of ironic machines, environmental installations for Surrealist exhibitions, and a variety of gestes.

In 1912, Analytic Cubism was poised on the verge of total abstraction. But Duchamp’s paintings of that year, though still retaining the fragmentary planes and monochromatic palette of that style, were clearly moving toward a more descriptive illusionism. “I was interested in ideas—not merely in visual products,” he recalled.

I wanted to put painting once again at the service of the mind. And my painting was, of course, at once regarded as “intellectual” “literary” painting. It was true I was endeavoring to establish myself as far as possible from “pleasing” and “attractive” physical paintings. . . . The more sensual appeal a painting provided—the more animal it became—the more highly it was regarded.

Duchamp’s most famous painting, the Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2 (fig. 3), was neither so original nor Dadaistic in character as his work would shortly become. This “static representation of movement,” as he called it, retained a largely Analytic Cubist vocabulary used cinematically, as in Italian Futurism; it involved a narrative not a plastic invention. The schematism of the Nude already pointed, however, to the principle that would inform Duchamp’s next paintings, that of reduction, as opposed to abstraction, with which reduction is often confused.

“Reduce, reduce, reduce was my thought,” Duchamp recounts. “But at the same time my aim was turning inward . . . I came to feel that an artist might use anything—a dot, a line, the most conventional or unconventional symbol—to say what he wanted to say . . . for all this reduction I would never call it an ‘abstract’ painting.”

Duchamp’s problem now became one of using his new...
symbolic language to "illustrate" the invisible dramas of experience; The Passage from Virgin to Bride (fig. 4) was one of his first pictures to propose the plastic realization of an internal event. Here the morphology of Analytic Cubism has been altered in the direction of both the organic and mechanical, and its austere coloring has been tinted with appropriate pink fleshy tones. The deflowering of the virgin is expressed through a psycho-biological mechanism—a subjective counterpart to the objective transcription of motion in the Nude. The word “passage” in the title is also a pun on that which separates a “bride” from a “virgin.”

The internalized human-cum-machine images in The Passage from Virgin to Bride and the contemporaneous Bride (fig. 5) were still fanciful. But in the spring of 1913 Duchamp became obsessed with a real machine, which engendered a decisive break in his style. “One day, in a shop window,” he recalls, “I saw a real chocolate grinder in action and this spectacle so fascinated me that I took this machine as a point of departure.”

Duchamp’s Chocolate Grinder (fig. 6) was executed in oil on canvas, but it differed from his earlier, more imaginative pictures in being simply a dry perspective study of a real object. And though Dali would later show that tightly painted academic illusionism could constitute a kind of anti-art, Duchamp was dissatisfied with his image of the chocolate grinder for it was still too freighted with the baggage of aesthetic convention that inevitably informs any three-dimensional illusion on a flat, regular field. There seemed to be no escape from aesthetics within the minimal conditions, or definition, of the art of painting. The solution lay in taking the logical step from the trompe-l’ceil replica of an object to the object itself. Hence the origin by fiat of the Readymades: man-designed, commercially produced utilitarian objects endowed with the status of anti-art by Duchamp’s selection and titling of them. In 1913 he placed a bicycle wheel upside down on a stool (fig. 7); singled out for contemplation in isolation from its normal context and purpose, it seemed strangely enigmatic, especially when the wheel turned pointlessly.

As intended epiphanies of irrational and even extrasensory experience the Readymades presuppose the existence of a “meta-world,” which Duchamp has described as “fourth-dimensional.” He explains that if a shadow is
opposite

Marcel Duchamp. The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (the Large Glass). 1915–1923. Oil, lead wire, and foil, dust and varnish on glass, 8 feet 11 inches x 5 feet 7 inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Bequest of Katherine S. Dreier.

A two-dimensional projection of a three-dimensional form, then a three-dimensional object must be the projection of a four-dimensional form. Thus the simplest object holds the possibility of a revelation.

The process of dissociation or displacement entailed in the nomination of a Readymade was comparable to that which the Symbolist poets had used in their attempts to liberate the hidden meanings of words. The poet Isidore Ducasse, the “comte de Lautréamont,” who was claimed as a precursor by the Surrealists, had provided the classic example in writing of “the chance encounter of a sewing machine and an umbrella on a dissection table.” In this image he not only employed commercial objects that adumbrated the Readymades, but dissociated them from their familiar contexts and unlocked new expressive possibilities by unexpected juxtaposition. Lautréamont thus provided a verbal model for what Dada and Surrealist artists would make of the Cubist technique of collage. Duchamp later applied this principle to the creation of hybrid, or “assisted,” Readymades. Why Not Sneeze? (fig. 9) is a bird cage filled with sugar lumps into which a thermometer and cuttlebone have been thrust. Lifting the cage the spectator discovers by its weight that the “sugar cubes” are really cut white marble and that Duchamp has thus gone illusionistic art one better in creating illusionistic anti-art: the trompe-l'œil object.

The relation of the Readymades to their titles varied. Bottlerack was a simple description of the object in question. In Advance of a Broken Arm gave a dimension of black humor to a common snow shovel. Sometimes, however, as in Why Not Sneeze?, the dissociation of object and title rendered the latter enigmatic. L.H.O.O.Q., the title of Duchamp’s famous bearded and mustached reproduction of the Mona Lisa (fig. 10), is a puzzle whose scurrilous solution is perhaps meant to explain the mysterious smile of the lady. In adding the beard and mustache Duchamp was engaging in more than just a Dada attack on high art, or indulging in the popular type of defilement to which public images are subjected. He was drawing attention to a sexual ambiguity in Leonardo’s life and work, noteworthy in relation to the quite different dualism reflected in his own creation of a female alter ego, Rose Sélaavy. This incarnation—consecrated by Man Ray’s photographs of Duchamp dressed in women’s clothes (fig. 11)—was consistent with the Dadaist tendency to “fabricate” personalities, which represented a realization on the plane of action of Rimbaud’s “I is another.”

Readymades were intended by Duchamp to be devoid of aesthetic interest. Their selection, he has said, took place in a moment of total visual anesthesia. But though Robert Motherwell exaggerates when he says that the Bottlerack of 1914 (fig. 8) appears in retrospect to have a more beautiful form than almost any deliberate sculpture made that year, there is no question that after years of the assimilation of real objects into sculptures of all sorts, many of the Readymades have taken on an inescapably “arty” look. The fact is that sculpture does not separate itself as clearly as does painting from the world of objects. Almost any three-dimensional form can be seen as sculpture, if not necessarily as good sculpture. The determination is largely based on the observer’s expectations or mental set. The answer as to whether the Readymades were art or not lay in the eye of the beholder. This equivocal hovering was part of their enigma. But if they had—and still have—the value of throwing received definitions of art into doubt, they also failed to satisfy Duchamp in his search for an expressive activity wholly beyond aesthetics, which may be why he ceased making Readymades.

The ineluctable solution to the aestheticism that pursued anti-art was to cease being an artist. But before taking this radical decision Duchamp executed a variety of works of which The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (the Large Glass) begun in 1915 is the summa (fig. 12).† On two panes of glass joined together to form a freestanding transparent field about nine feet high and six feet wide,

† In this exhibition the Large Glass is represented by a replica executed by the English artist Richard Hamilton with Duchamp’s co-operation. The materials used are the same, and the intended effect is that of the original before its color changed and its glass was accidentally broken.
Duchamp applied, in wire and paint, a variety of images that had developed in his iconography of the previous years. The Chocolate Grinder, Water Mill, “Malic” Molds (fig. 13), and a host of other elements, though non sequiturs in any rational sense, are connected mechanically to form two fantastic “machines,” the Bride on the upper panel, the Bachelor on the lower.

The iconography of older art was largely drawn from a store of familiar symbols—religious, mythological, historical—that were ready at hand for the artists. Even a cursory glance at the art of the last century reveals that these symbols have no longer seemed viable; while the modern artist has moved toward abstraction he has largely eschewed iconographic schemes and narrative situations. The Dadaist and Surrealist attempts to reinvest painting with these symbols and stories led paradoxically not to greater illumination but greater mystification. Seen apart from Duchamp’s explanatory notes in the Green Box, the Large Glass is surely one of the most obscure and hermetic works ever produced. This, despite the fact that its subject matter—“a mechanistic and cynical interpretation of the phenomenon of love”22—would seem to be a most universal one, especially in an age when the myths that informed the art of the past are no longer tenable. Indeed, the myth of sexuality would become the only iconographic common denominator in all Dada and Surrealist art and literature.

The intricate amatory iconography of the Large Glass has been explicated many times.23 Suffice it to say here that if the Glass, and hence the “love operation”24 of the two machines, had been completed—the “ideal fourth-dimensional situation”—the Bachelor Machine, “all grease and lubricity,” would have received “love gasoline” secreted by
the Bride's "sexual glands" in its "malic" cylinders for ignition by the "electric sparks of the undressing," and, mixing with the secretions of the Grinder—"the Bachelor grinds his own chocolate"—would have produced union. As "incompleted" in 1923, the Large Glass constituted, rather, an assertion of the impossibility of union, hence, of sexual futility and alienation.

Though knowledge of the iconographic program adds a dimension—and for Duchamp, the crucial one—to our experience of the Large Glass, the work makes a remarkable impression on purely visual grounds. The transparent glass field literally became the "window" that the picture-plane of illusionistic painting had been posited to be.25 As set up in Katherine Dreier's library one saw people, books, and furniture through it. This "Readymade continually in motion"26 could sustain a potentially infinite series of effects, against which the images on the Glass, thrust by perspective drawing into the illusion of the space of the room, materialized as if some giant X-ray plate had suddenly revealed the extraretinal aspects of reality.

In 1918, five years after his last oil on canvas, Duchamp returned to painting for a definitive farewell to that art. It took the form of a long frieze-shaped picture entitled Tu m' (fig. 14), suggesting "tu m'emmerdes," which summarized the artist's attitude toward painting at the moment he left that art behind. The elements of Tu m', which Duchamp has called a dictionary of his main ideas prior to 1918,27 splay out over the surface like a mobile. Drawn on its surface are shadows traced from projections of Readymades: the Bicycle Wheel, and the Corkscrew and Hatrack that actually hung from the ceiling of his studio. Below the largest of a series of superimposed color samples dominating the upper left, and emerging from the shadow of the Corkscrew, is a realistically painted hand, its index finger pointing in the manner of the old-fashioned directional signs. It was, in fact, executed by a signpainter, one A. Klang, whose minuscule signature is visible alongside it. Above and to the right of the hand, the canvas appears torn, but we soon discover that this is a trompe-l'œil illusion; however, the false tear is held together by real safety pins and has a real bottle brush inserted in it. The picture thus recapitulates the span from the shadow of an object to the illusion of an object to the object itself.

opposite

Duchamp's progression from "anti-artist" to "engineer" was confirmed in 1920 when he ceased making images of machines and started to make actual ones. These, however, remained true to his ironic, Dadaistic view of experience in their absolute uselessness. Duchamp had always been fascinated by movement; the Nude Descending a Staircase was an attempt to introduce it by cinematic implication into an art that resisted it.\(^{28}\) The anti-art Bicycle Wheel had somewhat accommodated it. Now, as an "engineer," Duchamp could explore movement as an end in itself.

Duchamp's machines were involved with optical as well as mechanical questions, but optical questions outside the framework of the plastic arts. The Rotary Glass Plate (Precision Optics), constructed in 1920 in collaboration with Man Ray (fig. 15), consisted of painted sections of glass that created the illusion of a full circle when whirled on a metal axis by an electric motor. The Rotoreliefs of 1935 (fig. 16) were disks patterned with colored lines that created three-dimensional illusions when spun at the rate of thirty-three revolutions per minute (a kind of visual phonograph record).

In all this Duchamp emerges as a prophet of the concerns of recent artists; but their aim has been to reintegrate the kinetic and optical effects—and even those of accident—into an experience of art. Thus, Rauschenberg's Revolvers (fig. 17) differs from the Rotary Glass Plate by virtue of the same aestheticism that separates Jasper Johns's Light Bulb (fig. 18), with its sensitive sculptural surface, from a Readymade. Jean Tinguely's machines have realized other implications of Duchamp's posture. In destroying itself, his Homage to New York (fig. 19) fused the machine concept and the idea of Dada action in a single nihilistic event, or would have, had the mechanism not broken down short of its goal. Tinguely's machines for making pictures (fig. 20) appeared to bring the wheel of Duchamp's logic full circle. But these "méta-matics" did not really make art; they only provided a kinetic instrumentality. The extent to which the images they produced were art depended upon the choices—settings controlling distance, color, contour, etc.—made in the construction and operation of the machines. Their perhaps unintentional revelation—one buried somewhere in the implications of Duchamp's reduction of "creation" to a matter of selection—was to confirm that painting is almost entirely a matter of decisions following from conception, as distinct from facility in the techniques of execution.\(^{29}\)

Duchamp's friend Francis Picabia brought a new inflection to the "machinist style" and a dandyish flair to the Dada life style—"all my life I've smoked painting." Until his voyage to New York to visit the Armory Show of February 1913 there was nothing in his art to suggest a future fantasist. Like Duchamp, he was working out of the context of Cubism, but in a less sophisticated manner.

Some dissatisfaction with Cubism's "objective" confrontation of motifs was evident in a statement Picabia made on the eve of his American voyage when, echoing Mallarmé, he insisted that painters must set down on canvas, "not things, but emotions produced in our minds by things."\(^{30}\) But by March he was writing that properties of things could "no longer be expressed in a purely visual or optical manner," and that a language had to be forged to express "the objectivity of a subjectivity."\(^{31}\) Cubism was, after all, an extension of the Post-Impressionist styles, which still accepted nature as a starting point. The stuffed monkey in Picabia's Portrait of Cézanne (fig. 2) was not merely an insult; it was an allusion to the fact that Cézanne's painting from a model made him a descendant of those naturalistic old-master painters who had been satirized as simiae na-
21  FRANCIS PICABIA. Edtaonisl. 1913. Oil on canvas, 9 feet 10¼ inches × 9 feet 10½ inches. The Art Institute of Chicago, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand Phillip Bartos
22 FRANCIS PICABIA. I See Again in Memory My Dear Udnie. (1914). Oil on canvas, 8 feet 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches \times 6\ feet 6\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Hillman Periodicals Fund
26  FRANCIS PICABIA. *Very Rare Picture on the Earth.* (1915). Gilt and silver paint with collage of raised wood and cardboard forms, 43 1/2 x 34 inches. Collection Miss Peggy Guggenheim, Venice

left

23  top  FRANCIS PICABIA. *Ici, C'est Ici Stieglitz.* 1915. Pen and red and black inks, 29 7/8 x 20 inches. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Alfred Stieglitz Collection, 1949

24  center  FRANCIS PICABIA. *The Match Woman II.* 1920. Oil on canvas, with pasted matchsticks, hairpins, zippers, and coins, 35 1/2 x 28 9/16 inches. Collection Mme Simone Collinet, Paris

25  bottom  FRANCIS PICABIA. *Paroxyme de la Douleur.* 1915. Oil on cardboard, 31 1/2 x 31 1/2 inches. Collection Mme Simone Collinet, Paris
Picabia wanted an art that would proceed wholly from fantasy; "We wanted to make something new," he later recounted, "something that nobody had ever seen before."33

But the symbols of this new "objectivity of a subjectivity" were nevertheless to come, if not specifically from nature, at least from the visual world; they constituted a hallucination of technology. New York City played a catalytic role in this regard. Picabia was astonished by the architecture and machinery; the Queensboro Bridge especially impressed him. Two years later Duchamp came to New York and described the bridges and the plumbing as the best art America had produced. By then, he and Picabia were working in their machinist style.

Picabia's metamorphosis from Cubist to Dada machine fantasist began immediately after the Armory Show and can be plotted through the three large canvases he painted on his return to Paris. The first and hence still most Cubist of these was cryptically titled Edtaonisl (fig. 21). The subject of the picture—derived from two passengers who had fascinated Picabia on the New York bound transatlantic steamer—is presumably the palpitating heart of a Dominican friar as he watches a young dance star and her troupe rehearse.34

The visual components of the putative iconography of Edtaonisl are as cryptic as the title. Vaguely suggestive anatomical fragments are swept up in the palpitating rhythm of the bold abstract composition whose musicality still owes much to Picabia's Orphic Cubism of late 1912. This incipient symbolic language became more illustrative by the last of the three compositions, I See Again in Memory My Dear Udnie (fig. 22),35 where the allusions range from sexual organs to the coiled springs and spark plugs of Picabia's more literal machines of the following years.

The machinist style of Picabia was confirmed in 1915 in a series of object-portraits, drawings of isolated technological objects endowed with legends that identified them as particular personalities. The best of these is a portrait of the pioneer photographer and dealer Alfred Stieglitz, who is represented as a folding camera (fig. 23). The anti-art style of these drawings, which resemble the mail-order catalogue illustrations and newspaper ads on which some were in fact based,36 reinforces the triteness inherent in the symbols themselves. But on closer inspection we realize that the drawings are as different from their commercial models as are Lichtenstein's paintings from the cartoons that inspired them. Their layout, distribution of accents, and firm contouring reflect a hand and eye still informed by the taste and discipline of Cubism.

The years 1915 through 1917 saw the finest of Picabia's machine images. Some machines, such as that of the handsome, summarily painted Paroxyme de la Douleur (fig. 25), refer to human experience only obliquely. Others, the transparently colored Machine Tournez Vite of 1916, for example (page 34), are manifest symbolic narratives. In this, a numbered legend on the picture itself identifies the meshing of the elaborate gears as a vision of the sexual union of man and woman. As was the case with Duchamp's imagery as early as 1912, there is at work here a kind of ironic humor that inheres, as Bergson observed,37 in situations where a human being is reduced to the state of a machine. "Picabia found in anti-painting," his wife wrote, "a formula of black humor which gave him free rein to express his rancor against men and events, an inexhaustible vein of plastic and poetic sarcasms."38

Certain of Picabia's machines of 1915 had relief elements that were actually glued to the surface, as the raised cardboard cylinders of the Very Rare Picture on the Earth (fig. 26). But toward the end of the decade he began to employ found objects as collage elements, always using them illustratively however, as instanced by the hairpins that serve as eyes and the matches that represent the hair in The Match Woman II (fig. 24).

Between 1918 and 1922 Picabia's painting was in an equivocal state. His style was no longer developing coherently and real successes had become less frequent. Among the latter is the striking M'Amenez-y (fig. 27), its title based on a "verbal Readymade" by Duchamp,39 and the handsomely abstract Culotte Tournante (fig. 28), the visual simplicity of which reflects Picabia's interest during the early twenties in arresting optical devices, for example, the target that makes up Optophone (fig. 29). By this time Picabia had deserted the Dada movement; he never joined Surrealism, though its influence is certainly reflected in his "transparencies" of the later twenties. With these superimpositions of crudely executed realistic images Picabia passed out of serious consideration as a painter.
FRANCIS PICABIA. *M’Amenez-y*. (1919–1920). Oil on cardboard, 56 1/8 x 40 1/2 inches. Estate of Jean (Hans) Arp

29  FRANCIS PICABIA. Optophone. (c. 1922). Watercolor, $28\frac{1}{8} \times 23\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Collection André Napier, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

30  JASPER JOHNS. Target with Plaster Casts. 1955. Encaustic and collage on canvas with plaster casts, $51 \times 44$ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York
If the Armory Show confirmed Picabia’s doubts about Cubism, it was precisely as an introduction to Cubism that the exhibition served for the young American painter Man Ray. Not until his friendship with Duchamp, who came to New York two years later, and with Picabia, when he returned there in 1916, did Man Ray undergo the transition from formalist to fantasist.

The success of his most important Dada-period painting, *The Rope Dancer Accompanies Herself with Her Shadows* (fig. 31), depends more on the vestiges of Cubism than on its novel iconography. Though executed entirely in oils, the picture is a transposition of ideas that Man Ray had been developing in a series of colored-paper collages influenced by Synthetic Cubism; it was, in effect, a trompe-l’œil of a collage. The dancer is a small schematic figure at the top of the canvas whose legs and skirts are shown simultaneously in different positions. The same Duchampesque principle allows the rope to be represented six times, forming lariat-like arabesques that swing out to enclose the “shadows,” large flat abstract shapes of color.

Having moved away from painting via collage and its trompe-l’œil equivalent, Man Ray now took the next step along the road traveled by Duchamp by eliminating brush and traditional paints. From 1917 until the end of the Dada period, he was primarily a maker of objects and an explorer of new mechanical methods of image-making. A new interpretation of the rope dancer in 1918 (fig. 32), now as a tightrope walker, combined the effects of a spray gun with pen drawing; the *Aerograph* of 1919 (fig. 33) was made entirely with a spray gun, using a freestanding, three-dimensional stencil. This oval picture is an excellent index of the persistence of Cubist syntax even in the teeth of an anti-art technique.

Man Ray’s objects were often “assisted” Readymades, as in the flatiron and tacks of *Gift* (fig. 38), but they sometimes constituted more complex assemblages. His *Enigma of Isidore Ducasse* (fig. 34) was a mysterious object—actually the sewing machine of Ducasse-Lautréamont’s famous image—wrapped in sackcloth and tied with a cord. It anticipated the recent empaquetages of Christo (fig. 35), who has even greater aspirations, such as packaging certain skyscrapers of Lower Manhattan (fig. 36).

Though Man Ray developed a reputation as a photographer of artists and art after his emigration to Paris in 1921, he thought of this activity primarily as a means of support. In photography, his “solarization,” a technique already known to commercial photography, added an interesting minor note to his portrait photographs with their cameo-like effects (fig. 82), but his most important photographic contribution did not require a camera at all. “Rayographs” (fig. 39) were made by a process in which objects were placed on or near sensitized paper that was then exposed directly to the light. The process, discovered accidentally in the darkroom, gave results not unrelated to the “Schadographs” arrived at independently by Christian Schad. By controlling exposures and moving or removing the masking objects, this “automatic” process made possible images of a strangely abstract or symbolic character.

Though the machinist style interested American artists such as Morton Schamberg (fig. 40) and Joseph Stella, New York Dada had been primarily a question of the personal association of Duchamp, Picabia, and Man Ray. With the departure of all three for the Continent, the movement dissolved in New York. In Paris, Man Ray was associated with the Surrealists, who encouraged him in his role of object-maker; under their influence his painting and drawing was led into the more illusionist vein of his portrait of the Marquis de Sade (fig. 37).
33 Man Ray. *Aerograph*. 1919. Airbrush and watercolor, 29\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 23\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc., New York

34 above Man Ray. *The Enigma of Isidore Ducasse*. (1920). Cloth and rope over sewing machine. No longer extant

MACHINE TOURNEZ VUI

1 FEMME
2 HOMME

Picabia
37 MAN RAY. Portrait of the Marquis de Sade. 1936. Pen and ink, 14 x 10 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois


opposite

Switzerland had been a haven from war for a variety of disaffected creative young men from all over Europe. In February 1916, the Cabaret Voltaire was launched in Zurich by a group of poets and artists; participants included Hugo Ball, Tristan Tzara, Hans (Jean) Arp, Marcel Janco, and Richard Huelsenbeck. With the accidental discovery of the word “Dada” in a Larousse dictionary, the group fell at once upon a name for their review and for a movement anticipated in Paris, already under way in New York, and soon to spread through Germany and France. Experimental poetry, lectures, improvisational dance and music shared the programs of the Cabaret Voltaire with Dada gestes and a variety of outlandish pranks that also included audience participation.

From the point of view of the plastic arts the contribution of Zurich Dada was associated primarily with the pioneering work of Arp, though Marcel Janco made a contribution and Augusto Giacometti was briefly associated with the movement. Hans Richter, who with Viking Eggeling developed abstract motifs sequentially in long “scroll paintings” (fig. 50), was later to realize these aims of visual motion in his pioneer films, such as Rhythmus 21 and Rhythmus 23.

Janco did a number of paintings which Arp described succinctly as “zigzag Cubism” and some handsome reliefs in a related spirit (fig. 42); his masks, created for soirées at the Cabaret, were more unusual (fig. 41). “What altogether fascinates us about [these],” Ball noted in his diaries, “is

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42 **Marcel Janco.** *Wood Relief.* 1917. Wood (after a plaster original), 32 7/8 × 26 inches. Private collection

43 **Francis Picabia.** *Réveil Matin.* 1919. Tempera on cardboard, 13 × 10 1/8 inches. Galleria Schwarz, Milan
AUGUSTO GIACOMETTI. Painting. 1920. Oil on canvas, 41\(\frac{3}{8}\) x 41\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Dr. G. Schaufelberger, Würenlos, Switzerland
that they personify beings and embody passions larger than life. The dread of our times, the paralyzing background of things is made visible."

The Swiss painter Augusto Giacometti, uncle of the sculptor Alberto, had arrived independently at an abstract art anticipating the informel (fig. 44), which had its roots in Art Nouveau and remained untouched by the Cubism so ubiquitous as an underpinning in the work of other Dadaist painters. His brief personal association with the movement encouraged the radicality of his explorations but had no distinctive effect on his style. Giacometti's most Dadaist invention was a machine, inspired perhaps by those in Picabia's paintings and drawings. In 1917 he took the mechanism of a large clock, painted it, and attached colored forms to some of the moving parts, which functioned in a manner that foreshadowed the 1959 mobile reliefs of his compatriot Jean Tinguely. The machine was accidently destroyed, but in a comical playlet by Arp, Giacometti gives us a fanciful description of it: "Yesterday I finished my kinetic Dadaist work of art. I don't believe anybody has ever created anything comparable to it. My kinetic work of art resembles a square cloud with a pendulum of blue smoke." Later, during a visit to Switzerland, Picabia would bow to the national product and use parts of an alarm clock to "print" a drawing (fig. 43).

Though many Dadaist and Surrealist artists were practicing poets, Arp is one of the very few whose poetry stands in both quality and quantity as an important contribution in its own right. The involvement of the painters of these movements with poetry produced a variety of rapport between the two arts, some of which endowed their peinture-poésie with new and unexpected dimensions, but others of which tended to vitiate their painting through a dilution of aesthetic modes. Arp's collages, reliefs, and sculpture share with his poetry an iconography—e.g., navels, mustaches, and clouds—a gentle whimsy, and a feeling of naturalness, but nowhere is their plasticity compromised.
For three years prior to the emergence of his personal style in the winter of 1915/1916, Arp had worked within the discipline of Cubism. Then in collages, and in machinesawn reliefs such as the Portrait of Tzara of 1916 (fig. 45) and Enak’s Tears of 1917 (fig. 46), the prevailing rectilinear structures of the Cubist work dissolved under the pressure of a new curvilinear, “organic” morphology. This biomorphism had its roots in Art Nouveau, although there it was primarily linear in style and botanical in its associations. Arp established it in terms of closed flat forms that were endowed with anthropomorphic allusions as well. From that point on, biomorphism would be the nearest thing to a common form-language for the painter-poets of the Surrealist generations. An essential linguistic element in the work of all the “abstract” Surrealists—e.g., Miró, Masson, Matta, and Gorky—it was also fundamental to the illusionist painting of Tanguy, familiar in the “hand-painted dream photographs” of Dali, and not unknown even in the subversive, seemingly prosaic realism of Magritte.44

In the face of Analytic Cubism’s searching but ultimately assured equilibrium and stasis, Arp’s reliefs unwind in an improvisational, meandering manner that implies growth and change. Here is no longer the sober, classical scaffolding of the external world of architecture. The forms of the Portrait of Tzara and Enak’s Tears, while describing nothing specifically, multiply associations to physiological and botanical processes, to sexuality, and, through their very ambiguity, to humor.

Although biomorphism initiated a new vocabulary of forms, it did not in itself constitute a style in the sense that Impressionism or Cubism did; nor did it generate any new comprehensive principle of design or distribution of the total surface, or of the illusion of space, in pictures. Rather it provided constituent shapes for paintings in a variety of
styles. When more than one or two such shapes are used by the “abstract” Surrealists we almost always find them disposed in relation to one another and to the frame in a Cubist manner. Thus, while we may speak of the form-language or morphology of Arp, Masson, and Miró as anti-Cubist, this does not apply to the over-all structure of their compositions, since on that level these painters cling to organizational principles assimilated from the Cubism that all of them had practiced earlier.

Though the philosophic and aesthetic implications of accident had been of interest to Duchamp, it was only with Zurich Dada that accident, and its near corollary, automatism, began to be exploited. Accident played an important role in many of the improvisations at the Cabaret Voltaire. Tzara invented the “accidental poem,” made by cutting out the individual words of any newspaper article, throwing them in a bag, shaking them, and recording them in the order that they were taken out. Arp explored comparable possibilities in a series of collages (fig. 49), and later in reliefs, generically entitled According to the Laws of Chance. Certain historians of Dada have taken this title at face value and have mistakenly described Arp as dropping pieces of paper on a ground and then “pasting them on the cardboard just as they had fallen.” One glance at these collages is enough to suggest the unlikelihood of this procedure, and Arp has since confirmed that he had used chance in these works only as a point of departure for images that were afterward consciously rearranged.

Automatism played a comparable role in a number of Arp’s Dada drawings (fig. 47). Their starting point was the notion of vitality, the movement of the creative hand. There were no preconceived subjects, but as outlines contoured the surface, they provoked associations to human physiognomies and organs, to plant and animal life. These were never defined in a literal manner, Arp always preferring the ambiguous form that suggests much but identifies nothing. The pencil outlines once drawn, he filled in the contours with black ink, often changing and adjusting them, and even eliminating shapes as he brought the drawing to completion.

Arp’s automatism was much less rapid and spontaneous than that practiced in the later twenties by Masson and Miró; it resembled more the “doodling” of Klee. The value of automatism for all these artists lay in its help in “overcoming” their own painting culture. Accidentality and, even more, automatism facilitated the challenging of inherited assumptions of style and habits of the hand, and suggested the possibility of rendering experience dredged more deeply from the unconscious than prevailing art-making practices seemed to allow.
Richard Huelsenbeck returned to Berlin in 1917 and carried with him the gospel of Zurich Dada. Food was scarce in the German capital, despair was spreading, and the authorities seemed unable to cope with the situation. Here was a city ripe for a more aggressive and more politically oriented Dadaism than well-fed Zurich would have tolerated. Huelsenbeck’s communism had never jibed with the more apolitical, anarchistic ideas of the other Zurich Dadaists anyway. Led by Huelsenbeck and John Heartfield, who had anglicized his name, Herzfelde, as an anti-nationalist gesture, the Dada manifestations in Berlin were resolutely collective in character. Not content with vilifying revered values—“What is German culture? (Answer: Shit)—Dadaists there called for their eradication by “all the instruments of satire, bluff, irony, and, finally, violence... in a great common action.”

Berlin produced less work of interest in the plastic arts than other Dada centers. Much of it was intentionally ephemeral: posters, impromptu pieces, propagandistic inventions manufactured for particular manifestations. Whether in collages such as Raoul Hausmann’s Head (fig. 53) and Johannes Baader’s Collage a (fig. 54), in its reviews, or in its posters, the Berlin group showed itself particularly interested in typography, which it exploited in a more daring and inventive way than had the Zurich Dadaists.

The most significant contribution of the Berlin group was the elaboration of the so-called photomontage, actually a photo-collage, since the images were not montaged in the darkroom. Indeed, very few of these consisted, as did Paul Citroen’s obsessional Metropolis (fig. 55), entirely of photographic images; most of the Berlin photomontages involved a combination of images from different sources—many from newspapers and magazines—as in Hausmann’s Tatlin at Home (fig. 51) and Hannah Höch’s Cut with the Kitchen Knife (fig. 52). Though Max Ernst had independently invented a comparable technique, Hausmann was the first Berliner to hit upon the photomontage. It was suggested to him by the German army photographers’ device of inserting portrait heads in oleographic mounts of idealized settings. In its pure form, photomontage entirely eliminated any need to paint or draw; the mass media could provide all the material. One could attack the bourgeoisie with distor-

51  RAOUl HAUSMANN. Tatlin at Home. 1920. Collage of pasted papers and gouache, 16³/₄ x 11 inches. Moderna Museet, Stockholm

52  HANNAH HÖCH. Cut with the Kitchen Knife. (1919). Collage of pasted papers, 44³/₈ x 35³/₈ inches. Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen, Berlin
53. **Raoul Hausmann.** *Head.* (1923). Collage, 13\(\frac{1}{8}\) x 10\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection the artist, Limoges.


tions of its own communications imagery. The man on the street would be shocked to see the components of familiar realistic photography used to turn his world topsy-turvy, and the familiar lettering of his newspapers and posters running amuck.

George Grosz’s savagely antimilitaristic, antibourgeois satire, though stylistically allied to Expressionism and Futurism, was put in the service of Dada “provocation” in Berlin. His vision of the corruption of the city’s grand- and demi-monde stressed the omnipresence of irrational violence. Grosz and Heartfield had both been soldiers and were revolted by their experiences. Grosz paraded through the Berlin streets wearing a death’s-head and carrying a placard emblazoned “Dada über Alles,” while Heartfield continued to wear his uniform after demobilization as a form of protest. In order to “dis-honor” it, he wore a particularly dirty and disgusting one, and on the pretext of suffering from a skin disease he shaved only one cheek, becoming thus a living counterpart of the grotesque caricatures in Grosz’s antimilitarist drawings (fig. 58). The climax of Berlin Dada was the International Dada Fair of 1920, the central symbol of which was a dummy of a German officer, fitted with the head of a pig, that hung from the ceiling of the main gallery (fig. 59).
Erste Internationale Dada-Messe. Kunsthandlung Dr. Otto Burchard, Berlin, June 1920. From left to right: Raoul Hausmann, Hannah Höch, Dr. Burchard, Johannes Baader, Wieland Herzfelde, Mrs. Herzfelde, Otto Schmalhausen (Dadaoz), George Grosz, John Heartfield

opposite


below left: George Grosz. Remember Uncle August, the Unhappy Inventor. (1919). Oil on canvas, with cut-and-pasted magazine advertisements and buttons, 19 1/4 x 15 3/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Reis, New York

No artist more completely personified the interwar avant-garde than Max Ernst. His Dada activities in Cologne following demobilization—with Baargeld—initiated a career that extended through the entire history of Surrealism and beyond. In the extraordinary variety of his styles and techniques he is to Dada and Surrealism what Picasso is to twentieth-century art as a whole.

