

Magical Realism in Art

Finding the Magic in Reality

Definition?

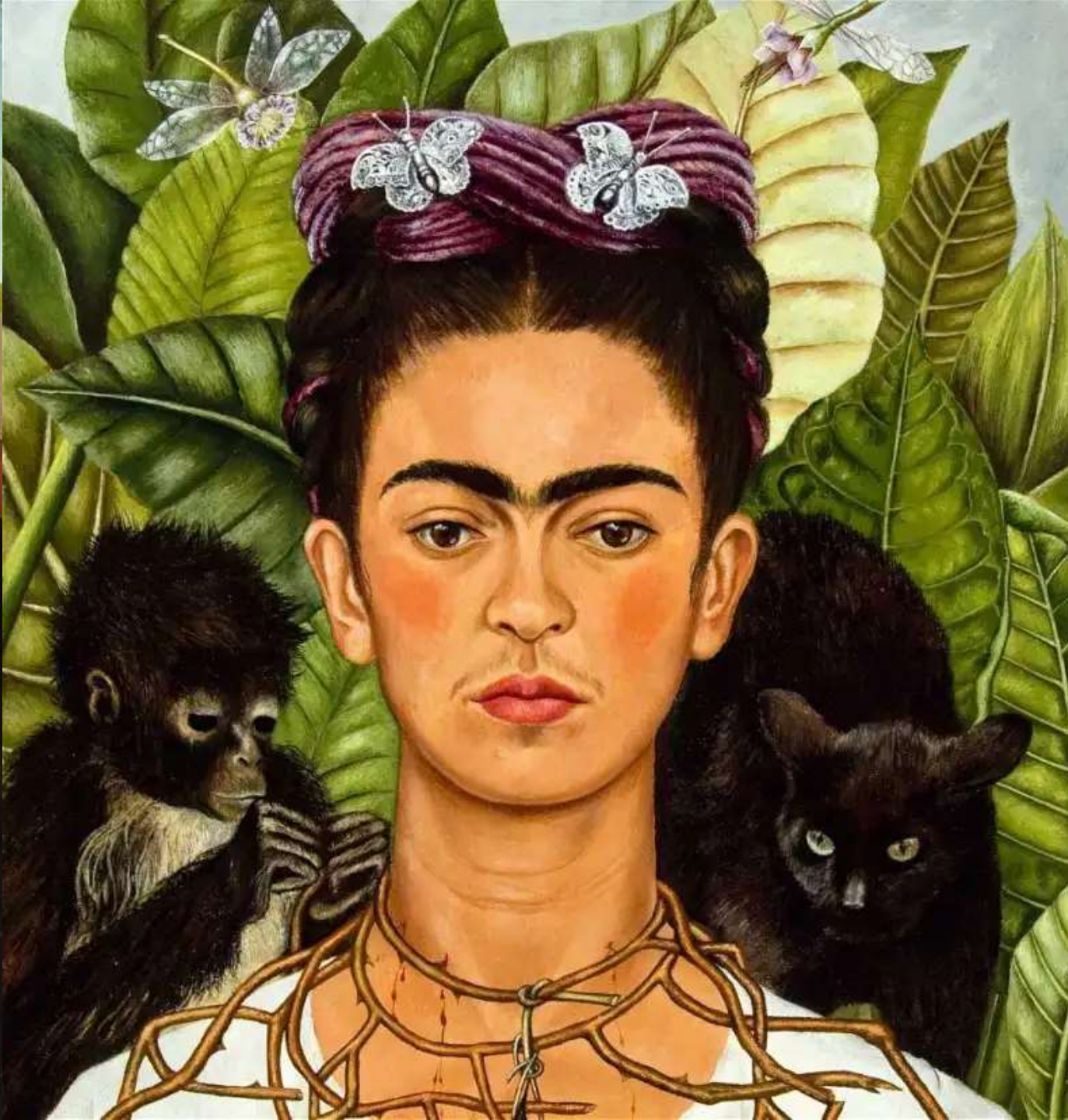
Magical Realism is an art form that describes the real world where commonplace objects and occurrences are portrayed as magical, and magical objects or occurrences are portrayed as commonplace. It is often used as a device for social or political commentary.

