

SLIDE LIST FOR RENE MAGRITTE

SLIDE 1. Introduction

Magritte lived during a time of turmoil and conflict in Europe. The immense destruction experienced in WWI caused many of his generation to write, paint, and create works that show a strange, fantastical reality. The Surrealists' works are the complete opposite of Realism (where painting reflects reality in the closest possible way). This is one main point to convey to the students.

Some questions to pose at the start of the presentation would be: Why do you think Magritte and the Surrealists chose NOT to paint in the Realism style? How do you think the war affected this decision? (Is it an escape from reality that they sought?)

SLIDE 2. *The Difficult Crossing*, 1926.

We see in this work a repeating theme of Magritte's; the painting within a painting. See where else in his work it will occur. And ponder why he employs such a technique.

SLIDE 3. *The Eye*, 1932/35. (In the Art Institute)

SLIDE 4. *The Banquet*, 1958. (In the Art Institute)

SLIDE 5. *Time Transfixed*, 1938. (In the Art Institute)

SLIDE 6. *The Portrait*, 1935.

SLIDE 7. *La condition humaine*, 1933.

This work exemplifies Magritte's favored theme of a "painting within a painting" The easel set before the window seems simple and clear cut. But we should question: Is that what is really represented beyond the canvas on the easel. We automatically assume but should we? Magritte forces the viewer to reconsider reality vs. painting.

SLIDE 8. Detail of *La condition humaine*.

SLIDE 9. *Golconde*, 1953.

SLIDE 10. *The Son of Man*, 1964.