Ernst executed a few sculptures and reliefs during the Dada period. The freestanding, wood-slat Bird (fig. 61) and the wood-and-metal relief Fruit of a Long Experience (fig. 60) give a personal twist to suggestions present in Picasso's construction sculptures of 1912–1916, and somewhat parallel the early Merz reliefs of Kurt Schwitters. But despite the readability of the former and the somewhat more cryptic iconographic suggestions of the latter, both necessarily remained on a more formal plane than the collages. It was primarily as a collagist that Ernst discovered himself as an artist, for in collage he could give free rein to his taste for a more detailed literal imagery. Ernst described the experience that engendered the collages as follows:

One rainy day in 1919 . . . my excited gaze was provoked by the pages of a printed catalogue. The advertisements illustrated objects relating to anthropological, microscopical, psychological, mineralogical, and palaeontological research. Here I discovered the elements of a figuration so remote that its very absurdity provoked in me a sudden intensification of my faculties of sight—a hallucinatory succession of contradictory images, double, triple, multiple . . . . By simply painting or drawing, it sufficed to add to the illustrations a color, a line, a landscape foreign to the objects represented—a desert, a sky, a geological section, a floor, a single straight horizontal expressing the horizon, and so forth. These changes, no more than docile reproductions of what was visible within me, recorded a faithful and fixed image of my hallucination. They transformed the banal pages of advertisement into dramas which revealed my most secret desires.

The collage, as Ernst re-created it, had little in common either technically or plastically with the papiers collés of the Cubists. For them, collage elements were a counterpoint
to the painted lines and shapes in a whole oriented toward formal values. To Ernst, who wanted to go “beyond painting” but not, like Duchamp, beyond art, plasticity was of secondary interest; he used the borrowed elements primarily for their image value, joining them in irrational, disconcerting ways. In conceiving of the collage as “a meeting of two distant realities on a plane foreign to them both,” or as a “culture of systematic displacement and its effects,” Ernst was postulating a mode that hardly necessitated gluing elements together. Of the fifty-six collages he showed in Paris in 1921, only ten were, technically speaking, collages. The rest were printed images turned into visual collages by being painted and drawn upon.

The imagery of Ernst’s collages diverges into the two main directions previously laid out by Dada: the mechanical and the organic. *Démonstration Hydrométrique à Tuer par la Température* (fig. 63) is made up of cylinders, funnels, pipes, and other vaguely mechanical elements that form a strange apparatus of unclear purpose, as if demonstrating some as yet undiscovered principle of hydrodynamics. *Stratified Rocks* (fig. 64) contains biomorphic shapes that originally delineated vertebral systems and circulatory patterns. By retaining parts of the original illustration as reserve areas and painting over the rest with geological striations and vegetal forms, Ernst turned the whole into an eery world of enigmatic forms and fantastic beasts.

In *Démonstration Hydrométrique* and other collages, there are linear perspective schema that were suggested by contact with de Chirico’s painting, an influence that is, however, more manifestly reflected in Ernst’s series of lithographs called *Fiat Modes* (fig. 65). But the absence of aerial perspective and, above all, modeling in the round, combined with the abstract nature of these linear schemas, impeded three-dimensional illusions and kept the forms clinging close to the picture plane. Later, from 1921 to 1924, Ernst made large paintings, such as *The Elephant Celebes* (page 84) and *Edipus Rex* (fig. 109), in which comparable collage elements were painted in trompe-l’œil. In these, the simpler, more narrative iconographies and more modeled, illusionistic handling created a dreamlike deep space that anticipated Magritte, Tanguy, and Dali. These pictures, which stand between de Chirico and these later painters, are best thought of as proto-Surrealist.

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The machine-sawn reliefs of Arp and the collages of Ernst already constituted a compromise with Duchamp’s rigorous aesthetic nihilism; the personal form of Dada developed by Kurt Schwitters in Hanover represented an even further attrition of that early Dada ideal. Schwitters, who called his work Merz to distinguish it from other forms of Dada, felt no embarrassment about his delight in art, which he considered “a primordial concept, exalted as the godhead.” “As a matter of principle,” he insisted, “Merz aims only at art. . . .”

Judged only on the basis of the collages—by which he is best known—there is little that identifies Schwitters as specifically Dadaist. The structural framework of the collages derives from the grid scaffoldings of Cubism and the radiating patterns of Futurism. And the articulation of these patterns with refuse—bus tickets, advertisements, letterheads, bottle labels, and the like—had been foreshadowed, at least in principle, by the Cubists.

But while the iconography of Cubist collage had a certain poetry, which evoked the haphazard studio-world in which the artist lived, this was incidental to its mainly formal expressive aims. The greater range and more personal selection of Schwitters’ collage materials allowed him to conjure from them an intimate nostalgic poetry—even a pathos—that frequently contains more than a hint of anecdote. This autobiographical bias reflected a typically Dadaist desire to fuse art and life, a compound that became fully realized only when Schwitters’ anti-art materials left the surfaces of his collages and reliefs and began to form the components of the Merzbau, or “Merz structure,” into which he transformed his home.

I could not, in fact, see the reason why old tickets, driftwood, cloakroom tabs, wires and parts of wheels, buttons and old rubbish found in attics and refuse dumps should not be as suitable a material for painting as the paints made in factories. This was, as it were, a social attitude, and artistically speaking, a private enjoyment, but particularly the latter. . . . I called my new works utilizing such materials Merz. This is the second syllable of Kommerz. It originated in the Merzbild [Merz Picture], a work in which the word Merz, cut out from an advertisement of the Kommerz und Privatbank and pasted on, could be read among the abstract elements. . . . I looked for a collective term for this new style, since I could not fit my pictures into the older categories. . . . So I called all my work as a species Merz pictures, after the characteristic one. Later I extended the use of the word Merz, first to my poetry, which I have written since 1917, and finally to all my related activities. Now I call myself Merz.

The overwhelming majority of Schwitters’ collages are very small. The materials he loved did not lend themselves to large-size works, and he wanted to preserve in the finished pictures the intimacy he felt toward this detritus. But such miniaturism was not an unalloyed asset, because Schwitters, unlike Klee, was not able to sustain the rhythm of invention that keeps a small-scale art from becoming monotonous.

Schwitters’ poetry, centering largely around Anna Blume and his sound poem, Die Ursonate, had a reciprocal relation to his collages, which often constitute visual poems of different degrees of fragmentation, Fec. 1920 representing the type of the least atomized. The union of painting and poetry could begin at either end. “I pasted words and sentences into poems in such a way as to produce a rhythmic design [fig. 66]. Reversing the process, I pasted up pictures and drawings so that sentences could be read in them [fig. 67].” Exploration in this kind of amalgamation of words and images was pressed further just after World War II by the Dada-inspired Letterists in Paris such as Maurice Lemaître (fig. 68); words even became the basis of an Environment by Allan Kaprow (fig. 70).

Schwitters’ large-scale reliefs, though relatively few in number, diverge from the collages in spirit as well as materials. The wood slats, wheels, wire mesh, nails, and other objects used in Weltenkreise and in The “Worker” Picture (fig. 71) produce a bold, often geometrical, effect recalling Picasso’s relief constructions. The first years of Merz activity, 1919–1920, saw many of the best of these, but Schwit-

67  KURT SCHWITTERS. Illustration in Memoiren Anna Blumes in Bleie (Freiburg, 1922)

opposite

68  above right  MAURICE LEMAITRE. Document on a Woman of My Life. 1966. Oil and pasted photographs on canvas, mounted on plywood, 44 7/8 x 63 3/4 inches. Collection the artist, Paris


70  far right  ALAN KAPROW. Words. Rearrangeable environment with lights and sounds, at the Smolin Gallery, New York, September 1962
FORGETTING
THE ELEGY
CORNERS AND
SMALL ZONES
ALAS SOON
WHY THEY HAIR
WHO GOES
MY TONGUE
SUPPOSE
NO FUTURE
BURLESQUE
POW! POT
EXCEPT A
TO

THE
WHY
I AM
POWER
TRUTH

CRY CHILD
OVER
SUPPLEMENT
MY EYES

I REMEMBER
PRE-CHRIESTED
TAKE OFF
GOD OF PARCE
WONDDOTOMY
AN AFTER
OATMEAL
I FEEL
ODD

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E.Sokeland & SOLME
BERLIN, N.W. 21
ters had occasional success with them throughout his career, as witness the *Merz Picture with Rainbow* of 1939 (page 52), which points clearly to the Combines and reliefs of Rauschenberg.

The process by which Schwitters' home was converted into the private Environment he called the *Merzbau* (figs. 73–75) followed naturally from his additive, improvisational manner of composing collages and from his Dadaist desire to extend art from an aesthetic discipline to a way of life. Already in 1919 the walls of Schwitters' home overflowed with collages and reliefs, and the floors had become crowded with freestanding objects that began to merge with the furniture. Soon there was no distinction between the independent collage or relief and the wall as a backdrop for the junk Schwitters installed. The piles of freestanding rubbish grew, constantly refreshed with every new trouvé the painter "merzed" on during a sixteen-year period.

With the blurring of the discrete pictorial field of the collage on the wall and the extension of the relief material out into the room, Schwitters' improvised Environment gradually obliterated the architectonic sense of his house. The *Merz* accumulations began to be surrounded by an organic growth of wood and plaster which in time extended through two floors of the building and down into a cistern. As this shell was realized it became increasingly Constructivist in style, in keeping with the general reorientation of Schwitters' art in the mid-twenties. It is this more purely plastic apparatus that the photographs best preserve for us (the house was destroyed by bombs in 1943), the inner core, formed of *Merz* agglomerations, amounted to a kind of Dada grotto, part of which was accessible only through "doors" and "windows" in the surrounding timber structure. Among the names Schwitters gave to sections of the *Merzbau* were Nibelungen Treasure, Cathedral of Erotic Misery, Goethe Grotto, Great Grotto of Love, Lavatory Attendant of Life; there was also a Sex-Murder Cave, which contained a red-stained broken plaster cast of a female nude.

In letting his relief material spill out into the room and in constructing the forms of the *Merzbau* around him—a prototype for "environmental" sculpture—Schwitters proved to be a prophetic artist. Rauschenberg's *Interview*
(fig. 77) evokes, in a personal way, a comparable metamorphosis of everyday living structures under the impact of the will to art. During the same year in which he converted his own pillow and quilt into the painting called Bed (fig. 76), Rauschenberg plastered and hung this closet-like structure with a variety of images and materials—from old family photographs to a baseball—that might have come out of the attic. Together they suggest an autobiographical iconography that turns the cupboard almost into a confessional, and exemplifies Rauschenberg’s Dada-inspired remark that he operates “in that gap between” art and life. The Swiss *nouveau réaliste* Daniel Spoerri was inspired by similar aims in his *tableaux-pièges*, or “snare pictures.” In these, various objects—like the remains of Duchamp’s dinner (fig. 78)—found in chance positions on tables, in boxes, drawers, or elsewhere were fixed or “frozen” as they lay. They became “pictures” by the simple expedient of being turned vertically and hung on a wall.

But Schwitters had a vision of an even more radical and hallucinatory *Merz* experience, one that would have turned an Environment into a Happening. Some of the *Merz* manifestations or soirées pointed in this direction, but never arrived at the “*Merz* total work of art,” which would, in Schwitters’ words, “embrace all branches of art in a single unit.” To accomplish this he projected a *Merz*-stage:

The materials used for staging should be made up of solid, liquid, and gaseous substances: the white wall, a man, a mass of wires, a jet of water, a blue vista, a cone of light. Surfaces should be used which can fold like draw curtains, which can expand and contract. Things should turn and move . . . it should be possible to add parts to the stage flats or subtract them.

While the theater has always been the locus of a fusion of the arts, it is only in the nineteenth-century, Wagnerian, conception of the *Gesamtkunstwerk* that such a notion was spelled out. However, Schwitters’ *Gesamtkunstmerz*, if the word may be coined for him, differed from the *Gesamtkunstwerk* in being not an orderly synthesis of genres but a Dadaistic confusion of them:

Take gigantic surfaces, conceived as infinite [he instructs], cloak them in color and shift them menacingly . . . Paste smoothing surfaces over one another . . . Make lines fight together and caress one another in generous tenderness . . . Bend the lines, crack and smash angles . . . let a line rush by, tangible in wire . . . Then take wheels and axles, hurl them up and make them sing (mighty erections of aquatic giants). Axles dance mid-wheel roll globes barrels. Cogs flair teeth, find a sewing machine that yawns . . . Take a dentist’s drill, a meat grinder, a car-track scraper, take buses and pleasure cars, bicycles, tandems, and their tires, also ersatz wartime tires and deform them . . . Take petticoats and other kindred articles, shoes and false hair, also ice skates and throw them into place where they belong, and always at the right time . . . Inner tubes are highly recommended. Take in short everything from the hairnet of the high-class lady to the propeller of the S/S *Leviathan*, always bearing in mind the dimensions required by the work.

Even people can be used . . .

Now begin to wed your materials to one another. For example, you marry the oilcloth table cover to the Home Owners’ Loan Association, you bring the lamp cleaner into a relationship with the marriage between Anna Blume and A-natural, concert pitch . . . You make a human walk on his (her) hands and wear a hat on his (her) feet . . . A splashing of foam.

And now begins the fire of musical saturation. Organs backstage sing and say: “Futt, futt.” The sewing machine rattles along in the lead. A man in the wings
73-75  KURT SCHWITTERS. Views of the Merzbau, Hanover, c. 1924-1933. The view at upper right includes Schwitters’ pet guinea pig.
above
76 left ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG. Bed. (1955). Combine painting, 75 1/8 x 31 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York

77 right ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG. Interview. (1955). Construction with wooden door, 72 inches high x 49 inches wide x 8 1/2 inches deep. Collection Dr. Giuseppe Panza di Biumo, Milan

78 right DANIEL Spoerri. Marcel Duchamp’s Dinner. (1964). Cutlery, dishes, and napkins mounted on wood, 24 7/8 inches wide x 21 1/8 inches deep x 8 1/4 inches high. Collection Arman, Nice
Schwitters' ideas for the Merz-stage remained in the realm of theory. Although they represent his urge to erase the boundaries that exist among the arts, he himself felt that they were unrealizable. In 1923 he began to develop his ideas for a Normalbühne Merz, which lacked the radicality of the Merz-stage but for which he conceived a space stage in which the machinery constituted part of the visible aesthetic of the event (fig. 79).

The history of modern art, from its inception with the generation of Manet and the Impressionists, has moved in a direction opposite to the Gesamtkunstwerk; it was only with Dada that theater influenced it. Clement Greenberg has observed that the informing dialectic of modern painting, indeed, of all the modern arts, has been the search for those qualities that are both indispensable and peculiar to them. It is no accident that Dada, reacting to the implied autonomy of painting at the very moment that it was going over into total abstraction, should have wanted “to dissolve the rigid frontiers” of the various arts even as it wanted “to put them once again under the dependency of man.” Nor does it seem to be an accident that the reaffirmation of abstract painting by the “first generation” of post-World War II artists should in turn have engendered a reaction in the form of Environments, Happenings, and other mixtures of the arts which are still under way.

The relationship of the Dadaist conception of the gratuitous or spontaneous act to the theory of Action Painting and the relationship of this, in turn, to the vogue of Happenings is too complicated to be treated here, but there is no question that historical consciousness of Dada and Surrealism in New York during and after World War II had an important role in these developments. But the fact that most of the artists and critics involved in our recent history had no firsthand knowledge of the earlier experiments proved to be a virtue, since the distance made them freer to judge and to develop what was still viable in them.
Insofar as the ideas that would later be called Dada were first proposed and enacted by Duchamp and others in Paris, it was only poetic justice that after shifting between two continents, the axis of the movement should have returned there a few years after the first World War. Infused with new blood in the shape of the young poets associated with *Littérature*—among them Breton, Paul Eluard, and Louis Aragon—and supported by pioneer Dadaists who flocked to Paris from New York and various Continental centers, Paris became the scene of some of Dada’s most glorious *gestes* and manifestations. But what would constitute the final chapter of any book on Dada as a whole, shrinks in importance in a discussion of the plastic arts. For while much of the work done in other centers was exhibited in Paris, and while many of the artists emigrated or at least visited there, postwar Paris witnessed no radical artistic departures comparable to those we have been describing. For the purposes of our discussion, Paris Dada is important primarily as the formative environment of the men and ideas that would soon constitute Surrealism. In the years 1922–1924, sometimes referred to in the history of the Parisian avant-garde as the *époque floue*—the “indistinct” period of transition—these young poets dialectically transformed moribund Dada into the new movement.
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The Pioneer Years of Surrealism
1924–1929

The years of the époque floue found Breton and his friends attempting to flesh out a definition of Surrealism that would satisfactorily differentiate it from Dada. Many of the essentials of Surrealism—the experimentation with automatism, accident, biomorphism, and found objects within the framework of an overriding commitment to social revolution—had been present in Dada to some degree, but in a chaotic state. These would be systematized within the Freud-inspired dialectic of Surrealism. What had been a therapy for Freud would become a philosophy and a literary point of departure for Breton.

The word “surrealism” had been used first by Apollinaire in 1917 in a context that coupled avant-garde art with technological progress; his neologism possessed none of the psychological implications that the word would later take on. Subsequently, the term was used by Ivan Goll, founder of a short-lived review called Surréalisme, and others. But their usages, e.g., “the transposition of reality onto a higher plane,” was vague or contradictory. “Up to a certain point,” Breton wrote in November 1922, “one knows what my friends and I mean by Surrealism. This word, which is not our invention and which we could have abandoned to the most vague critical vocabulary, is used by us in a precise sense. By it, we mean to designate a certain psychic automatism that corresponds rather
closely to the state of dreaming, a state that is today extremely difficult to delimit."

By autumn of 1924, Breton had assumed exclusive rights to the magic word and in the Surrealist manifesto published then he gave it formal definition:

**Surrealism.** noun, masculine. Pure psychic automatism, by which one intends to express verbally, in writing or by any other method, the real functioning of the mind. Dictation by thought, in the absence of any control exercised by reason, and beyond any aesthetic or moral preoccupation.

Encycl. *Philos.* Surrealism is based on the belief in the superior reality of certain forms of association heretofore neglected, in the omnipotence of dreams, in the undirected play of thought...

"I believe," Breton proclaimed, "in the future resolution of the states of dream and reality, in appearance so contradictory, in a sort of absolute reality, or *surréalité*, if I may so call it."

At the time of the publication of the manifesto no conception of Surrealist painting existed. The lengthy text mentioned the plastic arts only in a footnote, which grouped Ernst, Masson, Man Ray, de Chirico, Duchamp, Picabia, and Klee with Picasso, Matisse, Derain, Seurat, Moreau, and—Paolo Uccello. Had the formal definition of Surrealism cited above been taken at face value, Surrealist painting could never have existed, since it could hardly have transcended "any aesthetic...preoccupation." Indeed, in 1925 Pierre Naville and some other members of the Surrealist group wholly rejected the idea as a contradiction in terms.

Breton, however, was unwilling to take his own manifesto so literally. Painting might be a "lamentable expedient," but it was an expedient nevertheless. The automatic drawings of André Masson, reproduced in the first number of *La Révolution Surréaliste*, were Surrealist in inspiration yet unquestionably art; the same was true of Miró's fantasies and Ernst's disturbing dream images of that period. Though at the time of the manifesto Surrealist art was more a possibility than an actuality, four years later, in *Le Surréalisme et la peinture*, Breton was able to describe if not define it by its entelechy. It was generally agreed that the mere presence of form did not prevent paintings from being Surrealist. Art would be a *means* of expression, an instrument of self-discovery, not an *end* to be savored. Surrealist identity would hinge on the methodological and iconographic relevance of the picture to the main ideas of the movement, that is, automatism and the "dream image."

As Surrealist painting emerged in its heroic period—between the first (1924) and the second (1929) manifestoes—it bipolarized stylistically in accord with the two Freudian essentials of its definition. Automatism (the draftsmanship counterpart of verbal free association) led to the "abstract" Surrealism of Miró and Masson, who worked improvisationally with primarily biomorphic shapes in a shallow, Cubist-derived space. The "fixing" of dream-inspired images influenced the more academic illusionism of Magritte, Tanguy, and Dali. We tend to think of Miró and Masson primarily as painters (*peintres*), in the sense that the modernist tradition has defined painting; we think of the latter artists more as image-makers (*imagiers*). The styles of all Surrealist painters are situated on the continuum defined by these two poles. That of Max Ernst—the "compleat Surrealist"—oscillated between them. Both kinds of painting were done virtually throughout the history of the movement, though the automatist—"abstract"—vein dominated the pioneer years and the period of World War II. In between, oneiric illusionism held sway.

The common denominator of all this painting was a commitment to subjects of a visionary, poetic, and hence, metaphorical order, thus the collective appellation, *peinture- poésie*, or poetic painting, as opposed to *peinture-pure*, or *peinture-peinture*, by which advanced abstraction was sometimes known in France. Surrealists never made nonfigurative pictures. No matter how abstract certain works by Miró, Masson, or Arp might appear, they always allude, however elliptically, to a subject. The Cubists and Fauvists selected motifs in the real world but worked away from them. The Surrealists eschewed perceptual starting points and worked *toward* an interior image, whether this was conjured improvisationally through automatism or recorded illusionistically from the screen of the mind's eye.

This visionary iconography, which was intended to reveal unconscious truths that were heretofore assumed to be inaccessible, was sometimes inspired by the literature that interested Surrealism, but was more often of an entirely
JOAN MIRÓ. *Landscape with Rooster*. 1927. Oil on burlap, 51\(\frac{1}{4}\) x 77 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. John Gilbert Dean, North Scituate, Rhode Island
personal order, though certain psychological constants in human nature—and their concomitant symbols—naturally tended to manifest themselves. However "abstract" its figuration, the Surrealist picture almost always contained those irrational juxtapositions of images common in free association and dreams.

The first phase of Surrealist painting was improvisational and "abstract." Both Miró and Masson made the transition from Cubism to fantasy art in 1924, and the following year Ernst, under the direct influence of the text of the manifesto, began the frottage drawings that redirected his art into a non-illusionist vein.

Joan Miró: 1924–1929

Despite his considerable success as a decorative Cubist, Miró had found himself constrained and frustrated by that style's rigor and objectivity. Introduced into the Surrealist circle in 1924 by Masson, with whom he had adjoining studios, Miró felt suddenly liberated. He became obsessed with poetry—"I gorged myself on it all night long"—and was excited by the possibilities of automatism as a way of realizing poetry in visual form.

The Tilled Field (fig. 83) is a major document of Miró's transition. The flat surface of this decorative farm vista is bisected by an absolutely straight horizon line which, with salient diagonals, divides the surface into geometrical shapes that in turn enclose the small ornamental forms of the farmyard denizens. If the stylized realism that dominates the picture adheres to the Synthetic Cubist manner in which Miró was then painting, the lizard in a dunce cap who scans a newspaper is a harbinger of his Surrealist whimsy, as are the giant ear and eye that sprout from the trunk and foliage of a tree. The shapes of this ear and eye also announce the biomorphology that by the end of 1925 would dominate Miró's painting and serve as a vehicle for his fantasy. The evenly painted, sharply contoured execution continued to remain an option for Miró throughout.
84 JOAN MIRÓ. Hand Catching a Bird. 1926. Oil on canvas, 36⅜ x 28⅜ inches. Collection Vicomtesse de Noailles, Paris

85 JOAN MIRÓ. The Gendarme. 1925. Oil on canvas, 8 feet 2¾ inches x 6 feet 4⅞ inches. Collection Mrs. Ernest Zeisler, Chicago

opposite

83 JOAN MIRÓ. The Tilled Field. 1923–1924. Oil on canvas, 26 x 37 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clifford, Radnor, Pennsylvania
the twenties, but the Surrealist content prompted a freer alternative method of picture-making.

Miro was now leaving the Cubists behind with a vengeance—"I shall break their guitar"74—and although Cubist space and certain Cubist compositional distributions continued to inhabit the infrastructure of his pictures,75 the over-all appearance of these images was decidedly new. During the next few years, and to a lesser extent, until World War II, Miro's work oscillated between the poles of carefully planned, tightly painted, flat patterning, exemplified by the whimsical Hand Catching a Bird (fig. 84), and the loosely painted, "automatic" improvisations, of which the monumental The Birth of the World (fig. 87) constitutes the most remarkable example. Landscape with Rooster (page 65) typifies the bulk of Miro's work, which fell stylistically between these extremes.

The most "automatic" pictures have been much appreciated by post-World War II painters, but unfortunately many of the best of these, including The Birth of the World and The Gendarme, have never been exhibited in this country. In The Birth of the World, Miró poured a blue wash over lightly primed burlap and then, using rags and a sponge, spread it rapidly in a "random" manner. Within the pictorial chaos of these patches, which suggested iconographically a primordial sea, he began to improvise with painted lines that in turn led to flat percussive shapes of black and primary colors. Together these suggested an incipient iconography of living creatures. The Gendarme (fig. 85) exemplifies the boldness and spareness characteristic of the automatic manner. Letting his brush wander freely over the brown ground, Miró found forms that began to suggest a horse's head and a human hand; a few lines and touches of color sufficed to conjure a policeman signaling "Stop."

"Rather than setting out to paint something," Miró said later of his method, "I begin painting and as I paint the picture begins to assert itself, or suggest itself under my brush. The form becomes a sign for a woman or a bird as I work.... The first stage is free, unconscious."76 Such pictures as The Birth of the World had prompted Breton to write that it was "by such pure psychic automatism that [Miró] might pass for the most 'surrealist' of us all."77 But in fact Miró's automatism was not pure, nor even as rapid or little edited as some of Masson's. Pure automatism, like pure accident, is inimical to art and it is noteworthy that Miró qualified the description of his procedures cited above by adding that "the second stage is carefully calculated."

Though Miró's genius as a colorist was not entirely realized until the thirties, his earlier pictures already established him as the greatest colorist in the generation after Matisse. From the latter he learned to stay away from the heavy impastos that are alien to the insubstantial, essentially optical nature of color; Miró's paint is either brushed out so as to look transparent, as in the blue ground of the Man with a Pipe (fig. 88), or brushed over until a texture-less evenness is obtained.

Certain of Miró's collages of the late twenties are among the few exceptions to this reluctance to draw attention to the physical presence of the picture surface. In the two versions of Spanish Dancer (figs. 90, 91), the sandpaper, metal, and string force the eye to adjust successively to their various surfaces. But Miró provides such experiences only in contexts where color is not an issue.


87 Joan Miró. The Birth of the World. (1925). Oil on canvas, 8 feet 1/2 inch x 6 feet 4 1/4 inches. Collection René Gaffé, Cagnes-sur-Mer (Alpes-Maritimes), France
88  left  JOAN MIRO.  *Man with a Pipe*. 1925. Oil on canvas, 57 7/8 × 45 inches. Private collection

89  right  JOAN MIRO.  *Automaton*. 1924. Pen and ink, 18 × 24 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago
90  left  Joan Miró. Spanish Dancer. 1928. Pasted paper and charcoal, 40 1/8 x 28 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Richet, Paris

91  right  Joan Miró. Spanish Dancer. 1928. Collage of sandpaper, string, and nails, 41 3/4 x 26 3/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago
André Masson: 1924–1929

At the time of André Masson’s contact with the Breton circle in the winter of 1923/1924 his painting was unabashedly Analytic Cubist. And as that refined and studied mode of execution left no opening for automatism, for a few years Masson exploited this method only in drawings, the form in which he expressed himself best throughout his career. The automatic drawings (fig. 92) were begun with no subject or compositional distribution in mind. Letting his pen travel rapidly across the paper in a mediumist fashion, he soon found hints of images—anatomical fragments and objects—manifesting themselves within the “abstract” web. Sometimes these clues were slightly detailed by conscious elaborations with the pen, but they were always left in an ambiguous state; at the same time, changes and additions were made to endow the image with a satisfactory aesthetic structure, but always without halting the rapid movement of the pen.

Masson’s line quickly took on a very particular character. In contrast to Miró’s relaxed and sensuous lyricism, Masson’s sudden redirections and frequently convoluted and angular contours, which admitted no revisions, conveyed a sense of overwhelming urgency and conflicting impulses. The seismographic nature of the markings suggested a hand responsive to the most minute variations within the psyche.

Although Miró had been able to find a way of accommodating his easygoing automatism to the possibilities of oil painting by the beginning of 1925, Masson seemed unable to realize his urgent draftsmanship with brush and paint. Nor could he translate his powerful aggressive and erotic impulses into anything like the formal vocabulary he inherited from Analytic Cubism. It was inevitable that his new poetic subject matter should engender changes in the calm architectural scaffolding he had been using; and if he could not make his painting automatic, he could at least change its motifs and morphology. Just as Miró’s Synthetic Cubism began in 1924 to assimilate a new fantasy content, and its attendant biomorphism, so the Analytic Cubism of Masson gradually accommodated imagery of a type never contemplated by the originators of the style. The torso in Woman (fig. 93) is not resolved in a scaffolding of rectilinear accents but reconstitutes itself as an Earth Mother whose botanical “organs” have become universal symbols of generation. Metamorphosis thus became the informing principle of Masson’s new iconography, which fused the image of man with that of the earth, the animal world, and the heavens.

As The Haunted Castle illustrates (fig. 94), the winter of 1926/1927 found Masson striving for a way to endow his paintings with the discoveries of automatic drawing. In the center of this picture the Cubist scaffolding has dissolved under the pressure of the meandering line, though it persists in the margins. But painting was unalterably resistant to the rapid and extended linear automatism Masson wanted. Constant reloading of the brush broke the continuity of the line as well as the sequence of psychic impulses, while the drag of the brush prevented the rapid execution that was possible with pen or pencil.
93  ANDRÉ MASSON. *Woman*. 1925. Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 × 23 1/2 inches. Collection Dr. and Mrs. Paul Larivière, Montreal

94  ANDRÉ MASSON. *The Haunted Castle*. (1927). Oil on canvas, 18 1/2 × 15 3/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Claude Asch, Strasbourg
Masson's resolution of the problem took the form of the remarkable sand and tube-painted pictures of 1927. In many of these the brush was eliminated almost entirely. Glue was spilled on the raw canvas and "drawn" out over the surface with the fingers. Sand was poured over the surface, and after the stretcher was tilted, remained only in those areas. In pictures such as Two Death's-Heads (fig. 95), the process was repeated with different colored sands to produce a relief-like layering. The application of sand was followed in most instances by drawing with paint squeezed from a specially constructed large tube. In Painting (Figure) the drawing descants the sand patterns with suggestions of birds and fish that metamorphose into a figure (fig. 96). In The Villagers (fig. 97) the linear counterpoint remains marginal, allowing the flat patterns of sand and color to dominate.

The sand and tube-painted pictures represented the high point of Masson's élan. But unlike Miró, he seemed not to know where his best possibilities lay, and instead of developing the sand style, he relaxed into a more familiar curvilinear Cubist manner during the final years of the decade.

95  ANDRÉ MASSON. Two Death's-Heads. (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, $5\frac{1}{8} \times 9\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago

96  ANDRÉ MASSON. Painting (Figure). (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, $18 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Private collection

opposite
97  ANDRÉ MASSON. The Villagers. (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, $31\frac{7}{8} \times 25\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Private collection
98  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. 
Gare Montparnasse (The Melancholy of Departure), 1914. Oil on canvas, 33 1/8 x 72 5/8 inches. Collection James Thrall Soby, New Canaan, Connecticut
Giorgio de Chirico and Surrealist Illusionism

"Abstract" Surrealism emerged from an iconographic, morphological, and methodological restructuring of Cubism which left almost no immediately recognizable vestiges of the earlier style. But illusionist Surrealism—Magritte, Tanguy, and Dali—was always to manifest its debt to Giorgio de Chirico. So influenced was this trend by both his style and iconographic ordering that de Chirico has frequently been misrepresented as a Surrealist himself, yet his important work terminated in 1917, seven years before the formal establishment of the movement.

De Chirico’s mature style appeared *sui generis* in the context of modern painting. It seemed no more related to Cubism than it did to Dada, which was working its way out of formal abstraction in the same years. Seemingly neither modernist art, nor anti-art, it appeared to revert to the illusionism of the Renaissance from which it derived the spatial “theater” it bequeathed to Surrealism. The idealized architecture of de Chirico’s streets and piazzas recalled—in Leopardian silence and nostalgia—the Italy of another epoch.

It was with the art of the *quattrocento* that de Chirico felt his closest affinity. As in Piero della Francesca and Uccello, the foreground figures and objects in *The Philosopher’s Conquest* (fig. 101), *The Double Dream of Spring* (fig. 103), and *The Disquieting Muses* (fig. 104) occupy
101  left  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. The Philosopher’s Conquest. (1914). Oil on canvas, 49 1/2 x 39 1/4 inches. The Art Institute of Chicago, the Joseph Winterbotham Collection

102  right  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. The Mystery and Melancholy of a Street. 1914. Oil on canvas, 34 1/2 x 28 1/8 inches. Private collection

104  Right  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. The Disquieting Muses. (1917). Oil on canvas, 38 1/4 x 26 inches. Collection Gianni Mattioli, Milan
a frontal space that is separate from the background which is treated as a foil or backdrop. The High Renaissance continuity of space through the middle ground, as in the mature Raphael, is alien to him, as is its aerial or atmospheric perspective.

But de Chirico’s classical world was not recollected in tranquility. The pervasive malaise of his vision ended by denying the ordered, rational structure of experience proposed by fifteenth-century art. And this denial was even more a matter of formal than of literary content. In a style that constitutes as much a parody as an adaptation of Renaissance art, de Chirico revealed, at least by 1913, a more subtle insight into Cubism than did his Futurist compatriots, while his imagery, by “irrationalizing” the cosmos of the quattrocento, reflected the unstable mood of the early twentieth century with a vividness equal to theirs.

As against single-point perspective, which reflected the unity of purpose and stability of the Renaissance, the orthogonals of such paintings as The Mystery and Melancholy of a Street (fig. 102) and The Span of Black Ladders (fig. 99), with their multiple and conflicting vanishing points, project an atmosphere of uncertainty. The space is more dreamlike than real, as are the absolute silence and the white, non-atmospheric “interior” light. This enigmatic light, which recalls that of Henri Rousseau, sometimes casts no shadows, seeming to make the objects it illuminates apparitional; at other times, as in The Mystery and Melancholy of a Street, it casts distorted shadows of invisible bodies, suggesting the proximity of menacing presences.

Unlike the monumental painting of the quattrocento, in which modeling in the round created the illusion of space-displacing solid forms, de Chirico’s shading and shallow, virtually ungraduated modeling deny bulk and render his figures flat and spectral. And though his orthogonals would seem schematically to indicate retreating space, the bland, unmodeled surfaces of the planes they delineate remain paradoxically flat on the surface, as on a screen. All this indicates, as in the boldly designed Gare Montparnasse (fig. 98), a greater affinity with Synthetic Cubism than with old-master illusionism.