For example, in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez describes the introduction of ice as magical event; whereas he recounts the levitation of people without any fanfare. While the novel centers around a fictional town and family, it reflects realities of colonial Columbia. The location and people are realistic.

While Magical Realism and Surrealism are closely related, many surrealist artists often are more concerned with dreams and the subconscious as influenced by Sigmund Freud, whereas magical realism is grounded in the real world. Fantasy and science fiction depict different, unreal worlds in which fantastical things occur.

Magical realism is when the world is about 95% normal, but 5% magical/mystical and that magic is a totally natural part of the world.







Magical Realism Overview

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI9I2p71ct0> (6:30—Use this)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scgn2BCcht4> (10 mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZtdhLndVYg> (salmon rushdie)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kQxkW5Hj08>
- https://www.tribstar.com/news/lifestyles/magic-realism-exhibit-showcases-art-mixed-with-fantasy-detail-focus/article_cc6f0848-e48e-579a-a954-f276b7236340.html (contemporary artists)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vcwL1Y-Las&t=15s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-rjYd8-zF4> (short on artists)

Art Movement

The term magic realism was invented by German photographer, art historian and art critic Franz Roh in 1925 to describe modern realist paintings with fantasy or dream-like subjects,

The term was used by Franz Roh in his book *Nach Expressionismus: Magischer Realismus* (After Expressionism: Magic Realism).

In Central Europe magic realism was part of the reaction against modern or [avant-garde](#) art, known as the [return to order](#), that took place generally after the First World War. Magic realist artists included [Giorgio de Chirico](#), Alberto Savinio and others in Italy, and Alexander Kanoldt and Adolf Ziegler in Germany. Magic realism is closely related to the dreamlike depictions of [surrealism](#) and [neo-romanticism](#) in France. The term is also used of certain American painters in the 1940s and 1950s including Paul Cadmus, Philip Evergood and [Ivan Albright](#).

