

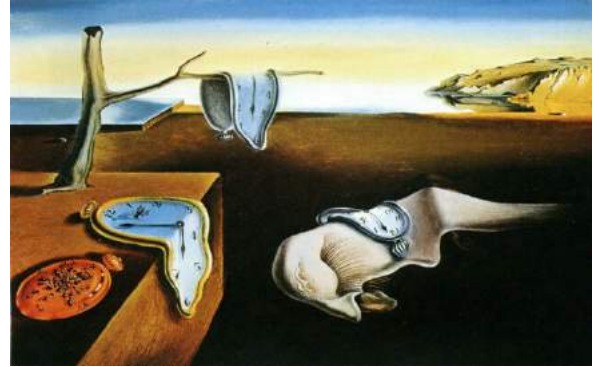
Fun with Surrealism



Salvador Dalí
Surrealist Scene



Remedios Varo, 1963
Still Life Reviving



Salvador Dalí, 1963
Persistence of Memory



Remedios Varo, 1957
Creation of the Birds

Surrealism is an art movement that began about 100 years ago. Artists got tired of painting and drawing what they saw and decided to create art based on what they imagined and dreamed. Surrealist art can be wacky, funny or creepy. It can combine objects that we wouldn't normally find together to tell a strange story: The pictures above show a giant eye whose tear becomes a lake for a swan, fruit and dishes spiraling in the air around a candle, melting clocks draped over branches, and a weird woman in a feather costume drawing birds that come to life and jump off the page.

Have you ever had a strange dream? Maybe you were flying around the room while eating an ice cream cone. Or maybe you were on the surface of the moon playing with a porcupine while you watched a dog eat your homework.

Surrealist painters were highly skilled at painting their inner thoughts and dreams. Collage artists (who cut out pictures and glue them down) can create complicated and wild pictures much more easily.

Grab a magazine and cut out pictures that appeal to you. Cut out a variety of things. When you have lots of cutouts, you can start to put them together into a surrealist work.

Keep Your Artwork Together

If you make several collages, you can join them together in a book.

Last week we gave directions for making an Easy Peasy Sewn Book. This week, we will make an even easier no-sew book. It's a great idea to bind your work together for safe-keeping!



Supplies:

Construction paper (for the background)
Scissors
Cutouts from magazines, old calendars,
or downloaded images
Glue stick

Procedure:

Cut out many things so that you can mix them up on your construction paper. Make a whole pile so that you have lots to choose from. For the most fun, mix up colors, sizes and angles of objects. Here are a few ideas for surrealist collages, but you'll probably want to come up with your own:

- 1) Cut out eyes, eyebrows, noses, ears, and mouths from multiple faces. Rearrange on your paper, gluing some features sideways, upside down or in the wrong order
- 2) Create a "recipe" that includes at least 1 piece of fruit, 1 eye (or nose or mouth), and one animal. Arrange your cutouts so that they touch one another, or try layering them.
- 3) Make a family collage "game" by having each family member add one object to a big collage. The next family member gets to add a new object or rearrange the ones already down. Make sure to take pictures along the way. Glue the final arrangement down.
- 4) Once you have finished a collage, come up with a fun title.

The following book uses a manila folder for the cover. Manila folders are great because they have three vertical lines on the left that are easily foldable. See directions on the next page.

Easy Peasy No-Sew Book:



Supplies: Manila folder, Construction paper, Pencil, Scissors, Ruler,
3 Small binder clips

Procedure: Trim your manila folder to measure approximately 11" by 8 ¼". Make sure you trim off any tabs so that you have a nice smooth-edged rectangle. Cut your construction paper pages to be just slightly smaller so they won't stick out past the edges of your cover.

Use your ruler to make the following measurements on the lefthand (folded) size of your folder (the folded side is called the "spine"):

1" from the top

5 ½" from the top

10" from the top

Note the three vertical fold lines on the folder. Fold your book cover back along the third line. This will allow you to open your book easily once it is put together.

Slide your construction paper pages into your folder cover. Make sure they line up perfectly against the spine.

Attach your binder clips over the middle of each pencil dot. Use your thumb and index finger to pinch the wire ends together and remove. If this is difficult, ask an adult to help. Your book will remain clamped together.