While Magritte, though sacrificing de Chirico’s fluency of touch and semi-transparent matière, retained a some-what comparable standard of abstraction, Tanguy and Dali altered the de Chirico style in a way that put them at a much greater remove from the mainstream of modern painting. Their crystalline surfaces, in which all traces of brushwork and impasto have been suppressed, their modeling in the round, and their atmospheric perspective recall Meissonier more than Piero. Despite de Chirico’s parentage of Surrealist illusionism, his own work is finally closer stylistically, though not poetically, to Matisse and Mondrian than to Tanguy and Dali.

De Chirico’s undermining of the rational classical world was expressed iconographically through enigmatic combinations of objects, usually autobiographical and often sexual in content. The association of the head of the Apollo Belvedere, a surgeon’s glove, a ball, and a steam locomotive in the exquisitely colored Song of Love (fig. 100) has the simplicity and poignancy of Lautréamont’s famous image. We feel that these objects have been retrieved from the edge of memory. Some of them recall de Chirico’s childhood in Greece and the world of his engineer father. In The Philosopher’s Conquest (fig. 101), the juxtaposition of cannon, balls, and artichokes evokes a veiled eroticism that is more usually expressed in de Chirico’s paintings by the towers and arcades of his dream architecture.

De Chirico was the first to translate Lautréamont’s poetic paradigm into painting; Duchamp’s images on glass and compound Readymades came later. While the Surrealists—Magritte excepted—were to use the principle as a springboard for hybrid fantasies and fantastical metamorphoses, de Chirico rarely altered or abstracted the objects he represented. As in dreams, the approach to reality was selective, but the prosaism of dream imagery was maintained. “Yet even if the exterior aspect of the object is respected,” Breton observed, “it is evident that this object is no longer cherished for itself, but solely as a function of the signal that it releases...” [de Chirico] retains only such exterior aspects of reality as propose enigmas or permit the disengagement of omens and tend toward the creation of a purely divinatory art.”

The only seemingly “invented” forms we see in de Chirico’s paintings are the mannequins, such as the one peering from the corner of The Double Dream of Spring.
105  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. The Jewish Angel. 1916. Oil on canvas, 26\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 17\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches. Penrose Collection, London

106  GIORGIO DE CHIRICO. Grand Metaphysical Interior. 1917. Oil on canvas, 37\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 27\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches. Collection James Thrall Soby, New Canaan, Connecticut
(fig. 103) or the immobile columnar presences in the monumental Disquieting Muses (fig. 104). Devoid of features and frequently deprived of limbs, these mannequins are charged with pathos, especially when playing the roles of lovers out of antique literature. But these, too, have a realistic source, insofar as they were partially derived, as probably were Duchamp's Nine Malic Molds, from tailor's dummies. Even the strange scaffoldings, which support the giant eye in The Jewish Angel (fig. 103) and the boxed pictures in the Grand Metaphysical Interior (fig. 106), seem like objects from the phenomenological world. They represent, more or less, translations of abstract Analytic Cubist structures into suggestions of studio carpentry.

In 1917 de Chirico suddenly lost his muse and began his progression toward the kind of meretricious painting that has since been associated with his name. Though Breton became disenchanted with de Chirico's subsequent pictures, he looked back on the painter as a "great sentinel" on the route to be traveled by Surrealism. Lautreamont and de Chirico, wrote Breton, were the "fixed points" that "sufficed to determine our straight line."80

Max Ernst: 1921–1929

Max Ernst’s paintings of 1921–1924 (figs. 109, 111) formed a link between the de Chirico style and Surrealist illusionism. They combined de Chirico’s spatial theater with ideas derived from Ernst’s own Dada collages. The fantastical conception of The Elephant Celebes (page 84), for example, is collage-engendered, while the three-dimensional modeling of the monster’s “trunk” and “body,” and its relation to the horizon, go beyond de Chirico in the direction of a consistent illusionism. Translated into trompe-l'œil painting and enlarged in size, Ernst’s hybrids took on a more intense reality.

This proto-Surrealist phase was realized mostly in Paris, where Ernst went in the summer of 1922; in the history of the avant-garde there, it coincided with the transitional époque floue. It terminated with his three-month trip to the Far East in July 1924, which was followed by a virtual lacuna in Ernst’s work for about nine months. When he resumed in August 1925, it was in a new and more “abstract” manner.

On his return to Paris, toward the end of 1924, Ernst found avant-garde circles exercised by the appearance of Breton’s Surrealist manifesto, which had been issued in October. And he himself tells us that his new automatic manner—based on frottage (rubbing)—was developed "under the direct influence of the information concerning the mechanism of inspiration" suggested there.81 It certainly also reflected his confrontation of the new work of Miró and Masson, who had established their "abstract" Surrealist manners during the previous year.

Ernst gives the following account of the inception of frottage:

... I was struck by the obsession imposed upon my excited gaze by the wooden floor, the grain of which had been deepened and exposed by countless scrubblings. I decided to explore the hidden symbolism of this obsession, and to aid my meditative and hallucinatory powers, I derived from the floorboards a series of drawings by dropping pieces of paper on them at random and then rubbing them with black lead... The drawings thus obtained steadily lost the character... of the wood, thanks to a series of suggestions and transmutations that occurred to me spontaneously (as in hypnagogic visions), and assumed the aspect of unbelievably clear images probably revealing the original causes of my obsession...

The rubbing—more inherently accidental than automatic drawing—provided random patterns that Ernst altered in varying degrees as he envisioned Gestalts of fantastic landscapes, animals, and hybrids. Drawings such as The Ego and His Own (fig. 112) reveal both an imagination and a sensibility to the aesthetic possibilities of light and dark that rival Redon’s.

Ernst soon accommodated this technique of provoking inspiration to the medium of oil painting by scraping paint off prepared canvases while they were lying on materials such as wire mesh, chair caning, and haphazardly coiled twine. The twine might also be dipped in paint and
Among Surrealist techniques exploiting the mystique of accident was a kind of collective collage of words or images called the cadavre exquis (exquisite corpse). Based on an old parlor game, it was played by several people, each of whom would write a phrase on a sheet of paper, fold the paper to conceal part of it, and pass it on to the next player for his contribution. The technique got its name from results obtained in an initial playing, “Le cadavre exquis boira le vin nouveau” (The exquisite corpse will drink the young wine). The game was adapted to the possibilities of drawing and even collage by assigning a section of a body to each player, though the Surrealist principle of metaphoric displacement led to images that only vaguely resembled the human form.
109  above MAX ERNST. *Edipus Rex*. 1922. Oil on canvas, 36¼ x 40¼ inches. Private collection


111  below right MAX ERNST. *Free Balloon*. (c. 1922). Painted tile, 14¼ x 9¼ inches. Private collection

opposite

MAX ERNST. *The Elephant Celebes*. 1921. Oil on canvas, 49¼ x 42 inches. Penrose Collection, London
112  left  MAX ERNST. *The Ego and His Own.* 1925. Pencil frottage, 10 1/4 x 7 7/8 inches. Collection Arman, Nice

113  right  MAX ERNST. *Stallion.* (c. 1925). Pencil frottage, 12 x 10 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois
114 left MAX ERNST. To 100,000 Doves. (1925). Oil on canvas, 32 x 39 1/2 inches. Collection Mme Simone Collinet, Paris

115 below MAX ERNST. Blue and Rose Doves. (1926). Oil on canvas, 31 7/8 x 39 3/4 inches. Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf
dropped on the face of the canvases, just as wood slats and other materials could be lightly pigmented and "printed" on the surface. The series of which *To 100,000 Doves* (fig. 114) and *Blue and Rose Doves* (fig. 115) are outstanding examples was executed largely by the scraping method. The creamy, seductively textured surface of the former was a new thing for Ernst, and quite opposite in character to the tight, dry handling of his proto-Surrealist pictures. In the mass of painterly cues obtained by scraping, he divined the presence of myriad birds whose heads and bodies he then "materialized" by brushing in some contours and details. The absence of modeling—Ernst preferred to maintain only the delicate value gradations achieved through *frottage*—the fragmentation of forms, the shallow space, and the dissolution of the pattern near the frame all echo the late Analytic Cubism which that same year was undergoing a not unrelated metamorphosis in the hands of Masson. *Blue and Rose Doves* is less crowded in its patterning than *To 100,000 Doves*. Though the lines occasioned by the string *frottage* meander freely over the surface, their pattern is still comfortably adjusted to the frame.

Ernst's obsession with birds, which was celebrated in the Dove series, led him to a hallucinatory identification with them; around 1930 he created an alter ego, a sort of avian *Doppelgänger*, christened Loplop, Superior of the Birds. Loplop's features are only schematically indicated in the "Loplop Introduces" collages of 1932, but elsewhere his elongated, anthropomorphic appearance was not without a curious resemblance to the painter himself.

The years 1925–1928 were the finest and most productive in Ernst's career, and almost all the series he undertook then—the "Forests," "Hordes," "Shell Flowers" among them—were in some way dependent upon *frottage*. In the *Snow Flowers* (fig. 117), the painterly "blossoms" produced by this technique were handsomely set off by the flat grounds on which they were "randomly" spotted. The scene of *Chaste Joseph* (fig. 118) is set in a "woods" derived from a *frottage* of wood planks comparable in effect to those in the Forest series. The patterns of flat color represent a pair of biomorphic bird-personages whose nuptials—a hallucination of standard images such as Raphael's *Sposalizio*—are blessed by an avian high priest, a forerunner of Loplop.

**116 above Max Ernst, *Forest* (1927). Oil on canvas, 44 7/8 x 57 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slifka, New York**


**opposite Max Ernst, *Chaste Joseph*, 1928. Oil on canvas, 63 x 51 1/4 inches. Collection A. D. Mouradian, Paris**
The first year of Surrealist painting following the publication of the manifesto had witnessed the total dominance of the automatism so emphasized in its text. But late in 1925 the Belgian painter René Magritte, under the influence of de Chirico, renewed “dream image” illusionism, and about a year later Tanguy adapted the biomorphology of Arp and Miró to the same spatial theater. Not until Dali burst onto the scene in 1929, however, did this form of Surrealist painting become dominant.

The style Magritte established in 1925 remained essentially the same to the end of his life. He sought an almost total prosaism in the things he represented; his art contains few of the bizarre beings of Ernst, none of the “paranoid” fantasies of Dali. Rarely—as in The Conqueror (page 90)—did he form a figure on the basis of a trompe-l’œil of collage; but even then, the integrity of the individual constituents was respected. In his greater closeness to de Chirico, Magritte distinguishes himself from the other Surrealists by the technical devices—frottage—and aesthetic formulation—biomorphism—he eschews. In an attempt to create a purely poetic image, he sought to by-pass modernist painting, though the handsomeness and economy of his compositions recall his apprenticeship as an abstractionist. The originality of his images—though not the measure of their pictorial quality—lies in the secret affinities between dissociated objects revealed by means of Lautréamont’s poetic principle.

The paintings produced during the first three years of Magritte’s maturity were dark in mood and in color. The cannibalistic violence of Pleasure (fig. 119) and the frustrating isolation of The Lovers (fig. 120) are more intense than the impersonality, irony, and dead-pan humor his later painting allowed. Overwhelmingly black and brown, they are devoid of the decorative qualities introduced by 1929 in On the Threshold of Liberty (fig. 124) and emphasized in recent paintings such as Arch of Triumph.

122  below left  RENE MAGRITTE. *Personal Values.* 1952. Oil on canvas, 31 5/8 x 39 1/2 inches. Collection Jan-Albert Goris, Brussels

the background of which suggests Magritte's assimilation of the decorative "all-over" configurations familiar in abstract painting after World War II.

The cannon that penetrates the room in *On the Threshold of Liberty* recalls de Chirico's symbolism, in which, however, the psychosexual implications seemed less close to the surface of consciousness. The compartments that form the walls of the chamber display some of Magritte's recurrent and more elliptical motifs—forest, sky, façade, paper cutout, flames, sleigh bells, wooden planks. The truncated torso of a woman diagonally opposite the cannon suggests the first metaphoric leap which sets in motion the chain of associations.

In *Personal Values* (fig. 122) the wall of the room is made of sky, and through the technique of scale dissociation, the toilet articles have been rendered Gargantuan. Though anticipated by Redon (fig. 121), this effect was derived directly from results obtained in collage when fragments of images taken from sources with different scales were juxtaposed. Ernst had converted such collage discoveries into *trompe-l'œil* painting in *Edipus Rex* (fig. 109), while Duchamp's miniaturized French window, *Fresh Widow* (its title suffered a head cold), had represented a translation of the same principle from the world of pictorial illusion to that of objects. Though also inspired by outdoor advertising, Claes Oldenburg's *Giant Fagends* (fig. 125) and, above all, his projected city monuments, mark a recent development of this idea. His *Colossal Fagend, Dream State* (fig. 123), a sketch for such a city monument, gives a Pop Art brashness to the sexual connotations which are usually more veiled in Surrealist symbols.


125 below Claes Oldenburg, *Giant Fagends*. 1967. Stuffed and painted canvas, Formica, and wood, 3 feet high x 8 feet wide x 6 feet 10 inches deep. The Kleiner Foundation, Beverly Hills, California, Courtesy Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Words and Images

Magritte's peinture-poésie has been criticized as the simple translation of literary ideas into images. He replies that in his poetry-in-painting the image is "an idea capable of becoming visible only through painting," and that its nature is as inseparable from visualization as a poetic image is from verbalization. He might have added that merely reproducing any three-dimensional object on a delimited flat surface—that is, picturing it—automatically engenders a set of aesthetic rapports that have no necessary relation to the meaning of the object qua object.

If painting distinguishes the image of an object from the object itself, poetry does the same thing with the word for it. Certain of Magritte's pictures pair these aperçus; the painted image of the pipe in The Wind and the Song (fig. 129) releases different signals than either the word "pipe" or a real pipe. Hence the didactic legend "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" (This is not a pipe) inscribed on the surface of the picture. Elsewhere, as in The Key of Dreams (fig. 128), Magritte juxtaposed images of objects and logically unrelated words, suggesting that a "resonance" might exist between their signals.

The preoccupation with the use of words in images, and vice versa, was natural for the poet-painters of Dada and Surrealism, and it led to many novel combinations. It was hardly a new issue, however, having been explored as early as the Dark Ages by the Merovingian and Insular illuminators and as recently as by the Cubists. The Dadaists went far beyond the Cubists in composing pictures with letters and words connected syntactically, on occasion extending the texts into whole poems. The Surrealist phase began in 1924 with the illusionist "picture-poem" invented by Max Ernst—a three-dimensional projection of Apollinaire's Calligrammes (fig. 130). Here the words wind in and out of perspective space, sometimes creating an architecture of their own, sometimes fusing with the forms to which they refer, as for example, the words "grand amoureux" and the embracing arms of the lover in Who Is that Very Sick Man (fig. 131). Miro's picture-poems of the following year reflect the vogue of automatism. The handwriting in his Oh! One of Those Men Who's Done All That (fig. 133) provides the rhythm that then arabesques out over the surface to suggest—but only in a most schematic way—a narrative sexual confrontation. The text of A Bird Pursues a Bee and "Kisses" It (fig. 132) goes on to be more specific on a comparable theme; the track of the pursuing bird, who is composed of a collage of feathers, is traced by the unwinding letters of the word "poursuit." Norman Bluhm's spatter-and-drip-accenting of Frank O'Hara's poem It's Raining (fig. 134) represents an Abstract Expressionist counterpart of such automatic picture-poems.

Tanguy's picture-letter of January 28, 1933, to Paul Eluard (fig. 126) is another type of invention based on the fusion of words and images. The conceit requires that we imagine a perspective drawing of a letter folded into the morphological patterns of Tanguy's paintings. Some words disappear or are broken off by the projections of the biomorphic "hill town," and "birds" in the form of punctuation marks fly around the margins.

Picasso's association with the Surrealists led him to compose a quantity of automatic poetry which was joined to illustration. At the End of the Jetty (fig. 127) is a whimsical Surrealist poem in a spirit typical of Picasso's poetry of the thirties and of his Surrealist play, Desire Caught by the Tail. It describes a coprophagous Ubu-esque bourgeois whose face is drawn alongside, his nose projecting into the handwritten text of the poem as though sniffing it.

Breton's contribution to these inter-aesthetic explorations was the poem-object, a miniature relief-assemblage in which various found objects were collaged to a picture surface in juxtaposition with fragments of poetry. In the beribboned For Jacqueline (fig. 135) the poem begins with a label that serves both visually and verbally, for the words "Carte resplendissante" on the label must be read with the words written on the accompanying strip of paper in order to arrive at the first line of the poem. The relationship between words and object may also be mimetic, as with the phrase "jardin de la pendule" (garden of the clock) which is coupled with a flower made of clock parts. Breton departed from the poetic in the same way as Magritte did from the plastic, in these efforts, "to combine the resources of poetry and plasticity and speculate on their power of reciprocal exaltation."
126  Yves Tanguy. Letter to Paul Eluard. 1933. Pen and ink, 10 1/2 x 7 1/2 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York

127  Pablo Picasso. At the End of the Jetty. 1937. Pen and ink, 11 1/4 x 8 1/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Lee V. Eastman, New York
128 RENÉ MAGRITTE. *The Key of Dreams.* (1930). Oil on canvas, $32 \times 23\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Private collection.

129 RENÉ MAGRITTE. *The Wind and the Song.* (1928–1929). Oil on canvas, $23\frac{1}{4} \times 31\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Private collection.
LA CRAVATE ET LA MONTRE

COMME L'ON S'AMUSE BIEN
la lettre
et le

LA CRAVATE
LOU
QUE TO SERTS ET QUI OUI
VIRE

OUI TU VEUX LA BIEN SI REP.

LES MUSES
au por

DOU LOURE
QUE TU PORTES ET QUI T'

VILE

OT

97
Un oiseau
et la abeille

132  JOAN MIRÓ. A Bird Pursues a Bee and "Kisses" It. 1927. Oil on canvas, 317/8 x 397/8 inches. Private collection
133  JOAN MIRÓ. Oh! One of Those Men Who’s Done All That. 1925. Oil on canvas, 51 1/8 x 37 3/8 inches. Collection Aimé Maeght, Paris

134  NORMAN BLUHM and FRANK O’HARA. It’s Raining. (1960). Gouache and ink, 48 x 40 inches. Private collection
J'ai commencé mon enfance gardée
Dans le jardin de la pantouche.
Il y avait dans la maison blanche
Une femme aux cheveux d'or pourpre.

Pour Jacqueline
Juin 19-3, 1947

de ma vie
Yves Tanguy

Yves Tanguy was the only autodidact among the illusionist Surrealists. Unlike Magritte and Dalí who, after art school training, experimented with various forms of Cubism, Tanguy went from the whimsical primitivism of such paintings as Fantômas (fig. 136) to the tightly painted academic illusionism of his mature style without ever passing through modernist painting. His characteristic manner crystallized in 1927, and from then until his death in 1955 it underwent no change except for a tightening in execution after 1930, and a gradual intensification of color.

This consistency of style paralleled the persistence of his vision, a “mindscape” resembling desert wasteland or ocean floor which remained with him for life. In the early A Large Painting Which Is a Landscape (fig. 138) this world is sparsely populated with forms that are a con-
version of Arp’s flat biomorphic patterns into three-dimensional illusions a few years before Arp himself was to realize his own personal form-language as sculpture in the round. *The Certitude of the Never Seen* (fig. 139) extends the biomorphism to the contoured frame, which becomes a projecting platform before the picture where minuscule sculptures in the round and their shadows are read continuously with the illusionistic space of the painting itself. The proliferation and enlargement of these biomorphs, which are characteristic of Tanguy’s paintings of the thirties, led in the following decade to structures affecting an architectural grandeur. The scaffolding of *Indefinite Divisibility*, for example (fig. 140), suggests the transformation of the monumental construction in de Chirico’s *Jewish Angel* (fig. 105) into Tanguy’s own form-language; even the elongated shadow it casts has its precedents in the Italian painter’s work.

The poetry of Tanguy’s mature imagery differs from that of the other illusionist Surrealists, and even from that of most of the “abstract” painters in the group; it is less specifically literary. Though on occasion his forms are anthropomorphic—those of *Through Birds, Through Fire, but Not Through Glass* (fig. 141) recall de Chirico’s muses and lovers out of antique literature—they are never particularized with features or anatomical details. Nor can his forms ever be identified as recognizable objects, as can the shapes of Miró and Masson, to say nothing of those of Magritte and Dali. If Tanguy’s style is realistic, his visual poetry is abstract.

At its best Tanguy’s poetic gift overcame the uninteresting, even slick, facture of his work. The poetry was already remarkable in such early “primitive” works as the collage-painting in which a string tree sprouts from a cart that crushes a Rousseau-esque little girl (fig. 137). In his last years it reached a hallucinatory intensity. The black light and foreboding atmosphere of *Imaginary Numbers* (fig. 143), probably his last painting, suggest a prescience of death. Here the biomorphic forms, which had multiplied over the years to fill the once almost empty spaces, are identified with what may have been their first inspiration, the menhirs and polished boulders of the Brittany coast of Tanguy’s childhood.
139 YVES TANGUY. *The Certitude of the Never Seen*. (1933). Oil on wood with carved wood frame, 8\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches high x 9\(\frac{7}{8}\) inches wide x 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches deep. Private collection

140 YVES TANGUY. *Indefinite Divisibility*. 1942. Oil on canvas, 40\(\frac{1}{8}\) x 35 inches. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo
141 left Yves Tanguy. *Through Birds, Through Fire, but Not Through Glass*. 1943. Oil on canvas, 40 x 35 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Donald Winston, Los Angeles

142 right Yves Tanguy. *My Life, White and Black*. 1944. Oil on canvas, 36 x 30 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Gelman, Mexico City

opposite

The Surrealism of the Thirties

The year 1929 was one of crisis and redirection for Surrealism. According to Breton the movement was intended to function as the spontaneous expression of affinities between independent collaborators. But a group that conducted psychological and literary experiments, produced manifestoes on current issues, published books and magazines, organized “manifestations,” and held art exhibitions could not function with total spontaneity. Organization and authority were needed, and Breton provided these to a degree that many considered excessive, with the result that as issues multiplied so did disagreement and conflict. One after another the participants in this “collective experience of individualism” were forced to choose between the polar terms of the formula.

What this crisis meant for Surrealist art was reflected in Masson’s departure from the movement and Salvador Dali’s arrival. The initial sovereignty of the “abstract” Surrealists, already modified by the emergence of Magritte and Tanguy, now became a memory. For three or four years, in Breton’s view, Dali “incarnated the Surrealist spirit and his genius made it shine as could only have been done by one who had in no way participated in the often ungrateful episodes of its birth.”

Breton’s second Surrealist manifesto, which appeared in December 1929 in the last issue of the movement’s pioneer...
146 SALVADOR DALÍ. Senectitas. 1928. Oil on wood, 23 1/4 x 18 7/8 inches. Private collection

147 SALVADOR DALÍ. The Louibrious Game. 1929. Oil on wood with collage, 18 7/8 x 15 inches. Private collection
review *La Révolution Surréaliste*, put the imprimatur on the new direction. Virtually nothing was said about automatism, which had been the central tenet in the original manifesto. Breton conceded that automatic writing and, even more, the recounting of dreams, could still be useful, but he deplored the fact that these techniques had increasingly led to art. The procedures would now have to be restored to their original experimental scientific basis, the purpose of which was the liberation of man through self-knowledge, “free of the artistic alibi.”

The relation of Dali’s art to this shift in attitude can be properly assessed only if we keep in mind that, at the time, Dali viewed his painting as a kind of anti-art which entirely by-passed “plastic considerations and other *conneries*.” Moreover, his impact on the movement can hardly be evaluated in terms of painting alone. For some years Dali kept Surrealist circles in constant effervescence with his “critical” writing, his *gestes* (comparable to the best of Dada in their anarchic humor), his objects, and his poetry. All these activities issued from what Dali called his “paranoiac-critical method,” which he defined as “a spontaneous assimilation of irrational knowledge based upon the critical and systematic objectification of delirious phenomena.” “I believe,” he predicted, “that the moment is near when by a procedure of active paranoiac thought, it will be possible . . . to systematize confusion and contribute to the total discrediting of the world of reality.” “It is perhaps with Dali,” Breton exclaimed, “that all the great mental windows are opening.”

After having mastered the technique of academic painting as a student, Dali experimented—not without success—with various forms of Cubism and collage. Then, in 1926, at the age of twenty-two, he turned to a painstakingly detailed realism that he associated with his great idol Meissonier. But Dali handled the highlights and shadows in a way that haloed his subjects with an apparitional luminosity (fig. 145) that was foreign to Meissonier, and which soon served well in the depiction of fantastic subjects.

The crystallization of Dali’s mature style, however, required more than this characteristic facture. Other discoveries had to be made, and the paintings of 1927–1928 document his assimilation of morphological and iconographic...
150  SALVADOR DALI. *The Great Masturbator*. 1929. Oil on canvas, $43\frac{3}{8} \times 59\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Private collection
ideas from Surrealist art, Tanguy primarily. The landscape ground of his Senicitas (fig. 146), for example, is dominated by a large biomorphic torso tentatively modeled with a navel and the musculature of an abdomen; the hair-like motifs surrounding this form, the elongated pyramids and cryptic letters in the upper left corner, and the fluttering transparent ribbons nearby are all derived directly from Tanguy’s transitional paintings of 1926 and early 1927. The birds and birds’ heads are of a type used by Ernst in the same years, and the little guitar shapes in flat color recall Miró.

The eclectic Surrealism of Senicitas, combined with the “magic realism” of the paintings that immediately preceded it, led in 1929 to Dali’s first mature works, a series of brilliant small pictures whose hallucinatory intensity he was never to surpass. In some of these, The Lugubrious Game, for example (fig. 147), the photographic realism of the painted passages is indistinguishable from those parts of the surface which are actually collaged bits of photographs and color engravings. In equating his painting technique with the verisimilitude and surface finish of photography Dali here brought full circle the “perversion” of collage that was initiated by Ernst (see above, page 50).

Dali maintained the activity of collage, but in disguising even those differentiations of image components still visible in Ernst, he produced, in effect, an anti-collage.

Dali’s “paranoiac-critical method” of painting called for the use of a fastidious illusionism to render his hallucinatory visions convincing.

My whole ambition in the pictorial domain is to materialize the images of concrete irrationality with the most imperialist fury of precision. — In order that the world of the imagination and of concrete irrationality may be as objectively evident, of the same consistency, of the same durability, of the same persuasive, cognoscente and communicable thickness as that of the exterior world of phenomenal reality... — The illusionism of the most arriviste... art, the usual paralyzing tricks of trompe-l’œil, the most... discredited academicism, can all transmute into sublime hierarchies of thought... 95

However much Dali would later insist that this “retrograde technique” (his own term) was suitable for the aesthetic of a high art, he viewed it in his Surrealist days only as a “functional form of thought.” The plastic limitations of such academicism are particularly apparent in such

not only an inventory of his own dream imagery but a familiarity with the writing of Krafft-Ebing as well as Freud. Much of his iconography was new to painting, for example, the extraordinary limp watches (fig. 151) and other “soft constructions” that foreshadow Oldenburg’s soft machines (fig. 152). But more than is generally realized was assimilated from de Chirico and the pioneer Surrealists. In Illumined Pleasures alone, the boxed picture-within-a-picture, the bearded paternal figure and disembodied shadow in the foreground, the tiny scene of the Return of the Prodigal Son and the “cephalic biomorph” with a toupee near the horizon all derive directly or indirectly from paintings by de Chirico, while the colorful totem of birds’ heads near the center derives from Ernst, and the painting inside the box on the right recalls Magritte.

Whereas the imagery of de Chirico, Ernst, and Magritte focused primarily on the familiar, common denominators of human psychology, Dali’s iconography dealt with more abnormal, exacerbated states. His obsessions with castration, putrefaction, voyeurism, onanism, coprophilia, and impotence were manifested in a vocabulary that reflected not only an inventory of his own dream imagery but a familiarity with the writing of Krafft-Ebing as well as Freud. Much of his iconography was new to painting, for example, the extraordinary limp watches (fig. 151) and other “soft constructions” that foreshadow Oldenburg’s soft machines (fig. 152). But more than is generally realized was assimilated from de Chirico and the pioneer Surrealists. In Illumined Pleasures alone, the boxed picture-within-a-picture, the bearded paternal figure and disembodied shadow in the foreground, the tiny scene of the Return of the Prodigal Son and the “cephalic biomorph” with a toupee near the horizon all derive directly or indirectly from paintings by de Chirico, while the colorful totem of birds’ heads near the center derives from Ernst, and the painting inside the box on the right recalls Magritte.

The arabesques and surface incrustations of the Imperial Monument to the Child-Woman (fig. 154) are notable for their derivation from Art Nouveau, a style that Dali admired at a time when it was not fashionable in avant-garde circles. Alternately gemlike and putrescent, the monument’s surface also harks back to the “byzantinism” of Gustave Moreau, a painter much appreciated by the Surrealists; it foreshadows the decalcomania effects in Ernst’s work of the early forties.

Notwithstanding Dali’s borrowings and his overconscious involvement with psychological theory, the poetry of his early Surrealist imagery is intense and genuinely felt. In the course of the thirties this tended to dissipate. Double images, which made affective metaphors in the earlier pictures—as for example, the Art Nouveau-inspired “vaginal head” in The Invisible Man (fig. 153)—were multiplied and took on a forced, cerebral quality, while various “signature” icons, such as the “soft constructions,” tended to be thrown together in an increasingly self-conscious manner. This caused some dissatisfaction in Surrealist circles, but had little to do, however, with Dali’s banishment from the movement in the latter part of the decade, which was more a matter of personal and political conflicts.
Surrealist Sculpture

The pioneer years between the two Surrealist manifestoes saw nothing in the way of Surrealist sculpture. The medium did not especially lend itself to the practice of automatism or to the delineation of the irrational perspectives of a fantasy world; its very concreteness, its displacement of finite space, seemed alien to the imagination. Yet the illusionism heralded by Tanguy and Magritte and consummated by Dali had made an aim of concreteness, of endowing the imagined with the same materiality, “the same persuasive, cognoscentive and communicable thickness” as the real. As a logical extension of this principle into three dimensions, Dali created “dream objects,” which were soon at the center of the phenomenal proliferation of objects that characterized Surrealist activities throughout the 1930s. In this context, sculpture began to come to the fore as an art capable of endowing fantasy with a material actuality.

The principle that informed Surrealist objects was a poetic one. Although the artists and poets who fabricated the objects undoubtedly made certain decisions that were prompted aesthetically, it was officially understood that the adjustment of components in these assemblages was determined—as in Lautréamont’s famous image—only by the efficacy of metaphoric rapports. This, of course, could hardly be maintained for sculpture. Though a combination of found objects could be construed as non-art, the practice of modeling and carving immediately enforced the operation of an aesthetic whose underpinning had to come from somewhere. Just as pioneer Surrealist painting depended on Cubism for its point of departure, so Surrealist sculpture presupposed the art of Picasso, Brancusi, and Lipchitz. Out of these sources, and out of the morphologies and technical devices they themselves had used earlier, Arp, Giacometti, and Ernst produced a body of sculpture that may be defined as Surrealist. Arp’s sculpture was predominantly a matter of three-dimensional biomorphism; Giacometti’s, a transference of illusionist space into miniature para-illusionist fields of actual space; and Ernst’s, a translation and modification of collage to the purpose of sculpture. Common to the work of all three was the same type of fantasy that had governed the subject matter of Surrealist painting.
Alberto Giacometti became a formal member of the Surrealist movement in the winter of 1929/1930 though his friendships among the Surrealists and his familiarity with Surrealist literature were already reflected in his art by 1928. The earliest of his important sculptures, those of 1926–1927, are indebted to Brancusi and have little of the surreal about them. The pinched, low-relief contours of the static Couple recall Brancusi's Kiss, while the plaquelike narrowness of Head reminds us of the Fish that Brancusi had just then completed, as well as of the Cycladic images that interested both sculptors. Up to 1926 Giacometti had been working from the model; in sculptures such as Head he worked from memory, which facilitated the paring away of inessentials in favor of a kind of conceptual essence.

David Sylvester has described Giacometti's transition to Surrealism as a shift from working from memory to working from the imagination. Man and Woman (fig. 156), executed in the winter of 1928/1929, already witnesses a move in this direction. The “man” in this sculpture is a taut linear cipher, arched like a bow, from which springs a long, spikelike sex aimed at a tiny hole in the smooth concave torso of the “woman.” The theme of sexual aggression explicitly suggests the ambiance of Surrealism and particularly reflects Giacometti's friendship at that time with the “dissident” Surrealists Masson and Leiris.

Three Personages Outdoors (fig. 157), completed at the time of Giacometti's formal adhesion to Surrealism, developed an idea proposed in Lipchitz's “transparencies” but remained true to Giacometti's personal form-language. Its central “figure” also suggests an awareness of Picasso's wire constructions of 1928. From then on Giacometti sought “a kind of skeleton in space. Figures were never for me a compact mass but like a transparent construction.” The Picasso constructions may also have played a role in Giacometti's remarkable “cage” sculptures of the next few years. The Cage of 1931 (fig. 158) is a box of space crowded with anatomically allusive forms that obstruct, squeeze, and claw one another. In this dialogue between curvilinear forms and a rectilinear spatial frame Giacometti anticipated the effects of such sculptures as Seymour Lipton's Imprisoned Figure (fig. 159) and Roland Piché's Sunset and Deposition in a Space Frame (fig. 160).
Giacometti’s cages hinted at the possibility of a transparent space sculpture that would constitute a plastic counterpart to illusionist pictorial space, an idea that was to be realized in the form of The Palace at 4 A.M. (fig. 166). But the realization of this conception required first a demarcated lateral space on which the vertical structure could be erected. *Man, Woman, and Child* (fig. 161) begins to define such a sculptural “ground.” It is more articulated in the lateral field of *No More Play* (fig. 162) where the minuscule, rigidly frontal male and female figures stand isolated in a landscape that is punctuated by “lunar” concavities and rectangular tombs, one of which contains a miniature skeleton. The existential loneliness and desolate environment of *No More Play* foreshadow Giacometti’s post-World War II city squares and, at a much greater remove, the environment and the cybernetic personages in such sculptures as Ernest Trova’s *Venice Landscape* (fig. 165).

Though Degas had broken through the standard confrontation assumed for sculpture in certain of his “Bathers” which are seen satisfactorily only when viewed from above, *No More Play* and comparable works implied a more rigorous exploitation of this new viewpoint. Nevertheless, they were still table-top sculptures raised to a position intermediate between the floor and the spectator’s eye by their supports, which thus constituted modified forms of the traditional base or socle. The overcoming, or elimination, of the latter has been one of the persistent problems of modern sculpture, and Giacometti saw the issue through to one of its logical conclusions in the pioneering *Woman with Her Throat Cut* (fig. 164). This free-lying sculpture was the first conceived to splay out on the floor, which is precisely the way Giacometti showed it in his studio. The elements of its vaguely crustacean female anatomy—and hence the reading of its sexually violent iconography—can be apprehended only from above.