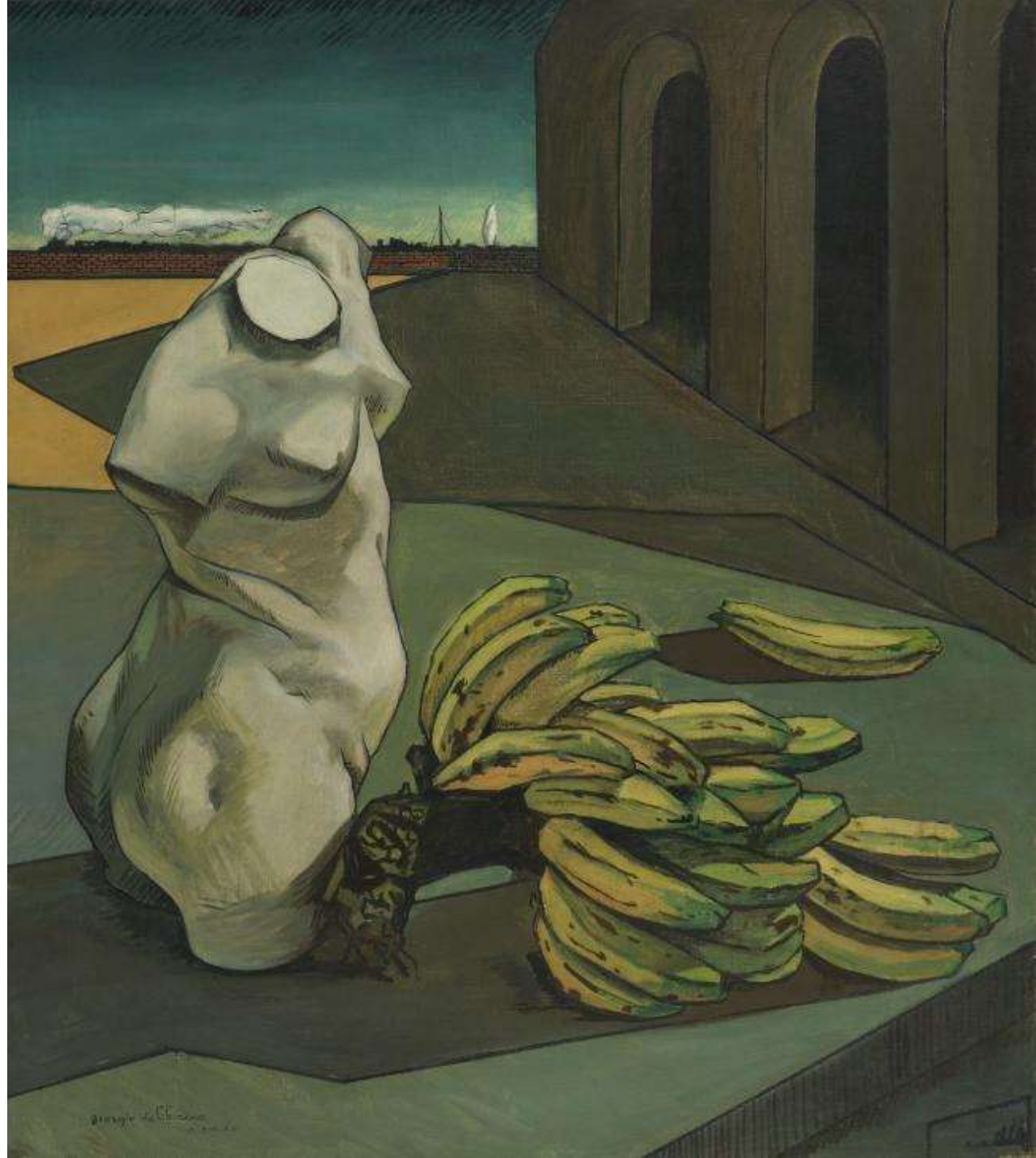
In 1955 the critic Angel Flores used the term magic realism to describe the writing of Jorge Luis Borges and Gabriel García Márquez, and it has since become a significant if disputed literary term.