Having articulated his para-illusionistic lateral space on the horizontal plaques of *No More Play* and *Point to the Eye*, Giacometti proceeded to raise a three-dimensional vertical architecture on it. The wood scaffolding of *The Palace at 4 A.M.* (fig. 166) is an evolution of the cage idea through and beyond the more highly articulated table-top sculpture. Here we have the final triumph of the
artist's aim of achieving a "transparent construction," which had been signaled by *Three Personages Outdoors*. At the same time, it is the work that perhaps best expresses the poetic side of Giacometti; his account of its iconography reads like a Surrealist prose poem.100

*The Palace at 4 a.m.* is such a perfect realization of the possibilities implied in Giacometti's earlier work that it is difficult to imagine him going further in that direction; David Smith, however, in his early Surrealist-influenced sculptures such as *Interior for Exterior* (fig. 167), showed how the skeletal architecture and stylized figures of the *Palace* could be abstracted in the spirit of a metalwork tradition that is indebted to Picasso and González.

Giacometti's figure sculptures of the two years following the *Palace* represented something of a détente, and a prophecy of the work that would follow his break with Surrealism. *The Invisible Object* (fig. 163) depicts a female nude adjusted in totemistic immobility to a scaffolding and panel that might have constituted a high-back chair in the *Palace*. The incantatory quality of the gesture with which she holds a "void" that contains the mysterious object of the title foreshadows the semaphoric magic of Giacometti's later sculptures.

Though Arp is best known for his sculpture in the round, he did not turn to it until 1930, at the age of forty-three. This shift engendered no break in style, however, since it simply involved the translation into three dimensions of the poetically allusive biomorphism that he had pioneered in flat reliefs. Arp's development throughout was, as it were, hermetic, motivated by a single-minded search for the most perfect plastic realization of his characteristic morphology and poetry.

Arp's move to Paris and his participation in Surrealism is not especially reflected in the reliefs of the twenties. These were continuous in character with those of the previous decade except that he tended more frequently to set the freely meandering contours within a rectangular frame. Slight variations in materials, as in the string reliefs of the later twenties, such as *Drunken Egg Holder* (fig. 170), provided new linear inflections, but occasioned no change in vocabulary or iconography.

*Stabile Head* (fig. 168) and a few other freestanding...


left


167 right David Smith. Interior for Exterior. (1939). Steel and bronze, 18 inches high × 22 inches wide × 23 1/4 inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Orin Raphael, Oakmont, Pennsylvania
reliefs of the period signal Arp's desire to break away from the plane of the wall, but their flat forms, carpentered from paper stencils, remained essentially two dimensional despite their thickness. Sculpture in the round required a substitution of modeling and carving for the purely draftsmanly contouring Arp had always used; by the end of 1930 he had made this change and realized, in small scale, his first successful three-dimensional works. Some of these early sculptures in the round were carved from wood, such as Bell and Navel (fig. 169), which is not without an affinity to Giacometti's sculptures of that time. But wood carving gave way to the use of plaster as Arp increased the complexity and size of his pieces, and from 1933 to 1935, it became the medium of his great series of "Human Concretions" (fig. 171).

"Concretion," wrote Arp in a statement that tells as much about his method as his morphology, "is the result of a process of crystallization: the earth and the stars, the matter of the stone, the plant, the animal, man, all exemplify such a process. Concretion is something that has grown." The idea of "growth" reflects the additive, improvisational manner in which Arp modeled his sculpture, which distinguishes it from the reductionism of Brancusi. Arp is interested less in the purified essence of the motif than in the multiplication of poetic associations. Brancusi's sculptural process is centripetal, paring away to the simplest, most economical forms; Arp's is centrifugal, the work appearing to grow organically from a nucleus. In order to facilitate such an improvisational method, Arp worked almost entirely in clay and plaster. The stone, terra-cotta, or high tension bronze versions of his sculptures were made from these originals; the material chosen was a matter of relative indifference to Arp so long as it was handsome and could be smoothly finished. In fact, except for a unique series of torn-paper collages, this suppression of all traces of facture was a common denominator in his style from its inception.

Whereas some of the artists who were closest to Surrealism experienced difficulty sustaining their work after the movement's demise, Arp, who had never particularly drawn upon its resources, went on to create some of his greatest sculptures in the years after World War II. Human Lunar Spectral (fig. 172), perhaps the most monumental...
of his works, evokes a form midway between a man and a meteorite. An extraordinary fantasy of a torso, it affirms Arp's place as the last great sculptor in a tradition that reaches back through Brancusi and Rodin to the Greeks. The best sculpture of recent generations has derived from another tradition, begun by Picasso with his collage-constructions. Arp hinted at these possibilities of space-enclosing rather than space-displacing forms in his sinuous Ptolemy (fig. 173), but it remained alien to his essentially monolithic sense of sculpture.

Ernst turned to sculpture in 1934 while vacationing in Switzerland with Giacometti. Until then he had devoted virtually no effort to that art, and even since, it has played at best only a sporadic and secondary role in his work. This is regrettable, for his sculpture of the later thirties and the forties conveys convincingly and directly an imagery that in the painting of these years often appears fussy. Ernst's first sculptures of 1934 were virtually found among the rounded and polished stones of the Swiss mountain streams (fig. 174). Their beautiful, organic shapes needed only slight modification—through low-relief carving or painting—to reveal a hidden content of avian personages and other monsters.

This same bestiary, which inhabited Ernst's darkling "Forest" pictures of the period, also provided the iconography of the plaster sculpture he went on to do in the fall of 1934 and subsequently. One of the most intense of these is Woman Bird (fig. 175), a rectangular plaque on which a hallucinated visage has impressed itself as though it were

170 JEAN (HANS) ARP. Drunken Egg Holder. (1928). String and oil on canvas, 26 x 21 1/2 inches. Collection Mme M. Arp-Hagenbach, Basel

172  JEAN (HANS) ARPS. Human Lunar Spectral. (1950). Marble, 36\(\frac{1}{8}\) inches high. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Cummings, New York

173  JEAN (HANS) ARPS. Ptolemy. (1953). Bronze, 40\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches high \(\times\) 20\(\frac{7}{8}\) inches wide \(\times\) 16\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. William Mazer, New York
a Surrealist Veronica’s Handkerchief. Like a sudden irrational thought an aggressively beaked bird extrudes from the forehead to contrast with the transfixed anxiety of the face below.

Despite the fantastic figurations of these Ernst sculptures, they originated in part from casts and impressions in plaster of real objects. The Table Is Set (fig. 176) was probably derived from a chance grouping of objects on a table top that was “frozen” by casting, a plastic anticipation of Spoerri’s tableaux-pièges (fig. 78). The assembling of Ernst’s sculptures constituted a three-dimensional counterpart to the method he used in his Dada collages, except that in the sculptures the original objects were more concealed as their forms metamorphosed into his fantastical beings. This automatism reflected a freedom from preconceptions about the nature of sculpture which fostered images of refreshing unfamiliarity; had Ernst’s plasters of the thirties and forties not remained uncased and largely unknown they might well have played a role in reviving the then lagging art of sculpture.
Picasso and Surrealism

Between 1926 and 1939 Picasso’s art shared a number of features with the work of the Surrealists, but his relation to the movement was equivocal. He was very much a part of the Surrealist scene in Paris, enjoying frequent contact with the painters and close friendship with poets of the movement, particularly Paul Eluard. Never formally a member of the movement—despite Breton’s attempts to annex him—he nevertheless participated in most of its exhibitions and lent his support to many of its activities. His affinity with certain aspects of Surrealist fantasy, his involvement with automatic poetry, and his sympathy with the social aims of the movement notwithstanding, Picasso’s art was antagonistic to Surrealism since it was almost always set in motion by a motif seen in the real world; the Surrealist vision was discovered, as Breton said, “with the eyes closed.” Surrealist techniques always produced different results when employed by Picasso; his joining of a bicycle seat and handlebars to form the Bull’s Head (fig. 178) was alien to the spirit of the Surrealist objet-trouvé-aidé insofar as its metamorphosis was more a question of plasticity than of poetry. Even Picasso’s automatic poems remain apart from Surrealism to the extent that they do not derive from dream imagery. As Breton himself observed, they find their “point of departure in immediate reality.”

The most Surrealist of Picasso’s images are the compound object-personages depicted in the linear works of 1933 (figs. 177, 182, 237) with their “stuffed” limbs and torsos of furniture and studio detritus, and the dreamlike confrontation of realistic but rationally unrelated figures exemplified by Minotauromacy. But he also produced a group of works which, though more abstract in nature, contain fantastical metamorphoses—often biomorphic—that link them to Surrealism. In The Painter, for example (fig. 180), an outsize hand has designed a group of figures whose contours unwind in a vertiginous maze; The Open Window (fig. 181), more Synthetic Cubist in its over-all structure, contains an isolated pair of giant feet. Picasso’s whimsical obsession with enlarged extremities of the body was also a frequent motif in his poetry; two unattached feet complain of chilblains as they wander through his Surrealist play of 1941, Desire Caught by the Tail.

The rubbery surreal biomorphs and harder “bone” structures of Picasso’s figure paintings of the late twenties and early thirties were brought together in his unique
179 above PABLO PICASSO. Crucifixion. 1930. Oil on wood, 20 x 26 inches. Collection the artist, Mougins (Alpes-Maritimes), France.

180 below PABLO PICASSO. The Painter. 1930. Oil on wood, 19\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 25\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches. Collection Dr. and Mrs. Abraham Melamed, Milwaukee.
181  PABLO PICASSO. *The Open Window*. 1929. Oil on canvas, 51 7/8 x 63 3/4 inches. Collection Mrs. Mollie Bostwick, Chicago

opposite

182  right  PABLO PICASSO. *Minotaur*. 1933. Pen and ink, 15 1/2 x 19 1/2 inches. Private collection

Crucifixion of 1930 (fig. 179). In this Surrealist interpretation of the event, most of the monstrously distorted figures are depicted in more or less Synthetic Cubist patterning. But the vinegar-soaked sponge in the upper left and the equestrian Centurion are disconcertingly depicted in a more realistic mode. Certain clues in the composition—the immense sponge opposed to the tiny Centurion—suggest that the event is being pictured from the hallucinated perspective of the man on the cross rather than from the viewpoint of the observer. This renders it antisacramental and outside the historical tradition of Crucifixion iconography, while locating it among the images of violent anguish that are not infrequent in Picasso’s art during the Surrealist years. The Crucifixion, and the surreal variations on Grünewald’s Isenheim Altar to which it is related, constitute, along with the agonized Minotaur-corrida images, an important source of the Guernica, in which Picasso synthesized stylistic and iconographic ideas from most of the movements in which he had participated.

Picasso had begun to develop his personal version of Greek mythology in the late twenties, and though such imagery is more collective than the esoteric and private symbolisms favored by the Surrealists, his example had a considerable influence on Surrealist painting in the late thirties, particularly that of Masson. These interests were reflected in the title, Minotaure, suggested by Georges Bataille and Masson for the de luxe art magazine that became the main Surrealist review of that period. Picasso was invited to design the cover of the first issue and produced a brilliant collage of a minotaur rampant on a field of paper doilies, tin foil, ribbons, and corrugated cardboard (fig. 183). His fascination with this ancient hybrid monster accorded with the growing interest in French intellectual circles in the psychoanalytical interpretation of myth. The labyrinth—the recesses of the mind—contains at its center the Minotaur, symbol of irrational impulses. Theseus, slayer of the beast, thus symbolizes the conscious mind threading its way into its unknown regions and emerging again by virtue of intelligence, that is, self-knowledge—a paradigmatic schema for the Surrealist drama, as indeed, for the process of psychoanalysis.
The Surrealist Pioneers During the Thirties

During the thirties Surrealist art sustained its position as the leading vanguard movement largely through default. Its pioneer years in the previous decade had witnessed a phenomenal variety of stylistic and iconographic inventions; but like many other modern movements, Surrealism could not sustain momentum for more than five or six years. The new adherents of the thirties, such as Brauner, Dominguez, and Delvaux, worked largely within pictorial conceptions that were established in the previous decade and proved incapable of reinforcing the movement with its original impetus; their originality was more a matter of novelty—often the creation of new automatic techniques—than of forging new stylistic or iconographic structures.

Even the pioneers generally fared less well in the thirties. Masson’s painting, which alternated between the Cubist-inspired shallow space and color patterning of Summer Divertissement (fig. 184) and the more sculpturesque effects of The Spring (fig. 185), was in constant crisis. Ernst’s work underwent a less critical equivocation. His strongest pictures, such as the colorfully striated Landscape with Tactile Effects (fig. 186) and the strangely emblematic Blind Swimmer (fig. 188), recalled his work of 1925–1928,
but were interspersed with such more dryly painted illusionist series as the “Garden Airplane Trap” (fig. 187).

The turn taken by Surrealism in 1929 was bound to displease Miró. But unlike Masson, who officially broke with the movement for almost a decade, Miró simply drifted somewhat from its milieu, while remaining on good terms with Breton. Painting, of 1930 (fig. 191), illustrates the tendency toward greater abstraction and simplification in Miró’s art at the time of his disengagement. Its nominal title also reflects his move away from the intricate, poetic iconographies of the 1920s. However, Miró never questioned his ultimate commitment to peinture-poésie: “For me a form is never something abstract; it is always a sign of something.”106 When Arp suggested that he join the purist abstraction-création group he rejected their approach as “too limited.”

With the exception of such series as the quaintly literal collages of 1933 (fig. 190), which were an immediate response to those of Ernst of the year before (fig. 189), much of Miró’s work in the thirties involved a synthesizing of his dual manners of the twenties in pictures of even richer color and greater breadth. In the large Snail Woman Flower Star (fig. 192) the lettering of the earlier picture-poems achieves a level of consummate ease and decora-
188  MAX ERNST. The Blind Swimmer. 1934. Oil on canvas, 36 1/4 x 28 7/8 inches. Private collection.


190  RIGHT JOAN MIRO. Composition. (1933). Conté crayon and pasted papers on pastel paper, 42 1/2 x 28 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago.
tiveness as it winds around motifs of greater morphological and poetic simplicity than had previously been the case. Here, and in the less literal Animated Forms of the following year (fig. 193), Miró was able to recapture the spontaneity of his earlier automatic pictures with a breadth and abandon and sumptuousness of color that he has rarely been able to equal.

Despite the gains evident in Miró's best work of the thirties, new pictorial and poetic conceptions occurred to him less frequently. Nevertheless, there were still exceptional departures, such as the stylized realism of the Self-Portrait (fig. 194) and Still Life with Old Shoe. The intense introspectiveness of the former and the implicit social sympathy of the latter reflected, according to Miró, the immediacy of the Spanish Civil War. This realism was short lived, however, and in the series of women's portraits of late 1938 and 1939, such as Seated Woman I (fig. 195), he returned to his personal form-language with a vengeance.

The most remarkable of Miró's late inventions were the small crowded compositions of 1940–1941 generically entitled "Constellations." The evenness in the spotting of forms and distribution of color accents in such pictures as Aerobatic Dancers (fig. 196) tended to dissolve the discreteness of the figures and, with it, traditional compositional focus and hierarchy. The more all-over dispersal of the shapes and the animated flicker of the color in the "Constellations" produced an optical experience unprecedented in Miró's work, except for the ornamental and tightly painted Harlequin's Carnival of 1924–1925 (fig. 86). They anticipated the all-over patterning familiar in both abstract and figurative painting around 1950.
193  left  JOAN MIRO. Animated Forms. (1935). Oil on canvas, 76 1/2 x 68 inches. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Estate of David E. Bright

195  left  JOAN MIRÓ. Seated Woman I. (1938). Oil on canvas, 63 x 50 7/8 inches. Collection Miss Peggy Guggenheim, Venice.

Victor Brauner was the most talented Surrealist recruit of the middle thirties. His self-proclaimed commitment to the absolute priority of poetic as over and against aesthetic concerns did not, however, turn him into an academic imagier, though it did result in certain inconsistencies of style. Despite the manifest influence of Klee and Ernst in much of his imagery, such pictures as *Gemini* (fig. 197) demonstrate that Brauner was able to put a very intense personal stamp on his visions. During World War II Brauner was in hiding and unable to get materials, but this condition was turned into a virtue in a series of pictures made with candle wax. Sometimes these encaustics were incised with a knife or stylus, but on other occasions, as in *Talisman* (fig. 199), the tallow was roughly modeled into graffito-like reliefs. Such pictures of the thirties as the *Object Which Dreams* (fig. 198) had already demonstrated how musically Brauner could use color even as a function of sculpturesque illustration. This gift became even more apparent in the flatter, more decorative manner he used in the two decades prior to his recent death (fig. 200).
200  VICTOR BRAUNER. Prelude to a Civilization. 1954. Encaustic, 51 1/4 x 76 1/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Gelman, Mexico City

opposite

199  VICTOR BRAUNER. Talisman. 1943. Wax on wood, 6 3/4 x 10 7/8 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection
201  PAUL DELVAUX. *Pygmaion.* 1939. Oil on wood, 53 1/4 x 65 inches. Yannick Bruynoghe-Galerie Maya, Brussels

202  PAUL DELVAUX. *Hands.* 1941. Oil on canvas, 43 1/4 x 51 1/4 inches. Collection Richard S. Zeisler, New York

The Belgian painter Paul Delvaux modified the illusion-ism of de Chirico and Magritte in a more detailed illustrative manner. Women constitute—as in Hands (fig. 202)—the core of his visionary world, women in a sexual context both wistful and passive. Their desire is usually voyeuristic and is expressed toward preoccupied savants or, as in Pygmalion (fig. 201), epicene youths. The environments of Delvaux's visions vary but tend toward either a Surrealist equivalent of the antique Hellenism of Puvis de Chavannes, or the Flemish counterpart of the Chiricoesque piazza, as in Le Train Bleu (fig. 203).

The work of most of the younger Surrealists is best characterized by their inventions of new automatic techniques that rounded out a battery begun earlier with automatic drawing, frottage, and the exquisite corpse. Oscar Dominguez was the first to exploit the possibilities of decalcomania. By spreading gouache on a sheet of paper, laying another sheet on top of it, pressing here and there, and then peeling the second sheet off, he produced effects suggesting exotic flora, mineral deposits, spongy growths—a veritable spelunker's dream. The fantasies generated by this technique (fig. 204) recommended it immediately to other Surrealists and, as it was a way of image-making that required no technical ability, it was immediately adopted by the poets as well as the painters. In order to achieve more contoured, defined images, Dominguez and Marcel Jean also experimented with the use of stencils in conjunction with decalcomania (fig. 205), but it was only with Ernst's adaptation of the technique to oil painting in such fantastic landscapes as Europe After the Rain (fig. 249) that the poetic possibilities of decalcomania were realized as significant art. Ernst himself later invented another automatic technique that he called “oscillation,” which involved gyrating a can of paint with a pinhole in it at the end of a string. The method, which produced accidental linear patterns of the type illustrated by the study for Surrealism and Painting (fig. 209), has been mistakenly identified as the origin of Pollock's drip style.

Wolfgang Paalen, whose oil paintings of the late thirties (fig. 206) suggested a fractured, crystalline version of Tanguy's biomorphic illusionism, was the inventor of fumage (fig. 207). This involved the evocation of a picture from the burns and smoke trails left by “drawing” with a
lit candle. Later Yves Klein, in such works as *Mark of Fire* (fig. 208), was to use the possibilities of flame in a more daring and robust manner, in accord with the Abstract Expressionist scale and taste that informed his accidental techniques.

Gordon Onslow-Ford who—with Matta—was the last Surrealist recruit before its wartime exile, invented the technique of *coulage* (pouring). In *Without Bounds* (fig. 210) the ripolin enamel, only partly controlled by the artist’s guiding hand, “finds” its own silhouettes. The puddles, organic in contour and rich in Rorschach-like suggestions, create an illusion of continuous metamorphosis, approximating the elusive effects of Thomas Wilfred’s Lumia compositions with which the Matta “Inscapes” of that time (see below, page 166) also have close affinities. In some cases, Onslow-Ford gave order to these seemingly “formless” arrangements by superimposing geometrical linear designs on them and interlocking the two systems by peeling away the enamel to reveal different levels according to the geometrical divisions.
209  above MAX ERNST. Study for Surrealism and Painting. 1942. Ink. 24\( \frac{3}{4} \) x 19\( \frac{3}{4} \) inches. Private collection

210  below GORDON ONSLOW-FORD. Without Bounds. 1939. Enamel paint on canvas, 28\( \frac{3}{4} \) x 36\( \frac{3}{4} \) inches. Collection the artist, Inverness, California
Exposition Surréaliste d’Objets. Galerie Charles Ratton, Paris, May 1936. The objects on display, apart from those in the vitrines and the primitive works, are, from left to right: Picasso, *Guitar*; Man Ray, *Boardwalk*; Paalen, *The Exact Hour*; Giacometti, *Suspended Ball*; and Picasso, *Still Life*
Surrealist Objects

The Surrealist object was essentially a three-dimensional collage of "found" articles that were chosen for their poetic meaning rather than their possible visual value. Its entirely literary character opened the possibility of its fabrication—or, better, its confection—to poets, critics, and others who stood professionally outside, or on the margins of, the plastic arts. This partially explains the tremendous vogue object-making enjoyed in Surrealist circles during the 1930s.

Duchamp had provided prototypes for Surrealist objects in his *Why Not Sneeze?* (fig. 9) and *Fresh Widow.* But he was primarily concerned with the illustration of ideas, and consequently found it unnecessary to proliferate his objects once the principles they embodied were established. Less restricted by intellectual aims, Man Ray had developed some of Duchamp's possibilities in such objects of the twenties as *Gif* (fig. 38) and *Emak Bakia.* But even though as early as 1923 Breton had called for "the concrete realization and subsequent circulation of numbers of copies of objects perceived only in dreams," it was
only with the triumph of illusionism signaled by the emergence of Dali that the stage was set for the efflorescence of the object.

The simplest Surrealist objects did not involve the collage principle. As in Duchamp’s Readymades, displacement alone sufficed. But the Surrealists expanded the range of possible choices: objets trouvés exhibited by Dali, for example, included a plaster cast of a foot, a woman’s shoe, a pair of chocolate gloves wrapped in tin foil, a pornographic toy, and a loaf of bread in the form of a ribbon bow (fig. 212). The exhibition of Surrealist objects held at the Galerie Charles Ratton in Paris in 1936 (fig. 211) even included natural objects such as evocatively shaped stones and carnivorous plants.

Among the more sophisticated Surrealist objects were those which, like Meret Oppenheim’s classic Fur-Covered Cup, Saucer, and Spoon (fig. 213), confused the texture of one article with the form of another; here the fur, which might provoke pleasant tactile sensations on a coat, becomes disconcerting in conjunction with objects of oral use. Marcel Jean’s Horoscope (fig. 215) was a dressmaker’s dummy, reminiscent of de Chirico’s, the surface of
which was painted to suggest a contour map, a geographical interpretation of the female body that was carried further in Roland Penrose’s *Last Voyage of Captain Cook* (fig. 216), where an ancient Venus was caged by a simplified version of an armillary sphere.

Though a painter of very limited gifts, Oscar Dominguez was one of the most original of the object makers. *Conversion of Energy* (fig. 220)—also known as *Le Tireur* because it was constructed around a plaster cast of the famous Hellenistic *Thorn Puller*—is Dominguez’s most beautiful and intricate Surrealist object. We see the boy’s headless, truncated torso through a jaggedly broken pane of glass that bears a troubling, guillotine-like relationship to the figure behind it. Dominguez’s *Armchair* (fig. 221), a wheelbarrow upholstered in red satin, was so popular with collectors that numerous replicas were made; it also seems to have provided a cue for Christo’s *Package on Wheelbarrow* (fig. 35).

The illusionist Surrealists naturally found it easy to realize their fantasies in object form. Magritte’s *Bottle* (fig. 218), a Freudian female “receptacle” painted as a nude, and Dali’s *Venus de Milo of the Drawers* (fig. 217), the female
body objectified as bedroom furniture, were both ideas adapted from paintings. Because of his more abstract form language, Tanguy was the exception among the illusionists. His activity as an object maker was limited and, as in From the Other Side of the Bridge (fig. 224), his objects constituted more plastic inventions than composites of real objects. For much the same reasons, Miró and Masson made little in the way of objects. Their constructions and sculptures, though often incorporating real objects, nevertheless remained true to their respective form languages (fig. 223). Even Miró's Poetic Object (fig. 222), a rare instance in which he collaged such real articles as a stuffed parrot, a derby, and a map, is informed by an aesthetic—epitomized in its carved wooden centerpiece—alien to the pure Surrealist object. This aesthetic conviction is also evident in some of Giacometti's works, such as Caught Hand (fig. 225), that were nominally held to be objects. An aggressive counterpart of Picabia's machines, this contraption is as fully informed by the aesthetic of sculpture as were Picabia's machines by that of painting.

Picasso's object-sculptures, like much of his sculpture proper, rarely got beyond the stage of drawings. The extraordinary personage with a cobbler's-last foot, a hat sporting a dancing doll, and an appendage of toy airplanes was an exception. But even this has been dismantled, though it is fortunately preserved in a Brassai photograph (fig. 238). Most of Picasso's images of hybrid Surrealist objects involved the combination of stuffed "limbs," furni-

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opposite

224 right YVES TANGUY, From the Other Side of the Bridge. (1936). Painted wood and stuffed cloth, 19 inches long x 8 7/8 inches wide x 5 1/4 inches high. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago

225 far right ALBERTO GIACOMETTI, Caught Hand. (1932). Wood and metal, 23 inches long. Kunsthauas, Zurich
above


223 right JOAN MIRÓ. Object. (1931). Painted wood with feather and metal, 44 3/4 x 28 1/2 inches. Private collection
ture, and studio detritus mentioned above. Like the ambiguously sexed personage that dumbfounds the model in one of the last prints of “The Sculptor’s Studio” (fig. 237), these constructions were so complicated in conception that Picasso evidently did not wish to expend the energy necessary to realize them in actuality.

Though Joseph Cornell never joined the Surrealist movement, he worked in the thirties and forties at the edge of its orbit. Related on one side to the American tradition of an art that celebrated memorabilia—the trompe-l’œil painting of Harnett and Peto—his style and iconography are unthinkable without Surrealism. It was Max Ernst’s poetic concept of the collage, recapitulated in Cornell’s Schooner of 1931 (fig. 226), that constituted his point of departure. From there he moved easily into the Surrealist object, even to those (fig. 227) which, like Giacometti’s and Dali’s “Objects of Symbolic Function,” incorporated the possibility of motion.

Sometimes the resources of the object were wed to an interest in automatic poetry. The Mémoires de Madame la Marquise de la Rochejaquelin (fig. 228) is a glass-covered box containing a series of lines of French text laminated to glass. These are cushioned by colored sand and may be shaken so that they form themselves into constantly renewable accidental poems.

Cornell is mostly associated with the kind of box that translates the Surrealist object into a kind of stage space. Often, as in the marvelous Pantry Ballet for Jacques Offenbach (fig. 229), where a corps de ballet of red plastic fish is posed against a drop-scene of shelving paper and toy silverware props, this quite literally becomes a miniature theater, with a proscenium fringed with paper doily “curtains.” While such boxes recall the toy stages with which Cornell played as a child, it is probable that their more immediate prototypes were the “boxes” in such paintings as Dali’s Illumined Pleasures (fig. 148), which were themselves suggested by earlier ones in de Chirico (fig. 156). In effect, Cornell was re-creating in a combination of real three-dimensional space and scenic illusion precisely that spatial “theater” which had originated in de Chirico and been kept alive by illusionist Surrealism. His boxes surely exercised some influence on those of Arman, whose
opposite


228  bottom  JOSEPH CORNELL. Mémoires de Madame la Marquise de la Rochefoucauld. 1943. Cardboard box with pasted papers, sand, glass, and rhinestones, 2 inches high x 4 3/4 inches diameter. Private collection.

above  JOSEPH CORNELL. A Pantry Ballet for Jacques Offenbach. 1942. Construction in paper, plastic, and wood, 10 1/2 inches high x 18 inches wide x 6 inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Feigen, New York.

right


Abstract Expressionist accumulation of swirling threads (fig. 230) also realizes suggestions inherent in Duchamp's string-labyrinth installation of the 1942 Surrealist exhibition (fig. 252) within the language of Pollock's all-over linear style. Some of Cornell's own later boxes, such as Pharmacy (fig. 231), reflect an awareness of these new compositional formulations.

In 1936, the very year of the Exposition Surréaliste d’Objets held at the Galerie Charles Ratton, a Berlin artist named Hans Bellmer visited Paris and joined the Surrealists. His strange “dolls” had been conceived earlier, but their development suggested a quasi-Expressionist counterpart to Surrealist objects, particularly those that included clothes dummies or the type of mannequins that were to play such a central role in the great Surrealist exhibition of 1938. Bellmer's work was known to Paris artists from photographs that had appeared in the December 1934 issue of Minotaure under the title “Poupée. Variations sur le montage d'une mineure articulée” (Poupée. Variations on the Assembling of an Articulated Minor). These showed his female mannequin, La Poupée (figs. 232–235), in various stages of construction, from the wood-and-metal skeleton to the realistic shell of plaster and papier-mâché. A system of ball joints permitted the body to be dismantled and reassembled in all sorts of confused combinations. The photographs showed the doll in truncated, fragmentary form, as though violently torn apart. The dismountable wigs, clothes, and glass eyes made it appreciated as an ideal fetish-object in the Freudian sense. Though the poupée in her various reincarnations, such as the aggressive machine-gunneress (fig. 236), has been his lifetime obsession, Bellmer has also developed his erotic theme of the hallucinatory confusion of limbs in a number of extraordinary if unpublishable drawings of pubescent girls.

From the first exhibition of Surrealist art at the Galerie Pierre in 1925 through that of the Surrealist objects at the Ratton gallery in 1936 the installations had been straightforward and informative. But late in 1937 it was decided to stage a major Surrealist exhibition in which the objects—many of them large and freestanding—and the paintings would meld in a total Environment that would
237  PABLO PICASSO. **Nude and Sculpture.** 1933. Etching, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York

238  PABLO PICASSO. **Woman.** (1930–1932). Iron, with cobbler’s last, toy airplanes, doll, and string, $31\frac{1}{8}$ inches high. Now dismantled

239

ANDRÉ MASSON. Mannequin at Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Paris, 1938

240
provide a theatrical experience for the spectator as he wove his way through the exhibition.

It was, of course, hardly a new idea. The Cologne Dada exhibition of 1920, for example, had been installed in the back room of a café that visitors could reach only by going through a public urinal. At the opening of the exhibition a young girl in a first communion dress recited obscene-sounding poems, and Ernst invited the visitors to destroy one of his wooden objects to which he had chained an ax for their convenience. But the Surrealist exhibition that opened in January 1938 in the Galerie Beaux-Arts was a more elaborate undertaking. The lobby was dominated by Dali’s Rainy Taxi (fig. 241), a discarded vehicle inside of which a complicated system of tubing produced a localized rainstorm that drenched two dummies, a driver with a shark’s head representing Columbus and a distracted female passenger seated among heads of lettuce and live crawling snails.

The lobby led into a “Surrealist street” (fig. 239) decorated with whimsically titled blue-and-white Paris street signs, and lined with female mannequins composed and dressed by Ernst, Arp, Tanguy, Man Ray, Duchamp, Dali, Miró, and others. One of the most admired was Masson’s (fig. 240), the head of which was enclosed in a bird cage, the mouth gagged by a black velvet band decorated with a pansy; beyond that it was adorned with nothing but a G string made of glass eyes. The lobby led into the large central hall (fig. 242), which was designed by Duchamp, who had accepted the task of overseeing the entire operation. He hung 1,200 coal sacks from the ceiling and covered the floor with dead leaves and moss, which gave way at one point to a lily pond surrounded by ferns and reeds. Near this stood a sumptuous double bed, above which hung Masson's Death of Ophelia, echoing the implications of the pond and empty bed. The opening of the exhibition was a kind of Happening: coffee roasters permeated the atmosphere with “Perfumes of Brazil,” German marching songs came over the loudspeakers, and, at the suggestion of Dali, a dancer named Helen Vanel improvised “The Unconsummated Act” around the pond (fig. 243).

Architecture, even more than sculpture, was an art alien to the aims and practices of Surrealism. To be sure, Breton was fascinated by the fantastic “palace” that had been constructed by the postman Ferdinand Cheval in southern France between 1879 and 1912. But this involved none of the collective and materialistic implications of architecture, which are so far from the spirit of Surrealism. Nevertheless, the Environment at the Galerie Beaux-Arts did lead Matta Echaurren to speculate on the possibility of a Surrealist architecture. A few months after the opening, Matta, formerly a student in the atelier of Le Corbusier and a recent adherent to Surrealism, published in Minotaure a project for a hallucinatory apartment (fig. 244). An “iconic-psychologic” column passed through the different floors, which were decorated with soft, inflated-rubber furniture in the biomorphic shapes that Matta had just begun to employ in paintings. The vertiginous intersecting spaces were separated by pliable walls that would theoretically alter to reflect the inhabitant’s anxieties. Later Frederick Kiesler, who designed Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of This Century gallery in 1942 with curving walls and wooden biomorphic furniture (fig. 254), and who installed much of the 1947 Surrealist exhibition at the Galerie Maeght, brought Surrealist architecture closer to possible realization with the more advanced projects for The Endless House (fig. 245). This conception, some aspects of which dated from the twenties, emerged in fully developed form as a succession of biomorphic shell-walls articulating a space that could flow continuously or be sectioned off for privacy. By way of this essentially sculpturesque conceit, the beamless, columnless, concrete structure suggested in a more thoroughgoing way than Matta’s project a translation of the fundamental Surrealist morphology into architecture.

The 1938 exhibition at the Galerie Beaux-Arts was the last such major Surrealist event before the outbreak of World War II. With the fall of France some Surrealists went into hiding; others, like Miró and Arp, gained the comparative safety of the countries of their citizenship; but the largest number, including Ernst, Masson, Tanguy, Dali, Matta, and Breton himself, took refuge in the United States where the movement experienced its brilliant final phase.


242 View of the pond at Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Paris, 1938. Works of art, from left to right: Paalen, Title unknown; Roland Penrose, The Real Woman; Masson, The Death of Ophelia; Marcel Jean, Horoscope.

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Surrealism in Exile and After

By 1942, New York and its environs had become the focal point of Surrealist activity. The painters constituted the nucleus of a historically unparalleled group of “artists in exile” which included, among others, Marc Chagall, Fernand Léger, Jacques Lipchitz, and Piet Mondrian (fig. 246). But the community life of Paris could not be recreated in New York, and the exiled artists found it difficult to maintain contact with each other. For the Surrealists, the Julien Levy and Pierre Matisse galleries, where many of them exhibited, became important meeting places. Peggy Guggenheim’s gallery, Art of This Century (fig. 254), was an important point of contact between the European and American painters presenting—in the context of its fundamentally Surrealist orientation—many of the first one-man shows of the pioneers of the new American painting. The attitude of The Museum of Modern Art was encouraging; Alfred H. Barr, Jr., the director at the time, had always been interested in Surrealism. In 1936 he organized the pioneering exhibition Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism, at which time he obtained many Surrealist works for the Museum’s permanent collection. He and James Thrall Soby maintained close contact with the members of the movement; in 1935 Soby had published After Picasso, the first American book primarily devoted to Surrealism.

The magazines View and VVV were also foci of Surrealist activity. From the special Surrealist issue of Octo-
ber-November 1941 edited by Nicolas Calas, View was almost entirely in the service of the movement, devoting special numbers to the work of Duchamp, Ernst, and Tanguy. VW, which was modeled on Minotaure in content though not in format, was put out by David Hare with Breton, Ernst, and, later, Duchamp, as advisors. It served as a forum for the exchange of ideas between the European expatriates and avant-garde American writers and poets; along with major texts by Breton, among them the “Prolegomena to a Third Manifesto of Surrealism or Else,” it published others by such Americans as Robert Motherwell, Harold Rosenberg, and Lionel Abel.

Only one group exhibition was staged during the exile period. It was held in the old Reid mansion on Madison Avenue in October 1942. In addition to the expected European painters, it contained work by Calder, Motherwell, Baziotes, and Hare. Duchamp designed the installation (fig. 252), which consisted of a maze of string, an Ariadne’s thread beyond which the pictures hung like secrets at the heart of the labyrinth; the spatial effects suggested there, along with ideas derived from the contour lines of the mathematical objects at the Poincaré Institute in Paris, were later explored by Matta in such paintings as Onyx of Electra (fig. 253) and Xpace and the Ego (fig. 261). Duchamp also designed the catalogue of the exhibition whose title, First Papers of Surrealism, was an allusion to the “first papers” of immigrants to the United States.

Of the pioneer Surrealists who spent the war years in America only Masson experienced a major change in style, though Ernst and Tanguy both produced stronger work here than they had during the later thirties in Europe.
Ernst's first paintings in America, such as *Europe After the Rain* (fig. 249), were derived from the decalcomania grounds laid down while he was still in Europe. In the decalcomania illusions of mineral and organic deposits Ernst divined monsters and landscapes that he then elucidated with the brush. He also worked in a variety of older manners and newly invented ones; *Vox Angelica* (fig. 250) is a kind of catalogue of these, containing along with panels of decalcomania, *frottage* "Forests," and "Striated Landscapes," a panel in linear patterns achieved by the technique of oscillation (see above, pages 139, 141).

Much of Masson's work in the late thirties was fussy and too specifically literary, but he found inspiration in the Connecticut landscape of his exile. It drew him back to the more botanical and biological fantasies that had marked his earliest years as a Surrealist. He dropped his sculpturesque style of the late thirties in favor of the flatter, more "abstract" patterning we see in *The Meditation of the Painter* (page 162), a beautifully composed fantasy of organisms on and under the earth. Like most of the paintings of 1942–1944, *The Meditation of the Painter* was executed slowly, with tender concern for the subtleties of texture and brushwork. In the drawings, however, automatism still prevailed. The brilliant self-portrait (fig. 247) was made in a few minutes. The patternings that emerged in such spontaneously realized drawings as *Invention of the Labyrinth* (fig. 255) became the bases for the more slowly gestated and intricately organized paintings of the period.

The luminous coloring of *Antille* (fig. 251) reflected Masson's stay in the Caribbean on his way to New York. One night some time after his arrival here, he awakened troubled by a dream he could not recall. Following the chain of his associations, he executed a series of rapid drawings—strange birds, exotic flora and fauna, sexual organs—which eventually led to the central image of the dream: the torso of a voluptuous Negro woman whom he had glimpsed during his stay in the Antilles. All these "associational" images were synthesized in *Antille*, where they are disposed in relation to the twisting purple-brown body of the woman. Her perspiration is suggested by the reflections of the sand mixed in the pigment, a typically surreal use of a substance that was employed by the Cubists for abstract textural purposes.
Art of This Century, New York, October 1942. Surrealist gallery designed by Frederick Kiesler. On chair at left, Giacometti's *Woman with Her Throat Cut*.


Opposite:

Installation view of exhibition *First Papers of Surrealism*, held at 451 Madison Avenue, New York, October–November 1942. Hanging by André Breton, twine by Marcel Duchamp.

Below: Matta (Echaurren). *The Onyx of Electra*. (1944). Oil on canvas, 50 1/8 x 72 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago.
The very first oils of Chilean-born Matta, painted in 1938, marked him as an independent and unusual talent. But while the character of his style was set in Paris during this first year of work, it was only with his arrival in America in 1939 that his painting began to take on the brilliance and range that put it at the center of Surrealist art during World War II. Matta’s was the last major pictorial statement entirely definable within the co-ordinates of Surrealism. Though Gorky became a Surrealist painter in many ways—catapulted in that direction by Miró and Matta—his mature style can be fully comprehended only in the light of his long apprenticeship to the European modernist tradition, Picasso especially, and, later, to the influence of Kandinsky. This is not true of Matta, whose stylistic sources—Tanguy and, to a lesser extent, Duchamp—were entirely within the Surrealist tradition.

*Inscape* (fig. 256), painted shortly before his departure for America, illustrates the type of biomorphic fantasy landscape, a kind of soft-focus Tanguy, that dominated Matta’s painting from its inception through 1942. As the title implies, it is a landscape “discovered” within the self, a morphological projection of a psychological state. The image was induced improvisationally, the landscape defining itself as the work progressed. Matta worked rapidly, partly with rags; clusters of pigment might be spread thin into washes suggesting membranous hills, or left alone as highlights suggesting rocks. *The Earth Is a Man* (fig. 258) is the brilliant synthesis of these amorphous landscapes. The sun, partly eclipsed by a disintegrating red planet, illuminates a primordial landscape of apocalyptic splendor, and everywhere the forms are engulfed in endless metamorphoses, passing through what appear to be vaporous liquid and crystalline states in a kind of “futurism of the organic.”

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256 above **Matta (Echaurren). Inscape (Psychological Morphology No. 104).** (1939). Oil on canvas, 28\(\frac{7}{8}\) x 36\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Gordon Onslow-Ford, Inverness, California

257 below **Matta (Echaurren). Here Sir Fire, Eat.** (1942). Oil on canvas, 56 x 44 inches. Collection James Thrall Soby, New Canaan, Connecticut
258  MATTÉ (ECHAURREN), *The Earth Is a Man.* (1942). Oil on canvas, 6 feet 1/4 inch × 8 feet. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois
259 above Matta (Echaurren). *To Escape the Absolute.* (1944). Oil on canvas, 38 x 50 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slifka, New York.

260 left Matta (Echaurren). *Splitting the Ergo.* (1946). Oil on canvas, 6 feet 4 7/8 inches x 8 feet 3 1/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Burton Tremaine, Meriden, Connecticut.
By the end of 1942 Matta had already begun, as in *Here Sir Fire, Eat* (fig. 257), to renounce the use of a horizon line in favor of looser, more tenuous arrangements of small galactic forms in deep perspective space, a vision that matured two years later in such pictures as *To Escape the Absolute* (fig. 259). Here the allusion to interstellar space is intended to suggest simultaneously the cosmos and the recesses of the mind. To create this “painterly” equivalent of the linear space of de Chirico, Matta availed himself of all the techniques of old-master illusionism. But he went far beyond de Chirico in his atomization of the coherent, unified, and systematic space of the older art. As the eye tries to find its way through the penumbra, it slips into unexpected byways, is sucked into whirlpools of space, or is frustrated by opaque planes that block its passage—a symbolic drama of the mind’s journey into its own unconscious.

Toward the end of 1944 the deep space of such dark pictures as *To Escape the Absolute* gave way to a shallower space that depended more on draftsmanly than atmospheric devices. In the taut and intricately wired *Onyx of Electra* (fig. 253) gemlike clusters of pigment function as nodes or terminals for nervous linear circuits. These space-contouring webs created a vertiginous environment which in *Xpace and the Ego* (fig. 261) and other pictures of the following year became peopled with monstrous personages. At their most literal, these bizarre anthropomorphs, which became increasingly sculpturesque in their modeling as Matta proceeded, recalled the monsters of Ernst, Giacometti’s *Invisible Object* (the original plaster of which Matta owned), and the aggressive mannequins in Masson’s drawings of 1939–1941. At their more mechanical, they reflected Matta’s fascination with Duchamp’s machinist pictures of 1912, from whose cinematic effects he derived the spun, splayed, and shuffled planes of such pictures as *Splitting the Ergo* (fig. 260). *Xpace and the Ego*, fifteen feet wide, was one of the first of the giant canvases that became virtually standard in Matta’s exhibitions from 1946 onward. The painters of the New York School arrived at this format only in 1950, but in an abstract, anti-illusionistic style alien to Matta’s wide-screen theater.
Opposite

263 Above WIFREDO LAM. *Song of the Osmosis*. (1945). Oil on canvas, 49¹/₂ x 62⁷/₈ inches. Collection Joseph Cantor, Carmel, Indiana

264 Below WIFREDO LAM. *The Antillean Parade*. 1945. Oil on canvas, 49¹/₂ x 43¹/₂ inches. Collection Joseph Cantor, Carmel, Indiana
Arshile Gorky was the last important artist to be associated with Surrealism. Breton became interested in him in 1943, and two years later devoted the concluding section of the new edition of his Le Surréalisme et la peinture to Gorky. By then he was considered a full-fledged member of the movement. Though Gorky explored the possibilities of automatism and wrung from biomorphism a particular pathos, he was more deeply committed by affinity and by training than even Miró to the mainstream of European painting, as represented by Picasso and Matisse. The Surrealists, by and large, disdained the medium, as their various techniques for by-passing it suggest. Gorky delighted in oil painting and nursed from its possibilities a range of effects that place him second to none as a manipulator of the brush.

The extraordinary painterly sensibility of Gorky’s best work was achieved through a long apprenticeship. Years of paraphrasing Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse, and then in the later thirties and early forties, Miró and Matta, allowed Gorky to select and retain from their styles what was viable for him. But even as he passed into his maturity in the winter of 1942/1943 he was still anxious to learn,
265  above Arshile Gorky. *The Liver Is the Cock's Comb*. 1944. Oil on canvas, 6 feet 1 inch x 8 feet 2 1/2 inches. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo

and still unwilling to narrow himself to a single tradition, as his assimilations at that time from Kandinsky’s works of 1910–1914 testify. By the following year his modesty and openness to the art of other painters, whom he selected with infallible instinct, emerged in pictures that communicated Gorky’s personal poetry with an overwhelming orchestral sumptuousness. The Liver Is the Cock’s Comb (fig. 265) synthesizes the pictorial language of Kandinsky, the biomorphism of Miró, and the automatist “Inscapes” of Matta, but goes beyond them all in painterly richness.115

Gorky’s focus upon sexuality is an important aspect of his attachment to Surrealism. Each painter in the movement handled the erotic in a manner consistent with his art as a whole. In Miró’s work, for example, sex is almost always playful and whimsical; in Dali’s, it is associated with voyeurism. But the two artists who gave the erotic the crucial role of catalyst to the creative powers were Masson and Matta. Both understood the sexual paroxysm as the moment of the fusion of contraries: the conscious and unconscious, mind and body, the self and the “other,” and, hence, the moment of the liberation of the imagination. In Masson, sexuality has a robust quality; it seems to galvanize his automatism and bind all sorts of hybrid themes with its energy. In Matta, on the other hand, after the lyricism of the “Inscapes,” it acquired an aggressive and self-conscious character. The “poetry of sex,” which Gorky’s friend and biographer Ethel Schwabacher has called “his myth,”116 dominated the iconography of The Liver Is the Cock’s Comb. It ranges from the quite literal male and female genitalia at center left of the picture to more ambiguous, schematic allusions of the type used by Miró and Masson. But the sumptuous affirmation of the sexual in The Liver Is the Cock’s Comb was not to endure; following the tenor of Gorky’s personal life, it soon gave way to an eroticism marked by anxiety, nervous tension, and masochism.

During the winter of 1944/1945, Gorky’s interest in spontaneity carried him beyond the “Improvisations” of Kandinsky to the technique of automatism. Such pictures as One Year the Milkweed (fig. 269) and The Leaf of the Artichoke Is an Owl (fig. 270) show him nearer to Surrealism than he had yet been, or was ever to be afterward, and mark precisely the time of his greatest personal closeness to Breton and to Matta. The rapid drawing, the loose brushwork that encouraged the spilling and dripping of the liquid paint, departed from Matta’s automatism of
1938–1942 and went beyond it. It was only natural that Breton should have encouraged Gorky in this excursion. Julien Levy, Gorky’s dealer at the time, speaks of this as “liberation.” For Gorky, “automatism was a redemption.” Surrealism, he continues, helped Gorky “both to bring himself to the surface and dig himself deep in his work,” so that “his most secret doodling could be very central.”

Gorky’s most automatic and loosely painted works were not all of high quality. In view of the chance aspects and the rapid execution involved, they could not be endowed with the loving nuancing that his more studied earlier approach had permitted, and it is not surprising that some of the compositions even got away from him. But in subsequent pictures, such as the exquisite Diary of a Seducer (fig. 271), Gorky retained from his automatic phase the diaphanous washes and ease of execution, which he joined to passages of excruciatingly delicate and fluent drawing and shading. As in the case of The Liver Is the Cock’s Comb and many other pictures, the composition of The Diary of a Seducer implies a bisecting horizontal above and below which the forms cluster; behind the troubled eroticism suggested by the darkling ambiance and attenuated organic forms are hints of the landscape origin from which this horizontal remains. Breton himself singled out Gorky as the “only Surrealist . . . in direct contact with nature, placing himself before her to paint.” But this commitment to a starting point in nature suggests that despite the fantastical morphological changes that he imposed on his image of nature, Gorky’s instincts were fundamentally alien to Surrealism.

In 1947 Gorky’s art reflected the unbelievable string of tragedies that were to lead to his suicide the following year: a fire that destroyed his studio and much of his work, cancer, sexual impotence, and a broken neck from an auto accident. For a year his biomorphic forms had already been marked by extremes of pathos and aggression. The profiles of his new shapes suggested emotions that were being exacerbated, literally drawn out almost beyond the point of endurance. In the center right of Betrothal II, for example (fig. 272), the contours of a shape are pinched together and drawn upward like a nerve being pulled, until, just before snapping, they resolve into another plane—itsel painfully attenuated.

Gorky’s mature career belonged to a period of transition in the avant-garde; it extended from 1942 through 1947 and

thus corresponded simultaneously to the last phase of Surrealism and to the early work of the artists who would later emerge as innovators of the new American painting. The international Surrealist exhibition at the Galerie Maeght in 1947 sounded the death knell of the Surrealist movement. That same year Jackson Pollock’s work—the consolidation of his revolutionary “drip” style—announced a new phase in the history of art. From then until the end of the decade the work of many other American painters would pass from a “surrealizing” phase to more daring and individual manners. The return of Breton and most of the Surrealist painters to France helped to create an atmosphere in America that was conducive to originality. Their presence here had been germinal, but the period of symbiosis was over. By 1950 a number of American painters had made significant breakthroughs, and various counterpart styles—tachisme or l’informel—were even being established in Europe.

In Paris, Breton, whose entourage now contained virtually none of the pioneer Surrealists, tried heroically to regain his position of leadership in the avant-garde. But in contrast to the Surrealist exhibitions of the 1920s and 1930s, as well as that of 1942 in New York, the 1947 exhibition at the Galerie Maeght had the atmosphere of a historical retrospective; little of the recent work shown was of the first order. It received enormous attention in Paris and enjoyed great publicity, but this interest was inspired more by curiosity than by any real urge to participate in or support Surrealism. Current French art was left untouched by the show. This is not surprising; Surrealism appeared clearly beside the point to such new leaders of the French literary, philosophical, and even political scene as Sartre and Camus. Their positions enjoyed the sense of pertinence that stemmed from their involvement with the Resistance while the Surrealists were in exile.119

Breton also attempted to revive the failing movement by putting out two new reviews, Médium and Le Surréalisme Même, but far from testifying to its vitality they offered perhaps the best evidence that Surrealism was no longer capable of inspiring or attracting to it men of genius. Except for an occasional contribution by one of the earlier Surrealists, generally something from the pre-1939 period, both the writing and the works of art reproduced
in these magazines were of an unrelieved mediocrity.

After 1947, Breton occasionally arranged large exhibitions of Surrealist painting, but these were of interest only to the extent that they were retrospective. The most interesting European painters to utilize ideas derived from Surrealism—Wols and Michaux, for example—had developed outside the confines of the movement, which was more than ever defined by Breton’s personal likes and dislikes. In a show Breton organized in December 1959 at the Galerie Cordier, he was reduced to including Jasper Johns’s *Target with Plaster Casts* (fig. 30), an excellent but not particularly Surrealist work, in order to create a sense of up-to-dateness. The best of Surrealism had long since been absorbed into the mainstream of modern art and literature, where it enjoys an immortality far more substantial than any that could be conferred on it by Breton’s attempts to keep the movement alive by fiat.

The early transitional period of American painting, which corresponded to that of Gorky’s maturity, had seen the assimilation of Surrealist ideas from Miró and, to a lesser extent, Masson and Ernst, into a pictorial context dominated by the influence of Picasso. Though Baziotes, Motherwell, and Hare participated in the 1942 New York Surrealist exhibition, the Americans generally remained at some distance from the movement, a distance that allowed each one to filter Surrealism according to his temperament. While “abstract” Surrealism provided a still workable morphology—biomorphism—and a methodology—automatism—illusionist Surrealism was entirely by-passed.

Pollock’s development offers a paradigm of the relationship of Surrealism to American art of the forties. The myth-oriented iconography of his work of the early forties, like that of Rothko, Gottlieb, and others, paralleled that of the late phase of Surrealist peinture-poésie and his form-language was influenced by Miró and Masson (though his Cubist substructure and bravura execution reflected a more profound commitment to Picasso than to anyone else). But what Pollock really took from Surrealism was an idea—automatism—rather than a manner. Already in the untitled abstraction of 1943 (fig. 273) his desire to liberate himself from the restrictions of traditional facture and the mannerisms they entailed had led him to drip liquid paint
and to draw with a stick rather than a brush. Spilling and dripping as such was hardly a novel idea, but Pollock was the first to use it consistently in order to facilitate extended spontaneous drawing.

Pollock used automatism as a means of getting the picture started, and, like the Surrealists, believed that this method would give freer rein to the unconscious. The increasing velocity of his execution from 1943 onward led to an atomization of the picture surface that permitted him to invest it with a continuous rhythm, his characteristic "pneuma." By the winter of 1946/1947 the scale and richness of this rhythm had necessitated the adoption of the drip technique in a consistent manner; the totemic presences of Pollock's earlier work disappeared under the ensuing labyrinthine web. This "classic" style of Pollock constituted a kind of apotheosis of automatism, and of the constructive possibilities of chance and accident. His painting not only went beyond the wildest speculations of Surrealism in the extent of its automatism, but in its move toward pure abstraction, was alien to the Surrealist conception of picture-making. Nevertheless, as Pollock relaxed his drip style in the black-and-white paintings of 1951, fragments of anatomies—some monstrous and deformed, others more literal—surfaced again, as if the fearful presences in his work of the early forties had remained as informing spirits beneath the fabric of the "all-over" pictures.

The second World War and the emigration of so many leading painters had broken the continuity of European painting, with the result that the progression epitomized in Pollock's work took place later in Europe and had less thrust and originality. There, the development of the informal in the work of such painters as Wols and Michaux failed to lead to such radical conclusions as those proposed by the art of their American counterparts. In the 1930s Wols had been strongly influenced by Surrealism, as illustrated by the Tanguyesque Electric Contact (fig. 275) and Whales in Water Flowers (fig. 274), which unmistakably derives from Ernst's "Dove" series. In the years following World War II, Wols's automatism became more marked, largely under the impact of Klee. Then, in the years just before his tragic death, he pushed his miniatuist improvisation into larger size in a series of oil paintings some of which retained vague suggestions of his earlier fantasy per-
278  left DAVID HARE. Magician's Game. (1944). Bronze, 43 inches high × 33 inches long. Collection the artist, New York


280  right CLYFFORD STILL. Jamais. 1944. Oil on canvas, 65 × 31 1/2 inches. Collection Miss Peggy Guggenheim, Venice

opposite

276  above WOLS (ALFRED OTTO WOLFGANG SCHULZ). Anxious Face. (1946). Oil on canvas, 25 × 22 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago

277  below HENRI MICHAUX. Untitled. (c. 1956). Ink, 29 × 41 inches. Collection Mrs. Ruth Moskin Fineshriber, New York
sonages (fig. 276), while others passed over into total abstraction. Michaux, too, moved from the figurative context demonstrated by the hallucinated Head to “randomly” blotted and splashed drawings— influenced by Pollock’s 1951 black-and-white paintings— where the patterning, nominally abstract, nevertheless retains a Rorschach-like allusiveness (fig. 277).

In its surrealizing phase of the early and mid-forties, American painting often exploited biomorphism. Theodoros Stamos wrought from it an image of primordial beings (fig. 282), whose sculptural counterpart is suggested in Herbert Ferber’s He Is Not a Man (fig. 279); Baziotes subsequently endowed a comparable vision with a diaphanous quality reminiscent of Redon. The biomorphism of Barnett Newman’s Pagan Void was exceptional in his imagery, which, in such visionary pictures as Genetic Moment (fig. 284), suggested distant affinities with Ernst’s wood-frottage “Forests.” It was, however, a fundamental constituent in the exquisite monsters of Mark Rothko; in his Slow Swirl by the Edge of the Sea (fig. 281) the biomorphism is attenuated by automatic drawing of an elegance comparable to the best of Surrealism at that time.

During the fifties, when their mature styles were making their mark, many American artists were reluctant to exhibit their earlier surrealizing works, and a whole generation has grown up hardly aware of their existence. Today, we are able to see how much originality these pictures contain despite debts to Surrealism, and how often—as was already the case with Gorky—even the borrowed stylistic formulations contained a greater depth and quality than did their prototypes.

The reaction of the pioneer American painters in the late forties against the mythic, biomorphic, and poetic images of their own work, and against the Surrealist ambiance that influenced it, was a stringent one. Having been to some extent overimpressed by the Surrealists as the embodiment of the great European avant-garde, the Americans now regarded them largely as idols with clay feet. Only Miró, who had not been in America during the war, and, to some extent, Masson were excepted from the widespread contumely. By 1950 this reaction appeared to be complete. Except in the case of Pollock’s automatism, the mature styles of the Abstract Expressionist painters seemed to
283  ADOLPH GOTTLIEB. Oracle. 1947. Oil on canvas, 60 x 44 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. List, New York

reject out of hand everything that Surrealism stood for.

But at the same time they produced a kind of abstraction markedly different from that to which Cubism and Fauvism alone might have been expected to lead. These movements had already lost their momentum in Europe in the 1930s, and the American practitioners of Cubism and abstraction in that decade found themselves at a dead end. Only a new spirit could have freed them; the American painters' experience of Surrealism in the early and middle forties enabled them to "open up" the language they had inherited from Cubism and Fauvism, and thus preserve what was still viable in those styles. And while it is true that they expunged the quasi-literary imagery that had earlier related their paintings to Surrealism, the visionary spirit of their wholly abstract art retained much of Surrealism's concern with poetry albeit in a less obvious form. The poetic content of the mature art of Pollock, Rothko, Newman, Still, Motherwell, and Gottlieb (to say nothing of some sculptors) does as much to set them apart from Picasso, Matisse, and Mondrian as do differences in technique or structure.

The debt to Surrealism in the mature work of the first-generation Americans was only implicit; their revival of the main line of European abstraction, which had faltered about the time of World War I, was explicit. And thus it appeared by 1955 as if the entire Dada-Surrealist adventure was a kind of anti-modernist reaction situated parenthetically between the great abstract movements prior to World War I and after World War II. But the force of this conviction has been compromised by a subsequent reaction in favor of Dada—and to a much lesser extent Surrealism—on the part of many younger artists who have matured since 1955. Yet even the artists who seemed most neo-Dadaist, such as Johns and Rauschenberg, by no means accepted Dadaist positions integrally. When Johns and Rauschenberg posed Duchamp's questions they came up


289  right  EDWARD KIENHOLZ. Ida Franger. 1960. Construction with cloth, metal, plastic, light bulb, and stuffed bird, 34 inches high × 17 inches wide × 22 inches deep. Collection the artist, Los Angeles
with quite different answers. In place of an intellectually oriented nihilism toward art, they responded with a sensuous affirmation of painting, the inflection of which moreover depended—Rauschenberg's facture, for example—on the very Abstract Expressionism whose tenets they were against on other levels. Johns's *Target with Plaster Casts* (fig. 30) has affinities with such Picabia targets as *Optophone* (fig. 29) and with Dali's *objet-trouvé* plaster cast of a foot (fig. 212). But while such motifs retain their poetic ambiguities in Johns's piece, their anti-art implications are dissolved by the refined aestheticism of his style. By the same token the mannequin-based constructions of Bernard Schultze and Niki de Saint Phalle differ characteristically from their Surrealist predecessors. The charred and torn textures into which the flesh of Schultze's *Mannequin-Migof* resolves (fig. 287), and the vermicular encrustation of toy dolls on the skin of Niki de Saint Phalle's earth goddess *Ghea* (fig. 288), presuppose the language of Abstract Expressionism despite their more evident commitment to a tradition of poetic representation.

Since 1950 there has been no such thing as Dadaist or Surrealist art properly speaking. What was vital in those movements has been so assimilated into the cumulative vocabulary of art that much of what is done today is touched by it in one way or another. The selection of works in the Heritage section of the exhibition suggests some of the many kinds of stylistic and iconographic fusions this assimilation has made possible. Sometimes, as for example, in Klapheck's sewing machine, *Intriguing Woman* (fig. 291), the debt is iconographic only. This "machine charmer," as Breton, who devoted his last catalogue preface to Klapheck, called him, accomplishes his effects through the medium of "hard-edge" painting. This same style, modified by Lichtenstein's Pop Art cartoon pictures, becomes a function of another kind of equation in Adami's *Henri Matisse Painting the Model* (fig. 290), based upon a famous photograph of Matisse at work. Here the derivative element is biomorphic fantasy. With each new stylistic wave the vestiges of Dada and Surrealist ideas become further attenuated and diffused. Today they are taken up by younger artists less from their original sources than from the modified forms in which they have appeared in the art of the two decades since the second World War.

294  right  CLARENCE CARTER. *Borne in Triumph*. 1963. Synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 44 x 44 inches. New Jersey State Museum, Trenton
The reader will find that in the case of translated material there may be differences between the version presented here and the English source to which he is directed. The author has taken the liberty of modifying translations in the interest of clarity and greater accuracy, but prefers, for the convenience of students, to indicate where material is readily available in English.

1 During his Dada period André Breton summarized this view—which he maintained throughout the Surrealist years—as follows: “It would be an error to consider art as an end. The doctrine of art for art’s sake . . . seems senseless to me. We know that poetry must lead somewhere” (“Les Chants de Maldoror”); “. . . painting, for example, should not have for its end the pleasure of the eyes . . . I persist in believing that a picture or sculpture . . . is justifiable only insofar as it is capable of advancing our abstract knowledge properly so-called (notre connaissance proprement dite)” (“Distances”); both reprinted in André Breton, Les Pas perdus (Paris, 1924), pp. 80, 174.


7 Paris Dadaists considered the aimless murder carried out by Lafcadio in André Gide’s Les Caves du Vatican (1914) to be the literary prototype of the geste gratuit, the act that breaks the chain of “logical” causality.


9 “Manifesto of Mr. AA the Anti-Philosopher” (1920?); English translation in Motherwell (ed.), op. cit., p. 85.

10 See below, pages 27 and 31, and note 36.


15 Ibid.

16 Ibid. (italics mine).


18 When the letters of the title are pronounced quickly in French they form the sentence, “Elle a chaud au cul” (She has hot pants).

19 “A point that I want very much to establish is, that the choice of these Readymades was never dictated
by an aesthetic delectation. The choice was based on a reaction of visual indifference, with at the same time a total absence of good or bad taste, in fact, a complete anesthesia” (statement at The Art of Assemblage: A Symposium, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, October 19, 1961).


21 Discussing “minimal” sculpture, Clement Greenberg observes (“Recentness of Sculpture,” in Maurice Tuchman [ed.], American Sculpture of the Sixties, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, April 28–June 25, 1967, p. 25): “The look of machinery is shunned now because it does not go far enough towards the look of non-art, which is presumably an ‘inert’ look that offers the eye a minimum of ‘interesting’ incident—unlike the machine look, which is arty by comparison (and when I think of Tinguely I would agree with this).”


24 For phrases quoted in this paragraph, see Duchamp’s notes in the Green Box; see also The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even; A Typographic Version by Richard Hamilton of Marcel Duchamp’s Green Box, translated by George Heard Hamilton (New York, 1960).


26 Lebel, op. cit., p. 68.


28 Anemic Cinema, his motion picture of 1926, was a resolution of this problem.


32 This view of the painter is whimsically portrayed in Chardin’s Monkey Painter in the Louvre; for an excellent discussion of the artist as the ape of nature, cf. H.W. Janson, Apes and Ape Lore (London, 1952), pp. 287 ff. Attention given in recent years to the “paintings” of chimpanzees suggests that the painter can never get the monkey off his back. When realistic, he was held to be “the ape of nature”; now abstract, he is described in terms of the nature of the ape.

33 Conversation with Pierre Soulages in Paris in 1950, repeated to the author.

Although the date of 1913 has generally been accepted for this painting, recent evidence indicates that 1914 is probably more justifiable; see William A. Camfield, “The Machinist Style of Francis Picabia,” *Art Bulletin* (New York), September-December 1966, p. 313 note 23.

*Ibid.*, pp. 309-22. Camfield provides some of the models on which Picabia’s object-portraits were based. Picabia’s drawings are traditionally held, following the formula of his wife, Gabrielle Buffet-Picabia, to have been made “with no attempt at aesthetic expression. They are distinguished from catalogue representations only by their isolation and by the intentions with which they are charged” (“Some Memories of Pre-Dada: Picabia and Duchamp,” in *Motherwell [ed.], op. cit.*, p. 258). But a comparison of the drawings and their models betrays instantly the modernist—specifically the Cubist—underpinning of the style.


“M’amenez-y” (bring me there) is a substitution for the correct “Amenez-y-moi”; it is also a play on the word “amnésie.” For a discussion in English of the verbal Readymade, see Jean, *op. cit.*, p. 86.

When the Cabaret Voltaire was founded no one thought in terms of a movement, programmatic or otherwise. But during its first few months, a collective social and artistic outlook began to take hold, and on April 11, 1916, about eight weeks after the opening of the Cabaret, Ball noted in his diary that a Voltaire Society was being planned to co-ordinate the increasingly varied activities sponsored by the Cabaret’s founders. An entry one week later indicated that Ball’s suggestion to use the word “Dada” in connection with the forthcoming issue of the Cabaret’s projected magazine had been accepted by the group.

These two entries provide us with our most accurate limits for the discovery of the word “Dada.” Its first appearance in any public document was in the review *Cabaret Voltaire*, which appeared the following June.

Tzara has always claimed discovery of the word—“I found the word Dada by accident in the Larousse dictionary”—and he is widely credited with the discovery by writers on the subject. Georges Hugnet states: “Tristan Tzara gave a name to this delicious malaise: DADA” (“Dada,” *The Bulletin of The Museum of Modern Art* [New York], November-December, 1936, p. 3). Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes, himself a Parisian Dadaist (“Histoire de Dada,” *La Nouvelle Revue Française* [Paris], June 1931, p. 868), and art historian Jean Cassou (“Tristan Tzara et l’humanisme poétique,” *Labyrinthe* [Paris], November 15, 1945, p. 2) both support this attribution. Unfortunately, these critics lean heavily on a statement by Arp in an issue of the review *Dada* titled *Dada Intirol Augrandair* (Open-Air Dada in Tirol), published when Tzara, Arp, Ernst, and Breton were vacationing in the Tirol in the summer of 1921. Breton and Picabia had raised the question of whether Tzara was really the one who had discovered the magic name, and word had been spreading in Paris that it was Arp, not Tzara, who had found it. Under pressure from Tzara, Arp wrote a disavowal, which began: “I hereby declare that Tristan Tzara discovered the word Dada on February 8, 1916, at six o’clock in the afternoon; I was present with my twelve children when Tzara for the first time uttered this word which filled us so justifiably with enthusiasm. This took place at the Café de la Terrasse in Zurich, and I was wearing a brioche in my left nostril.” Ribemont-Dessaignes reports (*Déjà Jadis* [Paris, 1958], p. 12) that “someone” (most likely Breton, who was anxious to discredit Tzara) told him that afterward,
in the corridor outside the room in which he had made his “deposition,” Arp remarked: “I found myself under an obligation to make this declaration, but in reality it is I who...” In 1949, Arp affirmed to Robert Motherwell that his account was, of course, a Dada joke, as he “would have supposed it sufficiently evident from its fantastic tone” (Motherwell [ed.], op. cit., p. xxxi). Its humorous nature notwithstanding, Arp’s deposition has not only supported Tzara’s claim to having found the word but also provided historians with an erroneous date for the event, February 8, 1916, weeks before Huelsenbeck’s arrival in Zurich, and, as we have deduced from Ball’s diary, more than two months before the actual discovery. This error was unfortunately perpetuated by Georges Hugnet in his essay cited above, which was subsequently included in the revised and enlarged edition of Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism, published by The Museum of Modern Art in 1937, long the standard work on the movement, as well as in David Gascoyne’s A Short Survey of Surrealism (London, 1935).

Although Eugene Jolas attributed the discovery of the word to Hugo Ball, the latter never made such a claim. On the contrary, a letter he wrote to Richard Huelsenbeck in November 1926 strongly points to Huelsenbeck as the discoverer: “You would then have the last word on the matter, as you had the first” (italics mine). Huelsenbeck has long insisted on this distinction, and on numerous occasions has recounted his version of the finding of “Dada.” In En avant Dada (op. cit., p. 4), Huelsenbeck reports: “The word ‘Dada’ was accidentally discovered by Hugo Ball and myself in a German-French dictionary as we were looking for a name for Madame Le Roy, the chanteuse at our Cabaret.” In “Dada Lives” (Transition [Paris], Fall 1936, p. 78; also Motherwell [ed.], op. cit., p. 280), he recounts the details:

“I was standing behind Ball looking into the dictionary. Ball’s finger pointed to the first letter of each word descending the page. Suddenly I cried halt. I was struck by a word I had never heard before, the word “Dada.”

“Dada,” Ball read, and added: “It is a children’s word meaning hobbyhorse.” At that moment I understood what advantages the word held for us.

41 Die Flucht aus der Zeit (Munich and Leipzig, 1927), entry for May 24, 1916.

42 Described to the author by Jean Arp in Meudon during the spring of 1959.


46 Conversation with the author in Meudon in the spring of 1959.

47 Klee was a pioneer in automatic drawing, one of the facets of his art which particularly recommended him to the Surrealists, on whom he had a considerable influence. Though hardly known in France at the time, Klee was championed by the Surrealists. He is one of the few modern painters mentioned in the Surrealist manifesto and, despite the fact that he was not then, and never would become, a member of the movement, his work figured in the first exhibition of Surrealist painting at the Galerie Pierre, Paris, 1925.

48 Huelsenbeck, op. cit., p. 35; Motherwell (ed.), op. cit., p. 44.

49 “Ready money,” the pseudonym of Alfred Grünwald, a banker’s son and talented collagist (fig. 62), who was primarily concerned with radical politics.


51 Ibid., p. 164; English translation, p. 13.
For a discussion of the variety of Ernst's collage techniques, see Lucy Lippard, "Dada into Surrealism," Artforum (Los Angeles), September 1966, pp. 10-15.


The extreme to which Schwitters could carry his love for the small is demonstrated by the collage he made in 1920 which has so kindly been lent to the exhibition by Dr. Lotti Steinitz-Sears, the daughter of Kate Steinitz. Called The Smallest Merz Picture in the World, it measures 1 7/8 x 1 7/8 inches, and was made by Schwitters as a birthday present for Ilse Steinitz’s dollhouse. According to the present owner she bought it from her sister for two pfennigs, but instead of hanging it in her own dollhouse, preserved it in a matchbox; the collage and the matchbox were eventually put into another box with an inlay design by Schwitters, thus becoming, in Kate Steinitz’s words, "doppelt verschwittert." (This information has been taken from the typescript Kate Steinitz has made available of her forthcoming publication: Kurt Schwitters: A Portrait from Life; with "Collision," a Science-Fiction Opera Libretto in Banalities by Kurt Schwitters and Kate Trauman Steinitz, and Other Writings. Translated from the German by Robert Bartlett Haas. Introduction by John Coplans and Walter Hopps. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press [1968].)


Inspired at the outset by Tzara, the Letterists, led by Isidore Isou and Maurice Lemaître, were primarily concerned with the formation of a poetry and theater based purely on the sound of individual letters—as opposed to the nonsense syllables favored by most Dada phoneticists—but they also produced a variegated, though uneven, body of plastic art. Lemaître’s Document on a Woman of My Life (fig. 68) typically contains letters of an invented alphabet that cryptically spell out an autobiographical message. Their shapes are counterpointed by superimposed Latin letters—formed from different positionings of a female nude. These ensembles, which the Letterists call "hypergraphism," i.e., superwriting, are intended to fuse—as had Klee on occasion—both the abstract and the representational possibilities of letters.

In addition to this Hanover Merzbau, Schwitters built two others. In 1937 he began a second one in Lysaker, outside Oslo, Norway, which was destroyed by fire in 1951. With the help of a grant from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1945, he began his third, in England, in a barn in Little Langdale, near Ambleside, which was left unfinished at his death in 1948.


Quoted in Alan Solomon, Robert Rauschenberg, catalogue of an exhibition at The Jewish Museum, New York, March 31-May 12, 1963, p. 11.

There is of course no "gap" between art and life; the gap is between new forms of art and the expansion of the definition of art to include them. Everything that is not finally defined as art remains "life." The anti-art of the Dadaists seemed to them to be outside art; it was simply outside the definition that prevailed then. Even the Readymades (see above, pages 17-19) can be defined as art. When they first began, Environments, Happenings, and other hybrid forms in which Rauschenberg participated made some claim to being outside "art" while not being "life," but they strike us today as comprehensible within an expanded definition of a wordless theater. For a discussion of the relation of recent "minimal" sculpture to the idea of theater, see Michael Fried, "Art and Objecthood," Artforum (Los Angeles), Summer 1967, pp. 12-23.

67 According to Breton, the first appearance in print of the word "surrealism" was as the subtitle ("a surrealist drama") of Apollinaire's *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, (The Breasts of Tiresias), which had its première on June 24, 1917, under the sponsorship of Pierre Albert-Birot and his review *Sic*. Actually, as William S. Lieberman has pointed out ("Picasso and the Ballet," *Dance Index* [New York], November–December 1946, p. 265), the word had appeared in print a month earlier, in a short text written by Apollinaire for the program of Diaghilev's production of the Satie-Massine-Picasso ballet *Parade*. Cocteau had called *Parade* a "realist ballet," implying that the primarily Cubist décor and costumes, the disjointed scenario, and the unexpected character of Satie's music and Massine's choreography had combined to illuminate an artistic truth more "real" than that conveyed by conventional realism. In his brief program text Apollinaire went further, seeing in the product of this unique collaboration "a kind of sur-réalisme" which would become the point of departure for a series of manifestations of [the] New Spirit that, finding today an occasion to show itself, shall not fail to captivate the elite, and promises to transform arts and manners into universal joy. For common sense wants them to be at least on a level with scientific and industrial progress" (Program for *Parade*, May 1917, reprinted in Guillaume Apollinaire, *Chroniques d'art* [Paris, 1960], pp. 426–27; English translation, Lieberman, *op. cit.*, pp. 268–69).
70 Cf. Pierre Naville, "Beaux-Arts," *La Révolution Surréaliste* (Paris), April 15, 1925, p. 27: "Everyone knows there is no surrealist painting; neither the lines of the pencil abandoned to the accident of gesture, nor the image retracing the images of the dream nor imaginative fantasies, of course, can be so described" (English translation in Nadeau, *op. cit.*, p. 108).
71 Though "abstract" is a handy word to distinguish the surrealism of Miró and Masson from the illusionism of Magritte and Dali, the process it normally describes—and the etymology of the word itself—are, in fact, alien to all Surrealist art (see next paragraph). For this reason I have placed the word in quotation marks.
72 The Surrealists "rehabilitated" many of the writers Dada had scorned. Their essential attachment was to the Romantic-Symbolist tradition, particularly the writers of *romans noirs* and all the others who celebrated the marvelous and bizarre. Baudelaire, Gérard de Nerval, Aloysius Bertrand were the literary old masters. Rimbaud (who had been rejected by Dada), Alfred Jarry (who had not been), and Lautréamont ("discovered" by Breton in the pre-Dada stage of *Littérature*) became the immediate literary progenitors of the movement. The German Romantics attracted special interest, and the poets in the circle around Breton all read Novalis' *Hymns to the Night* and the *Contes bizarres* of Achim von Arnim, both of which left traces on later Surrealist literature and the imagery of Surrealist paintings. The "last of the great poets" in the literary tradition that Breton was bent on resusci-
tating was Guillaume Apollinaire, and it was no accident that the term “surrealist” was his invention. It will be recalled that Jacques Vaché—with typically Dadaist nihilism—had dismissed Apollinaire, suspecting him of “patching up Romanticism with telephone wire” (Lettres de guerre [Paris, 1919], p. 18; English translation in Motherwell [ed.], op.cit., p. 69). To Vaché, for whom all art was “foolishness,” Apollinaire’s aesthetics were clearly no more than the most recent phase of a vestigial kind of poetry that traced its development back to Baudelaire. Despite his great admiration for Vaché, Breton could reject neither Apollinaire nor the tradition that lay behind him. In accepting Apollinaire, who had “no fear of art,” Breton marked his break with the literary nihilism to which Dada had at least paid lip service.


74 Conversation between Miró and Masson in 1924; recounted to the author by Masson.

75 See the author’s “Toward a Critical Framework, 3. A Post-Cubist Morphology,” op. cit.

76 Sweeney, op.cit., p. 212.


78 See the author’s “Toward a Critical Framework, 2. Giorgio de Chirico,” Artforum (Los Angeles), September 1966, pp. 41-45.


80 Le Surréalisme et la peinture, op.cit., p. 30


83 The only exception to Magritte’s stylistic continuity is a series of loosely painted Impressionistic versions of his typical subject matter painted during the first years of World War II.

84 The rare instances of Magritte’s use of biomorphism—such pictures as The Acrobat’s Ideas (1928) and Surprises and the Ocean (c. 1929-30)—all date from his earliest years as a Surrealist.

85 Qui est ce grand malade dont parlent les fous
Qui est ce grand amoureux dont chantent les frères
Un papillon sur lequel s’étalent des trous
Un enfant reçu à Paris et partout ailleurs
Une oreille prêtée un ventriloque sans air
Si non un chevalier sans cadeaux et sans peur
Who is that very sick man of whom the fools speak
Who is that great lover of whom the brothers sing
A butterfly on which holes spread
A child received in Paris and everywhere else
An ear lent, a ventriloquist without air
If not a knight without presents and without fear

86 Au bout de la jetée promenade
derrière le casino le monsieur
si correctement habillé si gentiment
déculotté mangeant son
cornet de frites d’étrons
crache gracieusement
les noyaux des
olives à la gueule
de la mer
enfilant ses
prières à la corde
du drapeau qui grille
au bout du gros mot
qui illumine la scène
la musique cache son
museau dans l’arène
et décloue
son effroi
du cadre de guêpes
jambes écartées
l’éventail fond
sa cire sur
l’ancre
At the end of the jetty promenade behind the casino
the gentleman so correctly dressed
with his pants so nicely down
eating his cone of fried turds
gracefully spits
olive pits
into the maw
of the sea
threading his
prayers on the cord
of the flag
that roasts at the end of the curse
which lights up the scene
the music hides
his muzzle in the arena
and unfastens
his fear
of the frame of wasps
legs spread-eagled
the fan drips
wax
on the anchor

90 The integral publication of the second manifesto in book form dates from 1930. The replacement at that time of La Résolution Surréaliste with a new review, Le Surréalisme au Service de la Résolution, also signaled the movement’s change of direction. While the title of the earlier organ had argued a “Surrealist revolution,” that of the latter envisioned Surrealism in the service of the revolution, i.e., the Communist revolution. However, attempts at a common front with the Communists proved impossible and, despite the defections of Aragon and others, Breton successfully dissociated the movement from the Party. The

Identification of individuals represented in Max Ernst’s Loplop Introduces Members of the Surrealist Group, figure 144, page 106:
1. Yves Tanguy; 2. Louis Aragon; 3. Alberto Giacometti;
4. René Crevel; 5. Georges Sadoul; 6. Max Ernst;
7. Salvador Dalí; 8. André Thirion; 9. René Char;
10. Maxine Alexandre; 11. Man Ray; 12. André Breton;
16. Tristan Tzara.
alternative was the total sacrifice of its ideals and values in the face of Communist discipline; see Nadeau, op. cit., pp. 154-82.


96 It was Professor Meyer Schapiro who, in a discussion of the work of Paul Klee, brought to my attention the location and size of the “screen” of the imagination.

97 For a discussion of the descent of the bearded figure from de Chirico via Max Ernst’s Revolution by Night, see the chapter on Salvador Dali in the author’s Dada and Surrealist Art to be published in 1968 by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.


100 “This object took shape little by little in the late summer of 1932; it revealed itself to me slowly, the various parts taking their exact form and their precise place within the whole. By autumn it had attained such reality that its actual execution in space took no more than one day.

“It is related without any doubt to a period in my life that had come to an end a year before, when for six whole months, hour after hour was passed in the company of a woman who, concentrating all life in herself, magically transformed my every moment. We used to construct a fantastic palace at night—days and nights had the same color, as if everything happened just before daybreak; throughout the whole time I never saw the sun—a very fragile palace of matchsticks. At the slightest false move a whole section of this tiny construction would collapse. We would always begin it over again.

“I don’t know why it came to be inhabited by a spinal column in a cage—the spinal column this woman sold me one of the very first nights I met her on the street—and by one of the skeleton birds that she saw the very night before the morning in which our life together collapsed—the skeleton birds that fluttered amid cries of wonder at four o’clock in the morning very high above the pool of clear, green water where extremely fine, white skeletons of fish floated in the great unroofed hall. In the middle there rises the scaffolding of a tower, perhaps unfinished or, since its top has collapsed, perhaps also broken. On the other side there appeared the statue of a woman, in which I recognized my mother, just as she appears in my earliest memories. The mystery of her long black dress touching the floor troubled me; it seemed to me like a part of her body, and aroused in me a feeling of fear and confusion. All the rest has vanished, and escaped my attention. This figure stands out against the curtain that is repeated three times, the very curtain I saw when I opened my eyes for the first time.

“I can’t say anything about the red object in front of the board; I identify it with myself” (Minotaure [Paris], December 1933, p. 46; English translation in Selz [ed.], op. cit., p. 44).


102 See Lucy Lippard, “The Sculpture,” in Sam Hunter (ed.), Max Ernst: Sculpture and Recent Painting,


104 For an extended iconographic and formal analysis of this picture, see the chapter “Picasso and Surrealism” in the author’s Dada and Surrealist Art to be published in 1968 by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

105 For a discussion of the Guernica in terms of these sources, see ibid.


112 Matta subtitled all works of 1938–1940 “Psychological Morphology,” and numbered them as such. Later he referred generically to the fantasy landscapes of 1938–1943 as “Inscapes.”


115 For an extended discussion of this work see the author’s “Arshile Gorky, Surrealism, and the New American Painting,” Art International (Zurich), February 1965, pp. 33–34.


119 Tzara delivered a lecture at the Sorbonne in April 1947 in which he challenged the Surrealists to justify their absence from France during the war, and scorned the review VVV for having continued to fashion Surrealist games but never once mentioning the Occupation; Sartre (in Les Temps Modernes [Paris], May 1947, p. 1429), declared that when the moment for action came, the Surrealists were incapable of action; Camus, who engaged in brief debate with Breton (in Arts [Paris], November 16 and 23, 1951), criticized the movement for its nihilism. For a discussion of the atmosphere Breton encountered on his return to France from America, see Clifford Browder, André Breton: Arbiter of Surrealism (Paris, 1967), pp. 41 ff.

120 Pollock’s relationship to Surrealist methods has been discussed many times; see, for example, the interview between Robert Motherwell and Sidney Simon, op. cit., pp. 21–23, and the author’s “Jackson Pollock and the Modern Tradition, VI. An Aspect of Automatism,” op. cit., pp. 28–33. Pollock’s experimentation with automatic poetry has been specifically noted by Francis V. O’Connor, Jackson Pollock (New York, 1967), p. 26.

121 This is not to suggest that the younger generation did not express its reaction to the poetic abstraction of the “first generation” in other forms; anti-painterly, hard-edge, “cool” abstraction proved another option.
Chronology

Compiled by Irene Gordon

1913

NEW YORK

January. Francis Picabia arrives in New York in connection with the Armory Show.


Soon after the exhibition closes Picabia returns to Paris.

NEW JERSEY

Spring. Man Ray joins artists’ and intellectuals’ colony in Ridgefield. Meets Alfred Kreymborg and Max Eastman.

PARIS

On his return to Paris, Picabia paints large canvases—Ettao-nisl, Udnie, and (probably the following year) Je revois en souvenir ma chère Udnie (I See Again in Memory My Dear Udnie). Duchamp paints Chocolate Grinder I which marks the break with the canvases of 1912 and establishes the basis of the Large Glass. Renounces oil painting, secures a minor post in the Bibliothèque Ste.-Geneviève, makes his first Readymade, Bicycle Wheel.

The “American” boxer-poet Arthur Cravan (Fabian Avenarius Lloyd) continues to publish his polemical review Maintenant, the first issue of which appeared in April 1912.

De Chirico continues series of metaphysical Italian piazzas; exhibits three paintings in the Salon des Indépandants, four in the Salon d’Automne.

August. Max Ernst, who lives in Cologne, visits Paris.

September. Apollinaire publishes “L’Antitradizione futurista,” in Lacerba (Florence); Alcools and Les Peintres cubistes also published this year.

November. Picasso’s earliest Cubist constructions are reproduced for the first time, in Les Soirées de Paris.

SWITZERLAND

Hans (Jean) Arp, living in Weggis, has drawings reproduced in Der Sturm (Berlin); is also co-author with L.H. Neitzel of a book on new French painting (Neue französische Malerei) published in Leipzig.

BERLIN


1914

NEW YORK

November 3–December 8. Little Gallery of the Photo-Secession (291). Negro Art. An exhibition of African wood carvings, reported in Camera Work as “the first time in the history of exhibitions, either in this country or elsewhere, that Negro statuary was shown solely from the point of view of art.”

PARIS

Cravan’s review of the Salon des Indépendants, which he publishes as an issue of Maintenant (March–April), constitutes
an attack on modern art and some of its practitioners. He is challenged to a duel by Apollinaire and is taken to court by Sonia Delaunay, which results in a sentence of eight days in jail and a fine of one franc.

Picabia, though a Cuban national, allows himself to be drafted into the French army.

Arp arrives for a stay, during which he meets Cravan, Apollinaire, Delaunay, Modigliani, and Picasso; his style changes under the impact of Cubism.

André Breton "discovers" the Gustave Moreau museum.

ZURICH

Hugo Ball, German poet and pacifist, and his wife Emmy Hennings arrive from Germany.

COLOGNE

Arp and Max Ernst meet at the Deutscher Werkbund exhibition (May–October).

1915

NEW YORK

March. The periodical 291, edited by Paul Haviland and Marius de Zayas, begins to appear, under Stieglitz’s auspices.

June. Picabia, on his way to an army mission, arrives in New York and stays for several months; publishes in 291 a series of "object portraits" which present Stieglitz as a camera, Picabia himself as an auto horn, and the young American girl in a state of nudity as a spark plug. He also executes a series of "machine pictures."

Duchamp arrives in New York. Visits artists’ colony in Ridgefield, New Jersey, where he meets Man Ray. Begins The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (the Large Glass), which he will leave incomplete in 1923.


September. Picabia leaves New York for Panama.

PARIS

March. The fifth, and last, number of Cravan’s Maintenant appears.

1916

NEW YORK

Man Ray makes collages called "Revolving Doors" (1916–1917); paints The Rope Dancer Accompanies Herself with Her Shadows.

The home of the poet Walter C. Arensberg is a meeting place for avant-garde artists and intellectuals such as Duchamp, Man Ray, Marius de Zayas.

PARIS

January. Pierre Albert-Birot begins to publish the review Sic, which soon shows Dadaist tendencies.

NANTES

Jacques Vaché and André Breton meet. Breton is an orderly in an army mental clinic, where he becomes interested in psychiatry.

ZURICH

February 5. Opening of the Cabaret Voltaire, founded by Hugo Ball.


March 30. Gala night at Cabaret Voltaire during which Huelsenbeck, Janco, and Tzara (aided by the researches of the Futurists, and Henri Martin Barzun and Fernand Divoire) recite a simultaneous poem of their own creation.

April. The word "Dada" discovered.

June. Publication of the first, and only, issue of Cabaret Voltaire. The preface, written by Ball in May, uses the word "Dada" publicly for the first time. Contributors include,
among others, Apollinaire, Arp, Cendrars, Huelsenbeck, Kandinsky, Marinetti, Modigliani, Picasso, Tzara.

July. First publication under the Dada imprint: Tzara’s *La première Aventure céleste de M. Antipyrine* (The First Celestial Adventure of Mr. Fire Extinguisher), with color woodcuts by Janco.


Hugo Ball composes “Lautgedichte” (sound poems).

September. Huelsenbeck’s *Phantastische Gebete* (Fantastic Prayers) published under the Dada imprint, with woodcuts by Arp.

October. Huelsenbeck’s *Schaleben Schalomai Schalamonezomal* published under the Dada imprint, with drawings by Arp.

Arp confirms his biomorphic style, begun the previous year, in wood reliefs (*Forest, Portrait of Tzara*) and “automatic” drawings. Begins collages “arranged according to the laws of chance.”

[Cologne]

Max Ernst, serving as an artillery engineer in the German army, makes occasional small paintings.

[Berlin]

January. Der Sturm. Max Ernst’s first exhibition.

[Madrid]


[Barcelona]

August. Picabia settles in Barcelona where he finds Marie Laurencin, Albert Gleizes, Arthur Cravan.

1917

[New York]

April. Picabia arrives from Barcelona where, in the first months of the year, he had published nos. 1–4 of his review *391*.
1917-1919

July. Publication of *Dada 1*, which succeeds the review *Cabaret Voltaire*. *Dada 1* and *Dada 2* (December) include contributions by Arp, de Chirico (*The Evil Genius of a King*), Janco, Kandinsky, and Klee.

Marcel Janco makes painted reliefs, masks, constructions; does an oil painting of the *Cabaret Voltaire*.

Augusto Giacometti joins the Dadaists, makes abstract paintings and a Dada machine from clockparts.

**BERLIN**

January. Huelsenbeck returns to Berlin from Zurich. In May he publishes “Der neue Mensch” in the magazine *Die Neue Jugend*, preparing the way for Dada.

**BARCELONA**

Miro meets Picabia, Laurencin, and Max Jacob.

1918

**NEW YORK**

Duchamp paints his last picture, *Tu m*, a frieze-shaped canvas slightly over ten feet wide, for Katherine Dreier’s library.

Man Ray begins his “Aerographs,” executed with an air gun.

**MEXICO**

Arthur Cravan is seen for the last time in a small town on the Mexican coast.

**PARIS**


Friendship of Breton, Paul Eluard, and Jean Paulhan is formed. They, as well as Aragon, Soupault, and Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes, see Dada periodicals in Paris and become interested in the movement.

Breton begins correspondence with de Chirico.

**ZURICH**


December. Tzara’s “Manifeste Dada 1918” is published in *Dada 3*.

**BASEL**

An artists’ club, Das Neue Leben, is founded. Arp, Augusto Giacometti, and Janco are among its charter members.

**LAUSANNE**

February. Picabia arrives, stays in Gstaad. He meets Tzara and Arp, participates in *Dada 3*.

**BERLIN**

Huelsenbeck founds a new branch of Dada.


June. Kurt Schwitters seeks out Herwarth Walden to examine the possibility of exhibiting at Der Sturm gallery. Meets Arp, which leads to a close association with the Zurich Dadaists.

Hausmann and others develop new typography on the basis of Futurist compositions; makes “letterist” sound poems (working with individual letters instead of inventing words as had Ball and others); invents a form of photo-montage that is actually photo-collage.

**COLOGNE**

Max Ernst is discharged from the army; meets Baargeld (Alfred Grünewald).

1919

**PARIS**

March. First issue of *Littérature*, edited by Aragon, Breton, and Soupault.

April. *Littérature* publishes (continuing in the May issue) Breton’s “discovery” of the *Poésies* of the nineteenth-century poet Isidore Ducasse (the “comte de Lautréamont”), the sole copy of which belongs to the Bibliothèque Nationale. Paul Valéry and André Gide are among *Littérature*’s heroes.

July. Duchamp arrives, stays with Picabia. They establish contact with the Dada group then meeting at the Café Certà. Duchamp adds a beard and mustache to a reproduction of the Mona Lisa, titles it *L.H.O.O.Q.*
Littérature publishes (continuing in the August and September issues) the letters of Jacques Vaché.

October. Littérature publishes (continuing in the November and December issues) “Les Champs magnétiques,” by Breton and Soupault, later described by Breton as “incontestably the first Surrealist work (in no way Dada) since it is the fruit of the first systematic applications of automatic writing.”

NANTES

ZURICH

February. Picabia publishes no. 8 of 391.

April 9. Saal zur Kaufleuten. 8. Dada-Soirée. Program promises manifestoes, lectures, compositions, dance, simultaneous poems; lists, among others, Tristan Tzara’s Le Fièvre du mâle, described as a simultaneous poem performed by 20 persons; Hans Arp’s Wölkpenpumpe; Suzanne Perottet playing compositions of Arnold Schönberg.

May. Dada 4—5 appears with cover title Anthologie Dada; contains drawings by Picabia, woodcuts by Arp, reproductions of paintings by Augusto Giacometti, Kandinsky, Klee, and Richter.

Sophie Taeuber makes “Dada heads” from hat molds.

November. Publication of Der Zeltweg, magazine edited by Tzara, Otto Flake, and Walter Serner, cover design by Arp.

BERLIN
January. Der Sturm. Schwitters shares group exhibition with Paul Klee and Johannes Molzahn.

February 6. Manifesto Dadaisten gegen Weimar appears, signed by Baader, Hausmann, Tzara, George Grosz, Janco, Arp, Huelsenbeck, and others.

June. Hausmann founds review Der Dada (three issues, 1919–1920).

COLOGNE
Ernst and Baargeld found the Dada conspiracy of the Rhineland, whose address is W/3 West Stupidia.

Ernst publishes a portfolio of eight lithographs influenced by Carrà and de Chirico entitled Fiat Modes: Pereat Ars (Let There Be Fashion: Down with Art).

HANOVER
Kurt Schwitters makes his first Merz collages, books, and poems; publishes Anna Blume, a poem formed by “collaging” the clichés of bourgeois sentimental language.

1920
NEW YORK
Duchamp, who has returned from Paris, Katherine Dreier, and Man Ray found the Société Anonyme, which is in effect the first museum of modern art in New York. Duchamp decides to change from “anti-artist” to “engineer,” a shift in identity that is signaled by the adoption of the pseudonym Rrose Sélavy and photographs of Duchamp as a woman by Man Ray. His first machine is the Rotary Glass Plate, made, with the aid of Man Ray, of glass plates turned by a motor.

PARIS

January 23. Palais des Fêtes. Premier Vendredi de Littérature. The first Friday soirée organized by Littérature, which serves as an introduction of the Dada manifestation into Paris. The program lists a talk by André Salmon, poems by or read by Max Jacob, Aragon, Breton, Eluard, Cocteau, Tzara, among others; a display of paintings by de Chirico, Juan Gris, Léger, sculpture by Jacques Lipchitz. Under the title “Poème,” Tzara reads a newspaper article while Eluard and a friend of Breton’s hammer on bells; Breton presents a Picabia drawing in chalk on a blackboard which he erases as the drawing appears.

February. Dada manifestations are held at the Salon des Indépendants, Club du Faubourg, and the Université Populaire du Faubourg St.-Antoine.

Dada 6 appears as Bulletin Dada, declares itself anti-pictorial and anti-literary; includes poems by Picabia, Tzara,
Breton, Aragon, and others, which had been recited at the January soirée.

March. *Dada 7* is published as *Dadaphone*; cover by Picabia, texts by Tzara, Picabia, Soupault, Eluard, Ribemont-Dessaignes, Breton, Aragon, and others.

March 27. Maison de l'Œuvre. *Manifestation Dada*. Comprised of manifestoes read by 38 lecturers, farces, music, and short plays, among them Tzara's *La première Aventure céleste de M. antipyrine*, and Breton reading in total darkness Picabia's "Manifeste cannibale."

April. Picabia publishes the first of two issues of a new review, *Cannibale*, which includes his collage-picture *Portrait of Cézanne*, in which the artist is represented by a stuffed monkey.

May. *Littérature* publishes the 23 Dada manifestoes that were read at the February manifestations. The magazine now puts itself completely in the service of Dada.

May 26. Salle Gaveau. *Festival Dada*. Program lists *Le Célèbre illusioniste* by Ribemont-Dessaignes, during which colored balloons with the names of famous people are released; and Tzara's *La deuxième Aventure de monsieur Aa l'antipyrine*. The program also announces that "all the Dadaists will have their hair cut on stage."

August. *Nouvelle Revue Française* contains Breton's "Pour Dada."

**BERLIN**

With Raoul Hausmann, the brothers Herzfelde, Johannes Baader, and Hannah Höch, Huelsenbeck guides Berlin Dada toward a more radical political consciousness than it has elsewhere. George Grosz contributes to antibourgeois, anti-religious, antipatriotic Dada magazines.

February. Huelsenbeck, Hausmann, and Baader organize a Dada tour that begins in Leipzig (Zentraltheater, February 24), and includes Teplitz-Schönau (February 26), Prague (Commodities Exchange, March 1; Mozarteum, March 2), and Karlsbad (March 5). In Prague—where the Czechs are opposed to them because they are Germans, the Germans consider them Bolsheviks, and the Socialists denounce them as reactionaries—the atmosphere of violence built up against them by weeks of publicity causes Baader to desert the tour.

April. *Der Sturm*. First one-man show of Schwitters.


*Dada Almanach*, the last important German Dada publication, appears, edited by Huelsenbeck.

Arp visits Berlin, meets El Lissitzky, Schwitters, and the Dadaists.

**COLOGNE**

February. Publication of *Die Schammade (Dadameter)*, edited by Ernst, cover by Arp, contributions by Aragon, Baargeld, Breton, Huelsenbeck, and others.

April. *Brauhaus Wärter*. *Dada-Vorfrühling: Gemälde, Skulpturen, Zeichnungen, Fluidospekttrik. Vulgärdiletantismus*. Participants are Arp, Baargeld, and Ernst. Entrance to exhibition is through a public urinal; Ernst supplies a hatchet with one object so that the public may destroy it; a young girl in first communion dress recites obscene poetry. Police close the exhibition, but it reopens in May when it appears that the work judged most shocking by the police is Dürrer's engraving *Adam and Eve*.

Ernst collaborates with Arp, and also with Baargeld, on a series of collages that they call "Fatagaga" (FAbrication de TAbteaux GArantis GAzometriques [Manufacture of Pictures Guaranteed To Be Gasometric]).

**BRUSSELS**

Rene Magritte has his first exhibition, which he shares with P. Flouquet, at the Centre de l'Art. Meets E. L. T. Mesens.

**NEW YORK**

Man Ray invents his "Rayographs"; makes Dada objects, such as Gift.


PARIS

April 14. Excursions & Visites Dada. 1ère Visite: Eglise Saint Julien le Pauvre. The first, and only, of a series of derisive Dada visits to various places “to remedy the incompetence of suspect guides and cicerones.”

May 3–June 3. Au Sans Pareil. Exposition Dada Max Ernst. First Paris exhibition of Ernst’s collages, opening is staged as a Dada demonstration.

May 13. Salle des Societe Savantes. Mise en Accusation et Jugement de M. Maurice Barrès par Dada (Trial and Sentencing of M. Maurice Barrès by Dada). Breton is presiding judge at the “trial” of the writer Maurice Barrès, indicted by the Dadaists for “crimes against the security of the spirit.” Picabia disapproves and does not take part; Tzara, too, is critical but participates as one of the “witnesses” against Barrès, who is represented by a life-size mannequin.

June 6–30. Galerie Montaigne. Salon Dada, Exposition Internationale. End of season Dada exhibition and series of demonstrations. Catalogue, which lists 81 works, contains contributions from poets and artists including, among others, Arp, Aragon, Eluard, Péret, Man Ray, Tzara. Soupault’s entry in the exhibition is a mirror entitled Portrait of an Unknown; slips of paper with numbers (28–31) take the place of the works Duchamp refused to send. Tzara’s Le Coeur à gaz (The Gas-Operated Heart) given for the first time. The last major Dada show.

July. Having renounced Dada in published statements, Picabia turns violently against his former colleagues; publishes a special number of 391—Le Pilhaou-Thibaou—in which he denies that Tzara invented the word “Dada.”

Man Ray arrives; Duchamp introduces him to the Dadaists.

August. Last issue of series 1 of Littérature is devoted to the Barrès trial held in May.


COLOGNE

Ernst makes proto-Surrealist paintings (The Elephant Celebes) that merge collage imagery of the previous years with elements of Chiricoesque style. Makes his first entirely illusionistic collage of old engravings.

PRAGUE

September 1. Commodities Exchange. Anti-Dada and Merz soirée organized by Schwitters and Hausmann which consists of poetry readings by both men. Schwitters hears Hausmann’s phonetic poem fnmsbw for the first time, which has a profound effect on him.

TIROL

September. Arp, Ernst, and Tzara vacationing together in Tarrenz-bei-Imst publish Dada Intirol Angrandair, the last important Dada publication; includes Arp’s fantasy on the origin of the word “Dada,” which is later seriously used to support Tzara’s claim to the discovery of the word.

Breton, on his honeymoon, joins the Dadaists and, except for a brief excursion to Vienna to have an interview with Freud, remains through October when he and Eluard return to Paris by way of Cologne where they visit Ernst.

1922

PARIS

January–April. During the winter months Breton attempts to organize a Congrès de Paris (Congress of Paris), a Congrès International pour la Détermination des Directives et la Défense de l’Esprit Moderne (International Congress for the Determination of Directives and for the Defense of the Modern Spirit). The Organizing Committee includes Georges Auric, Delaunay, Léger, Ozenfant, Paulhan, and Roger Vitrac. Tzara refuses to participate, for which he is attacked by Breton who declares that Tzara is not the father of Dada and accuses him of having usurped credit for the Dada manifesto of 1918 from Serner, whom he alleges to be the author. In a meeting at the Closerie des Lilas (February 17) Breton is called to account for the character of his attacks on Tzara, and the forty-five persons present pass a resolution withdrawing their confidence from the Organizing Committee. In April Tzara edits a pamphlet, Le Coeur à barbe (The Bearded Heart). These last events virtually mark the end of the Dada movement.
March. Publication of the first issue of the new series of *Littérature*, now edited by Breton, which moves away from Dadaism toward what will become Surrealism.

Man Ray publishes *Les Champs délicieux*, an album of 12 Rayographs, preface by Tzara.

Masson in Paris; signs contract with Kahnweiler. Friendship with Miró, the poets Armand Salacrou, Georges Limbour, Michel Leiris. Miró and Masson have adjoining studios at 45 Rue Blomet.

**ST.-RAPHAEL**
Picabia publishes sole issue of review, *La Pomme de Pins* (The Pine Cone), dated February 25, in which he attacks the Congress of Paris and most of the Dadaists.

**COLOGNE**
Arp and Sophie Taeuber marry.

**HANOVER**
Schwitters organizes lectures for Tzara in Hanover, Jena, and Weimar.

**BERLIN**
Grosz breaks with the Dadaists.

**WEIMAR**
October. *Kongress der Konstruktivisten* (Congress of the Constructivists). Led by Theo van Doesburg, includes Tzara and Arp against the will of more purist members. Among others participating are El Lissitzky, Richter, Moholy-Nagy.

**BARCELONA**
November 18–December 8, Galeries Dalmau. *Exposition Francis Picabia*. Breton and Picabia journey to Barcelona for the opening of the exhibition; catalogue preface by Breton. Breton also delivers a lecture on modern art.

**BRUSSELS**
Magritte is introduced to the work of de Chirico through a reproduction of *The Song of Love*.

**NEW YORK**
Duchamp definitively “incompletes” *The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even* (the Large Glass).

**PARIS**
July 7. Théâtre Michel. *Soirée du “Cœur à barbe”* (Soirée of the Bearded Heart). Among the performances scheduled are films by Richter and Man Ray, music by Satie, Auric, Stravinsky, and Milhaud, and a performance of Tzara’s *Cœur à gaz*. Breton, Aragon, Péret, and Eluard provoke a full-scale riot. Breton later accuses Tzara of being responsible for the police action brought against them.

Breton and his circle dispute the use of the term “surrealism” with Ivan Goll and Paul Dermée, who had also adopted it from Apollinaire.

Summer. Breton and Picasso meet.

Eluard visits the de Chirico exhibition at the second Rome Biennale, purchases a number of new pictures which, on Eluard’s return to Paris, are severely criticized by Breton. Rapid disenchantment of the Surrealists with de Chirico ensues.

Tanguy’s accidental discovery of an early de Chirico painting in the window of Paul Guillaume’s gallery crystallizes his desire to become a painter.

Masson meets Breton and makes first automatic drawings (winter 1923/1924), and semi-Cubist paintings influenced by Picasso, Gris, and Derain.

Toward the end of the year Miró begins his transition from Cubism to Surrealism.

**HANOVER**
Schwitters publishes the first issues of the review *Merz*: first number (January) is subtitled *Holland-Dada*; second (April) contains “Manifest Proletkunst” signed by Theo van Doesburg, Schwitters, Arp, Tzara; third consists of a portfolio of 6 lithographs by Schwitters; fourth (July) is subtitled *Banalitäten*; fifth is another portfolio, *7 Arpaden*, containing 7 lithographs by Arp; sixth (October) is subtitled *Imitatoren*.

December 30. Hausmann and Schwitters give a *Merzmatinee* during which one of the presentations consists of Hausmann and Schwitters standing on a darkened stage, Hausmann holding the switch to an electric light while Schwitters recites...
one of his poems. After every other line Hausmann turns on
the light, revealing himself in a grotesque pose. Thus, during
the 20 lines of the poem there is an alternation between noisy
darkness and silent light.

1924
PARIS

The Café Cyrano in the Place Blanche, near the home of Bre-
ton in the Rue Fontaine, is an important meeting place for the
Surrealists. Evening gatherings take place at Breton’s home,
and at the studios of Miró and Masson in the Rue Blomet.

Aragon’s Une Vague de rêves summarizes the experiments in
hypnosis begun two years earlier.

Miró joins the Surrealists and is introduced to Arp’s work.

Fantasy elements are breaking through Cubist structures.
Meets Eluard, Aragon; joins the Surrealists.

July. Ernst sails for the Far East, meets Paul and Gala Eluard
in Saigon; returns to Paris in the fall.

October. Ivan Goll publishes the only issue of the review
Surréalisme.

Breton publishes Manifeste du surréalisme in which Sur-
realism is defined primarily in terms of automatism.

Anatole France dies and the Surrealists publish a pamphlet
entitled Un Cadavre attacking him. They are in turn vicious-
ly attacked in the newspapers.

Bureau de Recherches Surréalistes (Bureau of Surrealist
Research) is opened in the Rue de Grenelle; distributes the
papillons surréalistes.

Picabia now turns against the Surrealist group and lam-
poons them in the final issue of 391.

December. Rolf de Maré’s Ballets Suédois stages Picabia’s
Dada ballet Relâche, with music by Satie. During the inter-
mission, Entr’acte, a film made by Picabia and René Clair, is
shown; Satie’s score is first music written especially for a film.

Founding of the review La Révolution Surréaliste; editors,
Pierre Naville and Benjamin Péret; motto, “We must work
toward a new declaration of the rights of man.” First issue
includes accounts of dreams by de Chirico and Breton, auto-
matic texts, illustrations by Ernst, Masson, Man Ray, and
Picasso.

1925
PARIS

January 15. The second issue of La Révolution Surréaliste
publishes responses to the question posed in the December
issue: “Le Suicide est-il une solution?” (Is suicide a solution?)

April 15. Third issue of La Révolution Surréaliste contains
collective addresses to the Pope (“The confessional, O Pope,
is not you but us”), the Dalai Lama, Buddhist schools, rectors
of European universities, and directors of insane asylums. It
is in this issue that Naville declares “there is no such thing as
Surrealist painting.”

June 12-27. Galerie Pierre. Exposition Joan Miró. First ex-
hibition of Miró’s Surrealist painting, catalogue text by Péret.

Tanguy and Prévert join the Surrealists, having been intro-
duced into the Breton circle late in the previous year. Marcel
Duhamel shares a house in the Rue du Château with them,
which becomes a center of Surrealist activity.

Beginning of the collective drawing and poem on folded
paper called cadavre exquis (exquisite corpse).

Arp returns to Paris, takes studio near Miró and Ernst in the
Rue Tourlaque in Montmartre; he begins to participate in the
Surrealist group.

Duchamp makes Rotating Demisphere, which anticipates the
“Rotoreliefs” of 1934; begins to devote himself increasingly
to chess.

August. Ernst begins to develop frottage (rubbing), an auto-
matic technique first used in drawing, then adapted to painting.

October 21-November 14. Galerie Vavin-Raspail. 39 Aqua-
relles de Paul Klee. First one-man show of Klee in Paris;
catalogue includes introduction by Aragon, poem by Eluard.

November 14-25. Galerie Pierre. Exposition, La Peinture
Surréaliste. First group exhibition of Surrealist painting in-
cludes Arp, de Chirico, Ernst, Klee, Masson, Miró, Picasso,
Man Ray, Pierre Roy; catalogue text by Breton and Desnos.
Though Klee’s name is mentioned in the Surrealist manifesto,
he never actively participates in the movement. He is sub-
sequently championed by the Surrealists but arouses little
interest otherwise in France.
1925–1927

BERLIN
Schwitters exhibits at Der Sturm gallery.

HANOVER
Merz no. 13 consists of a phonograph record, "Lautsonate.
The "Golden Grotto" section of Merzbau is completed.

BRUSSELS
March. Magritte and Mesens publish the sole issue of Oesophagé, which includes contributions by many leading Dadaists.
Magritte begins to paint his first mature works.

1926

NEW YORK
Duchamp's Large Glass is broken on its return from an exhibition of modern art at The Brooklyn Museum.

PARIS
March 26–April 10. Galerie Surrealiste. Tableaux de Man Ray et Objets des Iles. Opening exhibition of the Surrealist gallery in the Rue Jacques-Callot is a retrospective of paintings and objects by Man Ray, and primitive sculptures of the Pacific Islands from the collections of Breton, Eluard, Aragon, and others.
Miró and Ernst are attacked by certain Surrealists for collaborating on the décor of Constant Lambert's Roméo et Juliette for Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Collaborating with such an organization is viewed as inimical to the subversive ideal of Surrealism. The opening of the ballet (May 4) is broken up by a Surrealist demonstration, but Miró and Ernst return to grace shortly afterward.
Naville writes "La Révolution et les intellectuels. Que peuvent faire les surrealistes?" (Revolution and the Intellectuals. What Can the Surrealists Do?); in September, Breton replies in a pamphlet, Légitime Défense. Naville crisis ensues; he leaves the Surrealist group to become coeditor of the Communist magazine Clarté. In November, Artaud and Soupault are expelled from the Surrealist group for "recognizing value in purely literary activity."
Arp settles in the Parisian suburb of Meudon. La Révolution Surréaliste (June) reproduces his new work.

Tanguy paints pictures that combine landscapes and figures with collage-in-trompe l’œil elements suggested by Ernst’s paintings of 1921–1924.

Picasso reflects first influence of Surrealism.

BRUSSELS
October. Aragon acts as intermediary in bringing about official contact between the Paris Surrealists and the Surrealist group founded by Magritte and Mesens, which also includes Louis Scutenaire, Paul Nougé, and Camille Goemans.

MADRID
Dali paints The Basket of Bread in detailed but visionary realism. Begins to exhibit in Madrid and Barcelona; is permanently expelled from the Madrid School of Fine Arts.

1927

PARIS
January. Ernst visits Megève, where he begins series of "Hordes." Returns to Paris in February. Continues the "Forests"; other new series are "Shell Flowers" and "Monuments to the Birds."

Breton publishes Introduction au discours sur le peu de réalités, probably written in 1924, in which he raises the question of "Surrealist objects."

Aragon, Breton, and Eluard publish Lautréamont envers et contre tout.

Masson makes his first sand paintings; by "automatically" spreading glue on the raw canvas and pouring sand on the glue areas, he counterpoints the patterns that result by drawing directly with paint squeezed from a specially constructed tube.

Man Ray makes the film Emak Bakia.

Tanguy paints pictures that establish the biomorphism which remains characteristic of his art.

May 26–June 15. Galerie Surrealiste. Yves Tanguy et Objets
d'Amérique. First one-man exhibition of Tanguy, catalogue preface by Breton.

Alberto Giacometti moves to studio on the Rue Hippolyte-Maindron, where he will live until his death in 1966.

August. Magritte moves to Perreux-sur-Marne, near Paris (where he remains until 1930) and joins the Surrealist milieu.

October. The only issue of La Révolution Surréaliste published during the year contains the French translation of "Hands Off Love," a defense of Charlie Chaplin that had appeared in the September issue of Transition; protests official recognition of Rimbaud; reproduces for the first time cadavre exquis drawings. The issue also contains the conclusion of Breton's study, "Le Surréalisme et la peinture."

CANNES

Picasso begins sculpturally shading his biomorphic forms; first use of the Minotaur motif.

[COLOGNE]

Baargeld is killed in an avalanche while climbing in the Alps.

MUNICH

Hugo Ball publishes Die Flucht aus der Zeit, his diary of the Dada period.

BRUSSELS

First one-man show of Magritte, who had been able to devote himself entirely to painting the previous year thanks to the gallery's aid.

MADRID

Dali, having become interested in Surrealism largely through its publications, begins to work in a new and Surrealist-influenced manner.

LONDON

Two "Sound Poems" by Schwitters published in Ray no. 2.

1929

PARIS

April. Georges Bataille founds the review Documents; Desnos, Leiris, and Prévert collaborate. Concerned with painting of
all epochs, ethnography and archaeology, it anticipates the character of the later Minotauire. Picasso, Léger, Miró, Arp, Masson, Braque, Brancusi, Klee, Giacometti, and Lipchitz are among the contemporary artists whose work is represented.

Man Ray makes film Les Mystères du Château de Dé at the home of the vicomte de Noailles.

Miró drifts from the Surrealist milieu but does not break with Breton; makes "imaginary" portraits, highly abstract collages with sandpaper.

Giacometti officially joins the Surrealist circle.

Picasso makes his "bone" paintings.

Masson disengages from the Surrealist movement, dubs himself "dissident" Surrealist.

Ernst's collage-novel, La Femme 100 Têtes, published.

Autumn. Dali moves to Paris; he, Buñuel, and René Char join the Surrealists.


December. In the last issue of La Révolution Surréaliste, Breton publishes the "Second Manifeste du surréalisme," calling it a "recall to principles," a "purification of Surrealism." The list of Surrealist "precursors" is drastically revised: Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Poe, and de Sade are rejected; fourteen-century alchemists such as Nicolas Flamel are celebrated. Automatism is not mentioned. Former Surrealists Artaud, Vitrac, Limbour, Masson, and Soupault are castigated.

Brussels


1930

Paris

Under the title Un Cadavre (which had earlier served for the Surrealist attack on Anatole France), dissident Surrealists violently attack Breton; Leiris, Queneau, Desnos, and Prévert are joined by independents Bataille and Ribemont-Dessaignes. Breton is described as a "flic" (cop), "false curé," "false friend," "false Revolutionary," "false Communist." In a new publication of the second manifesto, Breton interpolates a reply to these attacks.

Breton finds activity in a Communist cell (Gasworks) incompatible with Surrealism, searches for a formula of co-operation between the two movements.


Ernst begins new collage and painting series, "Loplop présente"; second collage-novel published, Rêve d'une petite fille qui veut entrer au Carmel.

After false starts in 1929, Arp makes first small sculptures in the round; begins "torn papers." Joins Seuphor's Circle and Square group, as does Schwitters.

July. First issue of Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution, a new review succeeding La Révolution Surréaliste, which is founded under the direction of Breton; includes a statement of solidarity with Breton signed by, among others. Aragon, Buñuel, Dali, Eluard, Ernst, Péret, Tanguy, and Tzara.

November 28–December 3. L'Age d'Or, film made by Buñuel and Dali, is shown at Studio 28. After a few showings it provokes a violent rightist riot, ink is thrown at the screen, seats are destroyed, and the Surrealist paintings exhibited in the entrance hall (Dali, Ernst, Miró, Tanguy) are damaged and destroyed. The film is banned by the police.

Victor Brauner arrives from Bucharest.

Kharkov

Aragon attends the Second International Congress of Revolutionary Writers; delivers a mea culpa denouncing many Surrealist views, signs a letter to the International Writers' Union which attacks the second Surrealist manifesto, idealism, and Freudianism and Trotskyism as forms of idealism, and pro-
claims acceptance of Communist discipline. Writes the poem *Front rouge* (Red Front), returns to France a Communist convert but does not break with Surrealism.

1931

**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

November. Wadsworth Atheneum. *Newer Super-Realism.* First important Surrealist exhibition in the United States; 50 works, including de Chirico, Dalí, Ernst, Masson, Miró, Picasso.

**PARIS**

Arp and Giacometti are in close contact.

December. *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution* publishes Dalí’s “Objets à fonctionnement symbolique,” and his “Visage paranoïaque,” the first of a series of “double images” he will produce through the 1930s. Issue also reproduces one of Clovis Trouille’s anticlerical pictures.

1932

**NEW YORK**


**PARIS**

January. As a result of the publication of his *Front rouge* (Red Front), Aragon is charged by the government with provoking military disobedience and inciting to murder. Breton and others circulate a petition that is signed by some 300 intellectuals; Gide and Romain Rolland are among those who refuse to sign, maintaining that true revolutionaries bear the responsibility for their work, whatever the risks. Breton publishes a tract intended to be a defense of Aragon, which Aragon, however, disavows. In March, Aragon formally breaks with the Surrealists, who publish a pamphlet criticizing him.

Breton publishes *Les Vases communicants,* in which he attempts to prove that there is no contradiction between Marx and Freud.

Giacometti has first one-man show at the Galerie Pierre Colle. Arp joins “abstraction-création” group.

Picasso makes drawings after Grünewald’s Isenheim Crucifixion.

1933

**HANOVER**

Schwitters publishes last issue of *Merz* (no. 24), which contains “Ursonate”; joins “abstraction-création” group.

**PARIS**

May. The last issue of *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution* marks the temporary end of official Surrealist reviews. The review *Minotaure* is founded under the direction of Albert Skira and E. Tériade. With no. 3-4 (December) it becomes a preponderantly Surrealist-oriented publication. The main collaborators are Breton, Dalí, Eluard, Maurice Heine, Pierre Mabile, and Péret.

For refusing to condemn a letter he had published in *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution* in which Ferdinand Alquié criticized the Russian film *The Road to Life,* Breton is expelled from the newly founded Association des Écrivains et Artistes Révolutionnaires.

Publication of Marcel Raymond’s *De Baudelaire au surréalisme.*

Victor Brauner is introduced to the Surrealists by Tanguy.

June 7–18. Galerie Pierre Colle. *Exposition Surréaliste.* Works by Duchamp, Ernst, Eluard, Giacometti, Marcel Jean, Dalí, Magritte, Miró, Picasso, Man Ray, Tanguy, and others. Dalí proposes a catalogue preface (used immediately afterward for his one-man show at the same gallery, June 19–29) which contemptuously dismisses Cézanne as “un peintre très sale” and praises Meissonier.

Masson paints the décor for *Les Présages* (Ballets Russe de Monte Carlo), his first work for the theater.

Surrealist group show at the Salon des Surindépendants includes Arp, Brauner, Dalí, Ernst, Giacometti, Valentine Hugo, Magritte, Miró, Oppenheim, Man Ray, Tanguy, Trouille. Kandinsky, recently arrived in Paris, participates as guest of honor.

December. Trial of Violette Nozières, who murdered her parents, is commemorated by the Surrealists in a booklet of
1933–1935

poems and drawings by Arp, Brauner, Breton, Dali, Eluard, etc., cover by Man Ray, published by Editions Nicolas Flamel.

NORWAY

Schwitters moves temporarily to Norway, where he spends increasing amounts of time.

1934

NEW YORK

November. Dali makes first trip to the United States.


PITTSBURGH

Dali’s painting Enigmatic Elements in a Landscape awarded honorable mention at the Carnegie International.

PARIS

January. Dali is officially censured by the Surrealists for his interest in Nazism and his Hitlerian fantasies, but continues to participate in the Surrealists’ exhibitions.

Breton publishes (in Brussels) Qu’est-ce que le surréalisme?, illustrated by Magritte.

Publication of Petite Anthologie poétique du surréalisme, with important critical introduction by Georges Hugnet.

Ernst spends summer with Giacometti in Maloja (Switzerland), begins relief sculpture on stones; returns to Paris and during the winter months makes plasters of major pieces.

Publishes his third collage novel, Une Semaine de bonté.

Matta begins to study architecture in the office of Le Corbusier.

Toward the end of the year Oscar Dominguez joins the Surrealists.


Minotaure (no. 6) publishes photographs of Hans Bellmer’s first poupée in various arrangements.

SPAIN

Masson lives in Catalonian fishing village.

1935

NEW YORK


Masson has exhibition at Pierre Matisse Gallery.

Arshile Gorky joins the WPA Federal Art Project and begins work on murals for Newark Airport.


Publication of James Thrall Soby, After Picasso, first American book primarily devoted to Surrealism.

PARIS

June. A week before the opening of the Congrès des Ecrivains pour la Défense de la Culture, an international congress of writers that aims at furthering Franco-Soviet cultural relations, Breton slaps Ilya Ehrenburg for having published remarks hostile to Surrealism. As a result Breton is not permitted to address the congress, which leads to Crevel’s suicide. In the Bulletin International du Surréalisme published in August in Brussels the Surrealists denounce both the congress and the Soviet Union.

Breton creates first “poem-objects,” compositions in which he combines poetry and the plastic arts.

Picasso abandons himself to writing poetry; his first poems are Surrealist in character and derive from the technique of automatic writing.

Giacometti returns to painting and to working from the model. He is officially expelled from the Surrealist group; later he disowns his early work.

Duchamp’s Rotoreliefs are published; he presents them at the Concours Lépine, an annual show for inventors.
Wolfgang Paalen joins the Surrealists.

Dominguez discovers the technique of decalcomania.

**LONDON**
David Gascoyne publishes *A Short Survey of Surrealism*, the first book in English devoted entirely to Surrealism.

1936

**NEW YORK**
Duchamp repairs the *Large Glass*.


**PARIS**
May 22–29. Galerie Charles Ratton. *Exposition Surréaliste d'Objets*. In addition to Surrealist objects, exhibition includes natural objects, interpreted natural objects, perturbed objects, found objects, mathematical objects, Readymades, etc. Special issue of *Cahiers d'Art* on the object includes an essay by Breton, "Crise de l'objet" (The Crisis of the Object).

June. *Minotaure* (no. 8) publishes decalcomanias by Breton, Dominguez, Hugnet, Marcel Jean, and Yves Tanguy.

Surrealists attack the Moscow trials.

**BRUSSELS**
Paul Delvaux is introduced to the work of de Chirico, Dali, and Magritte by E.L.T. Mesens and Claude Spaak; associates with Belgian Surrealists; evolves mature style.

**LONDON**
June 11–July 4. New Burlington Galleries. *International Surrealist Exhibition*. Catalogue text by Breton, introduction by Herbert Read, exhibition includes some 60 artists from 14 nations; in addition to the official Surrealist artists, exhibition also includes works by Brancusi, Klee, Picasso, Henry Moore; in addition to Surrealist objects, there are Oceanic objects, African and American objects, photographs of objects from the British Museum, familiar objects, found objects, natural objects interpreted; children's drawings.

Publication of *Surrealism*, edited and with an introduction by Herbert Read, with contributions by Breton, Eluard, Hugnet.

1937

**PARIS**
Masson returns from Spain, reconciles with Breton, and participates in Surrealist reviews.

Breton opens Galerie Gradiva, a Surrealist gallery on the Rue de Seine, named after the heroine in a story by the German writer Wilhelm Jensen, which had been analyzed by Freud. The glass door, cut out in the silhouette of a couple, is by Duchamp.

Breton publishes *L'Amour fou*.

Miró briefly returns to painting in a realistic vein.

September 22–26. Performance of Alfred Jarry's *Ubu enchaine* by the company of Sylvain Itkine at the Comédie des Champs-Elysées. Sets by Max Ernst; program pays homage to Jarry with a series of Surrealist texts and illustrations by Magritte, Miró, Paalen, Picasso.

Paalen invents the technique of *fumage*, in which patterns are achieved by passing a candle flame swiftly across a freshly painted surface.

Esteban Francés and Kurt Seligmann join the Surrealist circle.

Matta makes first drawings; joins the Surrealists. Meets Gordon Onslow-Ford who is so impressed with Matta’s drawings that he decides to become a painter.

Antonin Artaud institutionalized.

December. Breton takes over editorial direction of *Minotaure*.

**NORWAY**
Schwitters settles outside Oslo; begins work on second *Merzbau* (destroyed February 1951).

1938

**MEXICO**
February. Breton, on a lecture tour, stays at the house of Diego Rivera where he meets Rivera’s other guest, Leon Trotsky.
July. Breton and Trotsky collaborate on the manifesto *Pour un art révolutionnaire indépendant* (Toward an Independent Revolutionary Art), although at Trotsky’s request Rivera’s signature replaces his own.

**PARIS**


Publication of the complete works of Lautréamont, illustrated by Brauner, Dominguex, Ernst, Magritte, Man Ray, Masson, Matta, Miró, Paalen, Seligmann, Tanguy.

Gordon Onslow-Ford joins the Surrealists.

Matta begins his first oils, a series of “psychological morphologies,” or “Inscapes.”

Bellmer arrives from Berlin; forms friendship with Eluard and Tanguy, in contact with Arp, Breton, Duchamp, Ernst, Man Ray.

Cuban-born Wifredo Lam arrives after living in Spain for 14 years, becomes close friends with Picasso and Dominguex, has exhibition at the Galerie Pierre.

August. Breton returns from Mexico, breaks permanently with Eluard over Stalinism. Ernst leaves the Surrealist group on behalf of Eluard, Hugnet is expelled.

**LONDON**


**1939**

**NEW YORK**

Wifredo Lam paintings shown at the Perls Gallery.

March 15–16. Dalí creates two display windows for Bonwit Teller called *Day (Narcissus)* and *Night (Sleep)*. The store alters one, and in the agitation that follows as Dalí struggles with a fur-lined bathtub, he crashes through the plate-glass window.

June. Opening at the World’s Fair of Dalí’s *Dream of Venus*, a Surrealist exhibit in which “liquid ladies” float through the water against a background of ruined Pompeii among an undulating piano, an exploding giraffe, botanical typewriters, etc., occasionally milking a cow, while Venus lies on a couch thirty-six feet long dreaming the dreams of all mankind. The “Rainy Taxi” of the 1938 Paris exhibition is re-created.

Matta arrives.

November. Tanguy arrives, joins Kay Sage.


**MEXICO**

September. Paalen arrives.

**FRANCE**

Breton and Péret drafted as war breaks out. Breton assumes a medical post with a pilots school at Poitiers.

Onslow-Ford invents coulage.

September. Still a German citizen, Ernst is interned as an enemy alien. At a concentration camp in Les Milles (near Aix-en-Provence), with Bellmer, he experiments with decalcomania. He is liberated at Christmas as a result of Eluard’s efforts. At his studio in St.-Martin-d’Ardeche he uses the technique of decalcomania to begin some large canvases.

**LONDON**

July 19. Dalí, brought to visit Freud by Stefan Zweig, makes a sketch of Freud and maintains that Freud’s cranium is reminiscent of a snail. The next day Freud writes to Zweig: “... until now I have been inclined to regard the Surrealists, who have apparently adopted me as their patron saint, as complete fools... That young Spaniard, with his candid fanatical eyes and his undeniable technical mastery, has changed my estimate. It would indeed be very interesting to investigate analytically how he came to create that picture.”
1940

NEW YORK

August. Man Ray arrives, then drives crosscountry to settle in California.
Tanguy and Kay Sage marry.

September. Publication of the first issue of the magazine View, founded by Charles Henri Ford.

MEXICO CITY

FRANCE
January. Miró at Varengeville-sur-Mer; begins a series of gouaches known collectively as "Constellations." At the fall of France returns to Spain, settles in Palma (Majorca).
Arp flees to Grasse.

August. Breton, demobilized, proceeds to Marseilles where he, among many others, is given refuge by the American Committee of Aid to Intellectuals, directed by Varian Fry. Daily meetings of numerous Surrealists, among them Masson, Lam, and Ernst who arrives after having been released from reininternment.

SWITZERLAND
Brauner takes refuge in an Alpine village, where he remains till the end of the war; devises a new encaustic method to compensate for shortage of painting material.

NORWAY
April. Schwitters flees north after German invasion.

SCOTLAND
June. Schwitters arrives with his son, is interned in various camps for the next 17 months but continues to work intensively.

1941

MARTINIQUE
Breton, Lam, Masson, and Claude Lévi-Strauss arrive on a refugee ship. Lam goes on to Santo Domingo, the others to New York.

NEW YORK
July. Ernst arrives in New York via Lisbon. At the end of the year marries Peggy Guggenheim.
Breton breaks again with Dali, dubs him "Avida Dollars."

Paris
Picasso writes Surrealist play, Desire Caught by the Tail.

LONDON
Schwitters is released from internment, settles in London, earns his living painting portraits.

1942

NEW YORK

April. Special issue of View dedicated to Max Ernst.

Ernst develops technique of "oscillation."
May. Special issue of View dedicated to Yves Tanguy.

June. Publication of first issue of VVV, a Surrealist-oriented review founded and edited by David Hare, with Breton and Ernst as editorial advisers. Cover by Ernst, introductory note by Lionel Abel, “It is Time To Pick the Iron Rose”; articles by Breton (“Prolegomena to a Third Manifesto of Surrealism or Else”), Kiesler, Lévi-Strauss, Motherwell, Harold Rosenberg.

Dali publishes his autobiography, The Secret Life of Salvador Dali.

The Motherwells, Baziotes, and Pollocks make “automatic” poems.

October 14–November 7. 451 Madison Avenue. First Papers of Surrealism. Exhibition sponsored by the Coordinating Council of French Relief Societies. Twine webbing installation by Duchamp; participants include Arp, Bellmer, Brauner, Calder, Chagall, Duchamp, Ernst, Francés, Giacometti, Frida Kahlo, Kiesler, Klee, Lam, Matta, Magritte, Miró, Masson, Moore, Richard Oelze, Onslow-Ford, Picasso, Seligmann, and Tanguy. Motherwell, Hare, Baziotes, Jimmy Ernst are among the young Americans shown.

October. Peggy Guggenheim opens her gallery Art of This Century, designed by Frederick Kiesler, which serves as a museum for her private collection and a gallery for temporary exhibitions.

NEW HAVEN

December 10. Breton gives a lecture, Situation du surréalisme entre les deux guerres, to the students at Yale University (published in VVV, March 1943).

SWITZERLAND

Arp and his wife Sophie Taeuber take refuge from the war.

1943

NEW YORK


Baziotes, Motherwell, and Pollock invited to participate in a collage exhibition at Art of This Century.

1944

NEW YORK

February. Last issue of VVV. Cover by Matta; also includes reproduction of Duchamp’s George Washington, a collage of painted gauze, gold stars, and blue paper, which was commissioned by Vogue for a July 4 cover but not used.

Arshile Gorky meets Breton, with whom he forms a warm friendship despite the fact that neither man speaks the other’s language.

Hans Richter begins to make the film Dreams That Money Can Buy, to which Alexander Calder, Duchamp, Ernst, Fernand Léger, and Man Ray contribute.

Ernst spends summer on Long Island working primarily on sculpture.

October 5–21. Art of This Century. Paintings and Drawings by Baziotes. First one-man exhibition.


November. Publication of Sidney Janis, Abstract & Surrealist Art in America.

NEW YORK


March. Special issue of View devoted to Duchamp, includes...
articles by Breton, James Thrall Soby, Harriet and Sidney Janis, Robert Desnos, Gabrielle Buffet.

Publication of second, enlarged edition of Breton’s *Le Sur-réalisme et la peinture*.

UNITED STATES
Summer. Breton makes a long journey through the West where he visits ghost cities of the Gold Rush period, observes rites on Hopi and Zuni Indian reservations in New Mexico and Arizona.

HAITI
December. Breton arrives for a lecture tour during which he meets Wifredo Lam. Through Mabille, now the French cultural attaché, he witnesses voodoo ceremonies.

PARIS
Brauner returns; accidentally settles in the same building in which Henri Rousseau had had his studio.
November. Masson returns.

ENGLAND
Schwitters settles in the Lake District, near Ambleside (Westmorland), where, helped by a grant from The Museum of Modern Art, New York, he begins his third *Merzbau*, at Cylinders Farm, Little Langdale.

1946
NEW YORK
January 2-19. Kootz Gallery. *Robert Motherwell: Paintings, Collages, Drawings*. First exhibition at the gallery with which he will have a long association.

January. A fire in Gorky’s studio in an old barn in Sherman, Connecticut, destroys about 27 paintings, including 15 canvases painted during the previous year, which were to have been exhibited in April.

February. Gorky undergoes operation for cancer.


February 12–March 2. Samuel M. Kootz Gallery. *William Baziotes*. First exhibition at gallery with which he will have a long association.

April 1–20. Mortimer Brandt Gallery (Contemporary Section directed by Betty Parsons). *Paintings by Stamos*.

April 22–May 4. Mortimer Brandt Gallery (Contemporary Section). *Mark Rothko: Exhibition of Watercolors*.

Late in the year Pollock begins to paint his all-over “drip” canvases.

HAITI
January. Breton’s first lecture on Surrealism leads to a general strike and four days of rioting, which oblige the dictator-president to flee the country.

PARIS
Spring. Breton returns; finds an atmosphere hostile to Surrealism, in which men of the Resistance are the heroes and leaders.

Artaud is released from sanatorium. His return is celebrated at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt; speech by Breton.

Publication by Galerie Louise Leiris (and Curt Valentin in New York) of *Bestiaire*, introductory text by Georges Duthuit, 12 lithographs and 10 drawings by Masson.


1947
NEW YORK
February. Miró arrives in the United States to paint a mural commissioned for the Gourmet Restaurant of the Terrace Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati; works on the mural in a studio on East 119th Street.

Spring. Peggy Guggenheim closes Art of This Century and returns to Europe.

October. Miró's finished mural exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art.

Publication of Anna Balakian, Literary Origins of Surrealism.

CHICAGO

PARIS
April. In a lecture at the Sorbonne entitled Le Surréalisme et l'après-guerre, Tzara condemns Surrealism in the name of art engagé and rallies his audience to Communism. The lecture is violently interrupted by Breton who leads members of the audience out of the hall.

May. In an article in Les Temps Modernes, Jean-Paul Sartre declares that Surrealist revolt is basically abstract, metaphysical, and ineffective, and that the Surrealists were incapable of action when the moment came.

June. Publication of Rupture inaugurale, a collective declaration in which the Surrealists answer Sartre's charges.

July-August. Galerie Maeght. Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme. Last major group show of the movement, organized by Breton and Duchamp, installation supervised by Kiesler. Catalogue, Le Surréalisme en 1947, lists 87 artists representing 24 countries, among whom are Arp, Bellmer, Brauner, Calder, Enrico Donati, Duchamp, Ernst, Giacometti, Gorky, Jacques Hérod, Kiesler, Lam, Matta, Miró, Isamu Noguchi, Penrose, Picabia, Man Ray, Richier, Riopelle, Kay Sage, Serpan, Tanguy. Among the unrealized plans: the exhibition of "surrealists despite themselves," which would have included work by Arcimboldo, Blake, Bosch, Henri Rousseau, and of "those who have ceased to gravitate in the movement's orbit," such as Dali, Dominguez, Masson, Picasso.
Selected Bibliography

This bibliography has been compiled with the needs of the student in mind, and what might be available in general libraries. The first section consists of a number of bibliographies for the use of the more specialized reader.

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   For English translation, see bibl. 3.

   Includes a bio-bibliography.
   See also bibl. 58, 60.

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   See also bibl. 5, 14, 58, 61, 91, 108.

   See also bibl. 30, 81.

11 Lippard, Lucy R. See bibl. 18.


   See also bibl. 74, 117.

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See also bibl. 14, 59, 91, 153.


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18 Artforum (Los Angeles), September 1966.


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**IV EXHIBITION CATALOGUES**
(not including individual artists)
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70 *Rongwrong* (New York), 1917.
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71 *Die Schamamade* (Cologne), February 1920.
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72 *Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution* (Paris), 1930–1933.
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86 New York. [Coordinating Council of French Relief Societies.] *First Papers of Surrealism.* October 14–November 7, 1942.
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170 Poèmes et dessins de la fille née sans mère. Lausanne: Imprimeries Réunis, 1918.


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192 Alloway, Lawrence. “The Biomorphic Forties,” Artforum (Los Angeles), September 1965, pp. 18–22. See also bibl. 198.
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Kunstmuseum, Basel; Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen, Berlin; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; The Art Institute of Chicago; Kunstmuseum, Düsseldorf; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford; Prentenkabinet, Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden, The Netherlands; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam; City Art Museum of Saint Louis; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Graphische Sammlung, Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart; New Jersey State Museum, Trenton; Kunstgewerbemuseum, Zurich; Kunsthau, Zurich

Dimensions are given in feet and inches, height preceding width. A date is enclosed in parentheses when it does not appear on the work of art. The notation (NY), (LA), or (C) indicates that the respective works will be shown only in New York, Los Angeles, or Chicago.


2. **Arman (Fernandez)**. French, born Nice, 1928; lives in Nice and New York
   - **Fortune Smiles on the Daring Ones.** (1962). Threads in wooden box, 40 1/8 x 31 1/8 inches. Collection Dr. R. Matthys-Colle, Ghent, Belgium. Ill. p. 149

4. **Arneson, Robert.** American, born Benicia, California, 1930; lives in Davis, California

5. **Arp, Jean (Hans).** French, born Strasbourg, 1887; died Basel, 1966


10. **Stable Head.** (1926). Painted wood, 24 inches high. Collection P. Janlet, Brussels. Ill. p. 120


12. **Bell and Navels.** (1931). Painted wood, 16 inches high x 19 5/8 inches diameter at base. Estate of the artist. Ill. p. 120

13. **Relief After Torn Papers.** (1933). Painted plaster, 10 1/4 x 17 5/8 inches. Private collection


15. **According to the Laws of Chance (Periods and Commas).** (1943). Painted wood relief, 43 1/4 x 55 1/8 inches. Kunstmuseum, Basel, Depositum der Emanuel Hoffmann-Stiftung


17. **Proletmy.** (1953). Bronze, 40 1/2 inches high x 20 7/8 inches wide x 16 1/8 inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. William Mazer, New York. Ill. p. 122

Baader, Johannes. German, born Stuttgart, 1876; died in Bavaria, 1955


Baargeld (Alfred Grünewald). German, born Cologne; died in the Tirol, 1927

21 *The Human Eye and a Fish, the Latter Petrified.* 1920. Pen and ink with collage, 12 1/4 x 9 3/8 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Purchase. III. p. 49


23 *Mirror Figure.* (1948). Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Gordon B. Washburn, New York

Bellmer, Hans. German, born Katowice, Poland, 1902; lives in Paris


Biasi, Guido. Italian, born Naples, 1933; lives in Paris


Brauner, Victor. Romanian, born Piatra-Neamt, 1903; died Paris, 1966


30 *Object Which Dreams.* 1938. Oil on canvas, 31 x 25 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois. Ill. p. 136


32 *Prelude to a Civilization.* 1954. Encaustic, 51 1/4 x 76 3/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Gelman, Mexico City. Ill. p. 137

Breton, André. French, born Tinchebray (Orne), 1896; died Paris, 1966

33 *Decalcomania.* (1936). Gouache, 10 x 13 inches. Collection Marcel Jean, Paris

34 *For Jacqueline.* 1937. Collage of pasted paper, metal, ribbon, and a leaf, 15 1/4 x 12 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 100


35 *Eiffel Tower.* (1943). Painted metal and wire, 40 inches high x 17 inches wide x 6 5/8 inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Lang, Beverly Hills, California

Carter, Clarence. American, born Portsmouth, Ohio, 1904; lives in Milford, New Jersey


De Chirico, Giorgio. Italian, born Volo, Greece, 1888; lives in Rome

38 The Mystery and Melancholy of a Street. 1914. Oil on canvas, 34 1/4 x 28 1/8 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 78
39 The Philosopher's Conquest. (1914). Oil on canvas, 49 1/2 x 39 1/4 inches. The Art Institute of Chicago, the Joseph Winterbotham Collection. Ill. p. 78
40 The Song of Love. (1914). Oil on canvas, 28 3/4 x 23 1/2 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 77
41 The Span of Black Ladders. (1914). Oil on canvas, 24 1/4 x 18 3/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. James W. Alsdorf, Winnetka, Illinois. Ill. p. 77
43 The Jewish Angel. 1916. Oil on canvas, 26 1/2 x 17 1/4 inches. Penrose Collection, London. Ill. p. 81

CHRISTO (Javacheff). Bulgarian, born Gabrovo, 1935; lives in New York
45 Package on Wheelbarrow. 1963. Cloth, rope, wood, and metal, 35 inches high x 60 inches long x 23 inches wide. Collection the artist, New York. Ill. p. 32

CITROEN, Paul. Dutch, born Berlin, 1896; lives in Amsterdam

COHEN, George. American, born Chicago, 1919; lives in Evanston, Illinois
48 Hermes. (1957). Oil, cloth, and sandpaper on canvas, 46 x 36 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois. Ill. p. 182

COPELEY, William N. American, born New York, 1919; lives in New York

CORNELL, Joseph. American, born New York, 1903; lives in Flushing, New York

DALI, Salvador. Spanish, born Figueras, 1904; lives in Cadaqués and New York
59 The Great Masturbator. 1929. Oil on canvas, 43 3/8 x 59 1/4 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 110
60 Illumined Pleasures. (1929). Oil on composition board with collage, $9\frac{3}{4}\times 13\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Sidney and Harriet Janis Collection. (NY). Ill. p. 109

61 Imperial Monument to the Child-Woman (unfinished). (c. 1929). Oil on canvas, 56 x 32 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 112

62 The Lugubrious Game. 1929. Oil on wood with collage, 18\frac{3}{4}\times 15$ inches. Private collection. (NY). Ill. p. 108

63 The Invisible Man. (1929–1933). Oil on canvas, 54\frac{7}{8}\times 31$ inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 112

64 The Persistence of Memory. 1931. Oil on canvas, 9\frac{1}{2}\times 13$ inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Given anonymously. (LA, C). Ill. p. 111

65 The Specter of Sex Appeal. 1934. Oil on wood, 7\times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 113

66 Six Objects (all that is left of a tray of objects). (1936). Erotic group, 23\frac{3}{4}\times 23\frac{1}{4}$ inches; paperweight, 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter; stone foot, 9\frac{1}{8}$ inches long; foil-covered gloves, 7\frac{1}{8}$ inches long; plaster foot, 10\frac{5}{8}$ inches long; cardboard matchbook, 2 inches long. Collection Charles Ratton, Paris. Ill. of original work p. 143


68 Pygmalion. 1939. Oil on wood, 53\frac{7}{8}\times 65$ inches. Yannick Bruynoghe-Galerie Maya, Brussels. Ill. p. 138

69 Hands. 1941. Oil on canvas, 43\frac{1}{4}\times 51\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Collection Richard S. Zeisler, New York. Ill. p. 138

70 Le Train Bleu. 1946. Oil on canvas, 48\times 96\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Collection Joachim Jean Aberbach, Sands Point, New York. Ill. p. 138

DIX, Otto. German, born Unterhaus (near Gera), 1891; lives in Boden See

71 Dada Self-Portrait. (1920). Chinese ink on cardboard, 9\frac{5}{8}\times 12\frac{1}{8}$ inches. Collection Adolf Dörries, Braunschweig, Germany

DOMINGUEZ, Oscar. Spanish, born Tenerife (Canary Islands), 1906; died Paris, 1957

72 Conversion of Energy (Le Tireur). (1935). Painted plaster, objects, and glass, 18\frac{7}{8}\times 12\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Collection Charles Ratton, Paris. Ill. p. 146

73 Ouverture. (1936). Zinc, with sardine can keys and alarm clock, 6 inches high \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. Collection Marcel Jean, Paris

74 Decalcomania. (1937). Gouache, 6\frac{1}{8}\times 8\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Given anonymously. Ill. p. 139

DUBUFFET, Jean. French, born Le Havre, 1901; lives in Paris

75 The Magician. 1954. Slag and roots, 43\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Collection N. Richard Miller, Philadelphia. (NY)

DUCHAMP, Marcel. American, born Blainville (Seine-Maritime), France, 1887; lives in New York

76 The Bride. 1912. Oil on canvas, 35\frac{3}{8}\times 21\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection. (NY, C). Ill. p. 14

77 The Passage from Virgin to Bride. 1912. Oil on canvas, 23\frac{3}{4}\times 21\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Purchase. Ill. p. 13

78 Bicycle Wheel. (Original 1913, lost; replica 1964). Bicycle wheel on wooden stool, 49\frac{7}{8}$ inches high. Galleria Schwarz, Milan. Ill. of different replica p. 15

79 Chocolate Grinder, No. 1. 1913. Oil on canvas, 24\frac{3}{8}\times 25\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Louise and Walter Arensberg Collection. (NY, C). Ill. p. 14

80 Bottlerack. (Original 1914, lost; replica 1964). Galvanized iron, 25 inches high \times 17$ inches diameter. Galleria Schwarz, Milan. Ill. of original p. 16

81 Nine Malic Molds. (1914–1915). Oil, lead wire, and foil on glass, 26\times 41$ inches. Collection Mrs. Marcel Duchamp, New York. (NY). Ill. p. 20

82 The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even (the Large Glass). (Original 1915–1923; replica 1966). Oil, lead wire, and foil, dust and varnish on glass, 8 feet 11 inches \times 8 feet 7 inches. Private collection. Ill. of original p. 18
83 **Traveler’s Folding Item.** (1917; replica 1964). Typewriter cover, 9 inches high x 12 inches wide x 12 inches deep. Galleria Schwarz, Milan.

84 **Tu m’estimerais.** 1918. Oil and graphite on canvas, with bottle-washing brush, safety pins, nut and bolt, 27 1/2 inches x 10 feet 2 3/4 inches. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Bequest of Katherine S. Dreier. (NY). Ill. p. 20


86 **Rotary Glass Plate (Precision Optics).** (1920). Motorized construction; painted glass and metal, 73 inches high x 48 inches wide x 40 inches deep. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Collection Société Anonyme. (NY). Ill. p. 21

87 **Why Not Sneeze?** (Original 1921; replica 1964). Painted metal cage, marble cubes, thermometer, and cuttlebone, 47 7/8 inches high x 83 7/4 inches wide x 63 7/8 inches deep. Galleria Schwarz, Milan. Ill. of different replica p. 16

88 **Rotoreliefs (Optical Disks).** (1935). Six cardboard disks printed on both sides, each 7 7/8 inches diameter. Private collection. Ill. of one disk from a different set p. 21

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**ERNST, Max.** French, born Brühl (near Cologne), Germany, 1891; lives in Huismes (Indre-et-Loire), France.

89 **Bird.** (c. 1916–1920). Wood, 40 1/8 inches high x 83 3/4 inches wide x 11 7/8 inches deep. Private collection. Ill. p. 49

90 **Fruit of a Long Experience.** 1919. Painted wood and metal, 18 x 15 inches. Penrose Collection, London. Ill. p. 48

91 **Démonstration Hydrométrique à Tuer par la Température.** (1920). Collage of pasted papers, 9 1/2 x 63/4 inches. Galerie Jacques Tronche, Paris. Ill. p. 50

92 **Stratified Rocks.** (1920). Anatomical engraving altered with gouache and pencil, 6 x 83/8 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Purchase. Ill. p. 51

93 **The Elephant Celebes.** 1921. Oil on canvas, 49 1/4 x 42 inches. Penrose Collection, London. Ill. p. 84

94 **Free Balloon.** (c. 1922). Painted tile, 14 3/4 x 9 7/8 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 85

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96 **The Ego and His Own.** 1925. Pencil frottage, 10 1/4 x 7 7/8 inches. Collection Arman, Nice. Ill. p. 86

97 **Stallion.** (c. 1925). Pencil frottage, 12 x 10 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois. Ill. p. 86

98 **To 100,000 Doves.** (1925). Oil on canvas, 32 x 39 1/2 inches. Collection Mme Simone Collinet, Paris. Ill. p. 87


100 **Forest.** (1927). Oil on canvas, 44 7/8 x 57 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slifka, New York. (LA, C). Ill. p. 88


104 **Loplop Introduces.** 1932. Pasted papers, watercolor, pencil frottage, and photograph, 19 3/4 x 25 5/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 131

105 **The Blind Swimmer.** 1934. Oil on canvas, 36 3/4 x 28 7/8 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 130


107 **Landscape with Tactile Effects.** (1934–1935). Oil on canvas, 39 3/8 x 33 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson Sweeney, Houston. (NY). Ill. p. 129


109 **Landscape with Grain of Wheat.** (1935). Oil on canvas, 25 5/8 x 31 7/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slifka, New York. (LA, C)

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Europe After the Rain. 1940–1942. Oil on canvas, 21 3/4 x 58 3/4 inches. Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, the Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection. Ill. p. 161


Vox Angelica. 1943. Oil on canvas, 60 1/8 x 80 1/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Julien Levy, Bridgewater, Connecticut. Ill. p. 161


Evola, Julius. Italian, born Rome, 1898; lives in Rome

Dada Landscape. (1920–1921). Oil on canvas, 38 3/4 x 29 7/8 inches. Collection Arturo Schwarz, Milan

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André Breton, Yves Tanguy, Max Morise, Marcel Duhamel. (1926). Colored pencil, 10 3/8 x 8 1/4 inches. Collection F. C. Graindorge, Liège

Man Ray, Yves Tanguy, Joan Miró, Max Morise. (1928). Pen and ink and crayon, 13 5/8 x 8 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 83


Francés, Esteban. American, born Port-Bou, Spain, 1914; lives in New York and Mallorca


giacometti, Alberto. Swiss, born Stampa, 1901; died Chur, 1966


giacometti, Augusto. Swiss, born Stampa, 1877; died Zurich, 1947


Painting. 1920. Oil on canvas, 41 3/8 x 41 3/8 inches. Collection Dr. G. Schaufelberger, Würenlos, Switzerland. Ill. p. 38
GORKY, Arshile. American, born Khorkom Vart Haitoyt Dzor, Armenia, 1904; died Sherman, Connecticut, 1948

134 Drawing. 1943. Pencil and crayon, 18 1/2 x 23 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Propp, New York. (NY, LA)

135 Landscape. 1943. Pencil and crayon, 20 1/4 x 27 5/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bareiss, Munich. Ill. p. 173


137 The Liver Is the Cock's Comb. 1944. Oil on canvas, 6 feet 1 inch x 8 feet 2 1/2 inches. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo. (NY, C). Ill. p. 172

138 One Year the Milkweed. 1944. Oil on canvas, 37 x 47 1/4 inches. Collection Mrs. Agnes Gorky Phillips, London. Ill. p. 174

139 The Diary of a Seducer. 1945. Oil on canvas, 50 x 62 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. William A.M. Burden, New York. (NY). Ill. p. 175


142 The Rape of Persephone. (c. 1940−1941). Oil on canvas, 32 x 25 inches. Collection Mrs. Annalee Newman, New York

GROSZ, George. American, born Berlin, 1893; died Berlin, 1959


144 Oppositions. (c. 1917). Chinese ink on vellum, 23 1/4 x 18 1/4 inches. Graphische Sammlung, Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart

145 The Little Woman-Slayer. 1918. Oil on canvas, 26 x 26 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Feigen, New York

146 Remember Uncle August, the Unhappy Inventor. (1919). Oil on canvas, with cut-and-pasted magazine advertisements and buttons, 19 1/4 x 15 5/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Reis, New York. Ill. p. 46

147 Untitled. 1919. Watercolor, 19 1/4 x 13 5/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Feigen, New York. Ill. p. 46


148 Magician's Game. (1944). Bronze, 43 inches high x 33 inches long. Collection the artist, New York. Ill. p. 179

HÄUSMANN, Raoul. Austrian, born Vienna, 1886; lives in Limoges, France


HÖCH, Hannah. German, born Gotha, 1889; lives in Berlin


JANCO, Marcel. Israeli, born Bucharest, 1895; lives in Tel Aviv

152 Wood Relief. 1917. Wood (after a plaster original entitled White on White), 32 5/8 x 26 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 37


JEAN, Marcel. French, born La Charité-sur-Loire, 1900; lives in Paris

154 Decalcomania. 1936. Gouache, 19 1/8 x 13 inches. Collection the artist, Paris

156 Specter of the Gardenia. 1936. Plaster covered with cloth, zippers, and strip of film, 10\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches high. Collection the artist, Paris


Jenkins, Paul. American, born Kansas City, Missouri, 1923; lives in New York and Paris

158 Baptiste. 1954. Oil on canvas, 36 x 29 inches. Collection Mrs. Ruth Moskin Fineshriber, New York

Johns, Jasper. American, born Allendale, South Carolina, 1930; lives in New York

159 Target with Four Faces. (1955). Encaustic on newspaper over canvas, surmounted by four plaster casts, 29\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches high x 26 inches wide x 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches deep. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Scull. (LA, C)

160 Target with Plaster Casts. 1955. Encaustic and collage on canvas with plaster casts, 51 x 44 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York. (NY). Ill. p. 29

161 Light Bulb. (1960). Bronze, 4\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches high x 6 inches wide x 4 inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York. Ill. p. 21

Kienholz, Edward. American, born Fairfield, Washington, 1927; lives in Los Angeles


Kiesler, Frederick. American, born Vienna, 1896; died New York, 1965

163 Homage to Tanguy—Three-Plan-Plan (t). 1947. Gouache, wash, brush, pen and ink, 14\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 19\(\frac{7}{8}\) inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Kay Sage Tanguy Bequest


Klapheck, Konrad. German, born Düsseldorf, 1935; lives in Düsseldorf

165 Intriguing Woman. (1964). Oil on canvas, 39\(\frac{3}{8}\) x 43\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Julien Levy, Bridgewater, Connecticut. Ill. p. 185

Klein, Yves. French, born Nice, 1928; died Paris, 1962

166 Mark of Fire. 1961. Burned paper, 31\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 45\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Alexander Iolas Gallery, New York. Ill. p. 140

Lam, Wifredo. Cuban, born Sagua la Grande, 1902; lives in Savona, Italy

167 Eggue Orissi, l’Herbe des Dieux. 1944. Oil on canvas, 71\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 49 inches. The Reader’s Digest Association, Pleasantville, New York. Ill. p. 170

168 The Antillean Parade. 1945. Oil on canvas, 49\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 43\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Collection Joseph Cantor, Carmel, Indiana. Ill. p. 171

169 Fugue and Form. (1945). Oil on canvas, 56\(\frac{1}{4}\) x 47\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches. Collection Joseph Cantor, Carmel, Indiana

170 Song of the Osmosis. (1945). Oil on canvas, 49\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 62\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Joseph Cantor, Carmel, Indiana. Ill. p. 171

Lemaître, Maurice. French, born Paris, 1926; lives in Paris

171 Document on a Woman of My Life. 1966. Oil and pasted photographs on canvas, mounted on plywood, 44\(\frac{7}{8}\) x 63\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches. Collection the artist, Los Angeles. Ill. p. 55

Lipton, Seymour. American, born New York, 1923; lives in New York

172 Imprisoned Figure. (1948). Lead and wood, 6 feet 8 inches high. Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, Inc., New York. (NY). Ill. p. 117

Magritte, René. Belgian, born Lessines, 1898; died Brussels, 1967

173 The Conqueror. (1925). Oil on canvas, 25\(\frac{3}{8}\) x 29\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Eric Estorick, London. Ill. p. 90

174 Pleasure. (1926). Oil on canvas, 29\(\frac{1}{2}\) x 39\(\frac{3}{8}\) inches. Collection Gerrit Lansing, New York. Ill. p. 91

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175 The Reveries of a Solitary Promenader. (1926). Collage of pasted papers, 21/2 x 15¼ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois.


185 The Rope Dancer Accompanies Herself with Her Shadows. 1918. Airbrush, pen and ink, 13⅞ x 17⅛ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago. Ill. p. 32.


188 The Enigma of Isidore Ducasse. (Original 1920, no longer extant; replica 1967). Cloth and rope over sewing machine, 16 inches high x 18½ inches wide x 11½ inches deep. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Study Collection. Ill. of original p. 32.

189 Le Violon d’Ingres. 1921. Photograph, 19 x 14¾ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jacobs, New York.


194 Portrait of the Marquis de Sade. 1936. Pen and ink, 14 x 10 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois. Ill. p. 35.


196 Woman. 1925. Oil on canvas, 28½ x 23¼ inches. Collection Dr. and Mrs. Paul Larivière, Montreal. Ill. p. 73.

197 The Haunted Castle. (1927). Oil on canvas, 18½ x 15½ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Claude Asch, Strasbourg. Ill. p. 73.

198 Painting (Figure). (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, 18 x 10½ inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 74.

199 Two Death’s-Heads. (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, 5⅞ x 9⅞ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 74.

200 The Villagers. (1927). Oil and sand on canvas, 31½ x 25⅞ inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 75.

201 Celestial Couples. (1932). Ink and wash, 13 x 18½ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stella, New York.

Matta (Sebastian Antonio Matta Echaurren). Chilean, born Santiago, 1912; lives in Paris


213 Landscape. 1940. Pencil and crayon, 14 3/4 x 21 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 173

214 The Earth Is a Man. (1942). Oil on canvas, 6 feet 1/4 inch x 8 feet. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shapiro, Oak Park, Illinois. (NY, C). Ill. p. 167


216 The Onyx of Electra. (1944). Oil on canvas, 50 1/8 x 72 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 164

217 To Escape the Absolute. (1944). Oil on canvas, 38 x 50 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slifka, New York. Ill. p. 168

218 Xpace and the Ego. (1945). Oil on canvas, 6 feet 9 inches x 15 feet. Private collection. Ill. p. 169


Mesens, E. L. T. Belgian, born Brussels, 1903; lives in London


Michaux, Henri. French, born Namur, Belgium, 1899; lives in Paris

221 Head. (c. 1948). Watercolor, 18 x 12 inches. Collection Mrs. Ruth Moskin Fineshriber, New York


Miro, Joan. Spanish, born Montroig, 1893; lives in Palma de Mallorca

223 The Tilled Field. 1923-1924. Oil on canvas, 26 x 37 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clifford, Radnor, Pennsylvania. (NY). Ill. p. 66

224 Automaton. 1924. Pen and ink, 18 x 24 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago. Ill. p. 70


228 Man with a Pipe. 1925. Oil on canvas, 57 3/8 x 45 inches. Private collection. (NY). Ill. p. 70


232 **Circus Horse.** 1927. Oil on canvas, 6 feet 4 3/4 inches x 9 feet 2 1/4 inches. Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York. (LA, C)

233 **Landscape with Rooster.** 1927. Oil on burlap, 5 1/4 x 7 7/16 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. John Gilbert Dean, North Scituate, Rhode Island. Ill. p. 65

234 **Painting.** 1927. Oil on canvas, 38 1/4 x 51 1/4 inches. Private collection

235 **Spanish Dancer.** 1928. Pasted paper and charcoal, 40 3/8 x 28 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Richet, Paris. Ill. p. 71

236 **Spanish Dancer.** 1928. Collage of sandpaper, string, and nails, 41 1/4 x 26 1/4 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago. (C). Ill. p. 71

237 **Collage.** (1929). Ink and pasted papers, 28 9/8 x 41 inches. Collection P. G. Bruguière, Issy-les-Moulineaux, France


240 **Composition.** (1933). Conte crayon and pasted papers on pastel paper, 42 1/2 x 28 1/2 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bergman, Chicago. Ill. p. 131

241 **Snail Woman Flower Star.** (1934). Oil on canvas, 76 3/4 x 67 3/4 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 133

242 **Animated Forms.** (1935). Oil on canvas, 76 1/2 x 68 inches. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Estate of David E. Bright. Ill. p. 134

243 **Poetic Object.** (1936). Construction of hollowed wooden post, stuffed parrot on wooden stand, hat, and map, 31 7/8 inches high x 11 7/8 inches wide x 10 1/4 inches deep. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Matisse. Ill. p. 147

244 **Still Life with Old Shoe.** (1937). Oil on canvas, 32 x 46 inches. Collection James Thrall Soby, New Canaan, Connecticut. (NY)


246 **Acrobatic Dancers.** (1940). Gouache and oil wash on paper, 18 1/4 x 15 inches. Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, the Philip L. Goodwin Collection. Ill. p. 135

247 **The World War.** (1916). Oil on canvas, 21 17/16 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Given anonymously


252 **Fagends, Medium Scale.** 1967. Canvas, urethane foam, synthetic plaster, synthetic polymer paint, Formica, and wood, 56 inches wide x 56 inches deep x 28 inches high. Private collection

253 **Without Bounds.** 1939. Enamel paint on canvas, 28 3/4 x 36 1/4 inches. Collection the artist, Inverness, California. Ill. p. 141

254 **Fur-Covered Cup, Saucer, and Spoon.** (1936). Fur, cup, saucer, and spoon, cup 4 3/8 inches diameter; saucer 9 3/8 inches
inches diameter; spoon 8 inches long. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Purchase. Ill. p. 143

255 My Nurse. (Original 1936; replica 1967). Shoes, paper frills, and string on metal platter, 12 1/4 inches long x 5 1/2 inches high. Moderna Museet, Stockholm


256 Sea Change. 1951. Ink, wax, and watercolor, 30 x 22 inches. Collection the artist, East Hampton, New York. Ill. p. 182

Paalen, Wolfgang. Austrian, born Vienna, 1905; died Mexico, 1959


258 Fumage. (c. 1938). Oil, candle burns, and soot on canvas, 10 1/2 x 16 3/8 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Julien Levy, Bridgewater, Connecticut. Ill. p. 140

Penrose, Roland. British, born London, 1900; lives in London


260 Edionisol. 1913. Oil on canvas, 9 feet 10 3/4 inches x 9 feet 10 3/8 inches. The Art Institute of Chicago, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Armand Phillip Bartos. (NY, C). Ill. p. 24

261 I See Again in Memory My Dear Udnie. (1914). Oil on canvas, 8 feet 2 1/2 inches x 6 feet 6 1/4 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Hillman Periodicals Fund. (LA). Ill. p. 25


264 Centimeters. (1918). Oil on canvas, with centimeter tape, paper matches, and cardboard matchbox covers, 22 x 15 5/8 inches. Galleria Schwarz, Milan


266 M’Amenez-y. (1919–1920). Oil on cardboard, 56 1/4 x 40 1/2 inches. Estate of Jean (Hans) Arp. Ill. p. 28

267 The Match Woman II. 1920. Oil on canvas, with pasted matchsticks, hair pins, zippers, and coins, 35 1/2 x 28 5/8 inches. Collection Mme Simone Collinet, Paris. Ill. p. 28


269 Optophone. (c. 1922). Watercolor, 28 7/8 x 23 5/8 inches. Collection André Napier, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. Ill. p. 29

Picasso, Pablo. Spanish, born Málaga, 1881; lives in Mougins (Alpes-Maritimes), France

270 The Open Window. 1929. Oil on canvas, 31 1/4 x 63 1/4 inches. Collection Mrs. Mollie Bostwick, Chicago. (NY). Ill. p. 126


272 The Beach. 1933. Watercolor, 15 3/4 x 20 1/8 inches. Collection Dr. and Mrs. Allan Roos, New York

273 Composition. 1933. Watercolor and ink, 15 3/4 x 19 7/8 inches. Collection Dr. and Mrs. Allan Roos, New York. Ill. p. 124

274 Minotaur. 1933. Pen and ink, 15 1/4 x 19 1/2 inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 127


277 Two Figures on the Beach. 1933. Pen and ink, 15 5/8 x 20 inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York, Purchase

279  *At the End of the Jetty.* 1937. Pen and ink, $11\frac{1}{4}\times 8\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Lee V. Eastman, New York. Ill. p. 95

280  *May 1940.* 1940. Ink on graph paper, $8\frac{5}{8}\times 6\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Collection F. C. Graindorge, Liége


281  *Sunset and Deposition in a Space Frame.* (1966). Polyester resin, fiberglass, and aluminum, 20 inches high $\times$ 17 inches wide $\times$ 14 inches deep. Collection Joseph Bernstein, Metairie, Louisiana. Ill. p. 117

POLLOCK, Jackson. American, born Cody, Wyoming, 1912; died East Hampton, New York, 1956


RAUSCHENBERG, Robert. American, born Port Arthur, Texas, 1925; lives in New York

283  *Bed.* (1955). Combine painting, $75\frac{1}{8}\times 31\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Leo Castelli, New York. Ill. p. 59

RICHTER, Hans. American, born Berlin, 1888; lives in Southbury, Connecticut

284  *Autumn.* (1917). Oil on canvas, $31\times 24\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Collection the artist, Southbury, Connecticut

285  *Rhythm 23.* 1923. Oil on canvas, 27 inches $\times$ 13 feet $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Collection the artist, Southbury, Connecticut. Ill. p. 41

ROTHKO, Mark. American, born Dvinsk, Russia, 1903; lives in New York

286  *Slow Swirl by the Edge of the Sea.* (1944). Oil on canvas, 6 feet 3 inches $\times$ 7 feet $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Collection the artist, New York. Ill. p. 180


287  *Ghea.* (1964). Construction in papier-mâché with painted toys, mounted on wood, $70\frac{3}{8}\times 43\frac{3}{8}$ inches. Alexander Iolas Gallery, New York. Ill. p. 183

SAMARAS, Lucas. American, born Kastoria, Greece, 1936; lives in New York

288  Untitled. (1961). Glass filled with pins, nails, and razor blades, 9 inches high $\times$ 4 inches diameter. Collection Mrs. Richard Millington, Santa Monica, California

289  *Accordion Box with Mirrors and Tacks.* (1964). Painted wood, mirrors, and metal tacks, 16 inches high $\times$ 24 inches wide $\times$ 10 inches deep. Collection Mrs. Richard Millington, Santa Monica, California

SCHAD, Christian. German, born Miesbach, 1894; lives in Keilberg

290  *Schadograph 60.* (1962). Photogram, $17\frac{5}{8}\times 8\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Collection the artist, Keilberg, Germany

SCHAMBERG, Morton L. American, born Philadelphia, 1881; died Philadelphia, 1918

291  *Machine.* 1916. Oil on canvas, $30\frac{1}{8}\times 22\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Collection Société Anonyme. (NY). Ill. p. 36

SCHULTZE, Bernard. German, born Schneidemühl, 1915; lives in Frankfurt am Main

292  *Mannequin-Migof.* (1967). Painted polyester resin, $70\frac{1}{2}$ inches high $\times$ 28$\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide $\times$ 23$\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep. London Arts Incorporated, Detroit. Ill. p. 55

SCHWITTERS, Kurt. German, born Hanover, 1887; died Little Langdale (near Ambleside, Westmorland), England, 1948


294  *Revolving (Das Kreisen).* 1919. Metal, wood, string, and oil on canvas, $48\frac{1}{2}\times 35$ inches. Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, Inc., New York

295  *The "Worker" Picture (Das Arbeiterbild).* 1919. Collage of wood and pasted papers, $49\frac{1}{4}\times 36$ inches. Moderna Museet, Stockholm. Ill. p. 56

296  *Fac.* 1920. 1920. Collage of pasted papers, $7\frac{1}{8}\times 9\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, Inc., New York. Ill. p. 54

298 Smallest Merz Picture in the World. 1920. Collage, 1\(7/8\) x 1\(1/8\) inches. Collection Dr. Lotti Steinitz-Sears, Courtesy Mrs. Kate T. Steinitz, Los Angeles

299 Cathedral. 1926. Wood relief, 15\(3/8\) x 5\(7/8\) inches. Collection Frau Hannah Höch, Berlin

300 Merz Picture with Rainbow. (1939). Oil and wood on plywood, 61\(5/8\) x 47\(3/4\) inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Benenson, Scarsdale, New York. (NY). Ill. p. 52

301 For Kate. 1947. Collage of pasted papers, 4\(1/8\) x 5\(1/8\) inches. Collection Mrs. Kate T. Steinitz, Los Angeles. Ill. p. 37


303 Interior for Exterior. (1939). Steel and bronze, 18 inches high x 22 inches wide x 23\(1/4\) inches deep. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Orin Raphael, Oakmont, Pennsylvania. Ill. p. 119

Spoerri, Daniel. Swiss, born Galati, Romania, 1930; lives in Paris

304 Marcel Duchamp's Dinner. (1964). Cutlery, dishes, and napkins mounted on wood, 24\(7/8\) inches wide x 21\(1/8\) inches deep x 8\(1/4\) inches high. Collection Arman, Nice. Ill. p. 59

Stamos, Theodoros. American, born New York, 1922; lives in New York


Taeuber-Arp, Sophie. Swiss, born Davos, 1889; died Zurich, 1943

306 The Soldier and the Army (marionette for Roi Cerf by Carlo Gozzi). (1918). Painted wood, 16\(1/8\) inches high x 5\(9/8\) inches wide. Kunstgewerbemuseum, Zurich

307 Dada Head. 1920. Painted wood, 11\(7/8\) inches high. Private collection


308 Fantômas. (1925–1926). Oil with collage of cardboard and cotton, 19\(1/2\) x 58\(1/2\) inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 101

309 Title unknown. (1926). Oil on canvas with string, 36\(1/4\) x 25\(1/2\) inches. Private collection. Ill. p. 101

310 A Large Painting Which Is a Landscape. 1927. Oil on canvas, 46 x 35\(3/4\) inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. William Mazer, New York. Ill. p. 102

311 The Certitude of the Never Seen. (1933). Oil on wood with carved wood frame, 8\(3/4\) inches high x 7\(1/4\) inches wide x 2\(1/2\) inches deep. Private collection. (NY). Ill. p. 103

312 Letter to Paul Eluard. 1933. Pen and ink, 10\(1/2\) x 7\(1/2\) inches. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Ill. p. 95

313 Title unknown. 1933. Oil on wood, 13\(3/8\) x 13\(3/4\) inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Feigen, New York


315 From the Other Side of the Bridge. (1936). Painted wood and stuffed cloth, 19 inches long x 8\(3/4\) inches wide x 5\(3/4\) inches high. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago. Ill. p. 147

316 Indefinite Divisibility. 1942. Oil on canvas, 40\(1/8\) x 35 inches. Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo. Ill. p. 103

317 At the Four Corners. 1943. Oil on canvas, 18 x 16 inches. Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York

318 Through Birds, Through Fire, but Not Through Glass. 1943. Oil on canvas, 40 x 35 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Donald Winston, Los Angeles. (NY). Ill. p. 104

319 My Life, White and Black. 1944. Oil on canvas, 36 x 30 inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Gelman, Mexico City. Ill. p. 104

320 Title unknown. 1944. Pen and ink, with gouache on pasted paper, 8 x 10\(1/2\) inches. Richard Feigen Gallery, New York and Chicago

321 Untitled. 1946. Gouache, 14\(1/2\) x 12 inches. Estate of the artist

TINGUELY, Jean. Swiss, born Basel, 1925; lives in Paris

323 Méta-Matic No. 12. 1959. Motorized construction; iron and steel, 6 feet 6 inches high. Collection Mrs. Phyllis Lambert, Chicago

TROVA, Ernest. American, born Saint Louis, 1927; lives in Saint Louis


VAIL, Lawrence. American, born Paris, 1891; lives in Paris


WESTERMANN, H. C. American, born Los Angeles, 1922; lives in Brookfield Center, Connecticut

326 A Close Call. 1965. Wood, glass, and stuffed animal-head, 15 inches high x 15 inches wide x 9¼ inches deep. Allan Frumkin Gallery, New York

WOLS (Alfred Otto Wolfgang Schulz). German, born Berlin, 1913; died Paris, 1951


329 Anxious Face. (1946). Oil on canvas, 25 x 20⅛ inches. Collection Mr. and Mrs. Morton G. Neumann, Chicago. Ill. p. 178


WRIGHT, Clifford. American, born Aberdeen, Washington, 1919; lives in Glumso, Denmark

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