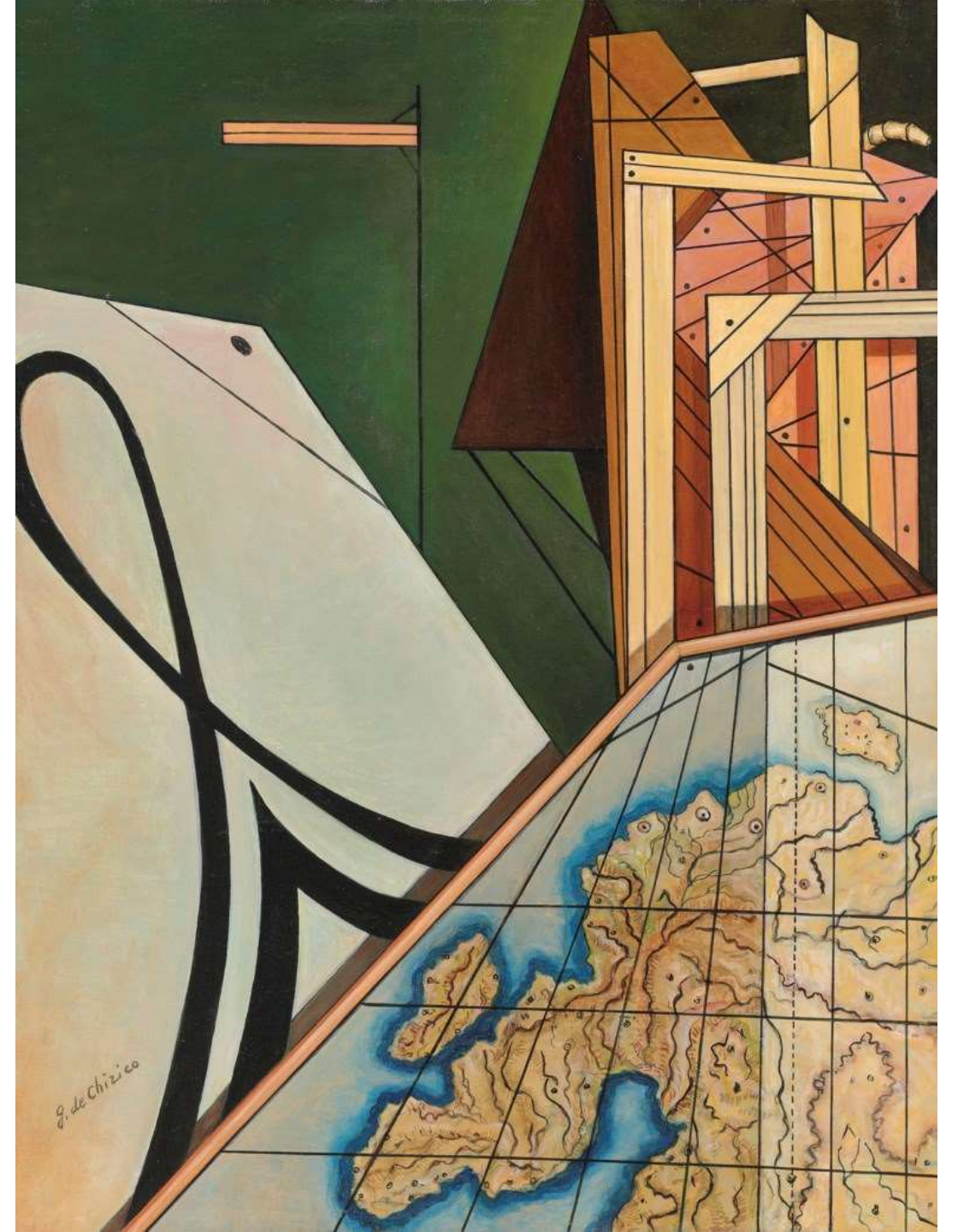
<https://www.thecollector.com/what-are-the-4-best-examples-of-magical-realism-in-art/>

Giuseppe Maria Alberto Giorgio de Chirico

Giorgio Di Chirico was an Italian artist and writer born in Greece. In the years before World War I, he founded the *scuola metafisica* art movement, which profoundly influenced the surrealists. His best-known works often feature Roman arcades, long shadows, mannequins, trains, and illogical perspective. His imagery reflects his affinity for the philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer and of Friedrich Nietzsche, and for the mythology of his birthplace.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/dada-and-surrealism/xdc974a79:surrealism/v/moma-dechirico-anxiousjourney>





Alberto Savinio

Alberto Savinio, born as Andrea Francesco Alberto de Chirico was a Greek-Italian writer, painter, musician, journalist, essayist, playwright, set designer and composer. He was the younger brother of 'metaphysical' painter Giorgio de Chirico.







Alexander Kanoldt

In the early 1920s Kanoldt developed the manner for which he is best known, a magic realist rendering of potted plants, angular tins, fruit and mugs on tabletops.^[4] He also painted portraits in the same severe style, as well as geometrical landscapes. In 1925 he was made a professor at [Breslau](#) Academy, a post he held until 1931. During this time he came into conflict with the [Bauhaus](#) faction at the Academy, and he was increasingly at odds with the [avant garde](#). From 1933 until his resignation in 1936 he was the director of the [State School of Art](#) in Berlin.

- With the rise of the [Nazi](#) regime in 1933 Kanoldt attempted accommodation, painting in a [romantic](#) style, but nonetheless many of his works were seized by the authorities as [degenerate art](#) in 1937.







Rene Magritte

René François Ghislain Magritte was a Belgian surrealist artist known for his depictions of familiar objects in unfamiliar, unexpected contexts, which often provoked questions about the nature and boundaries of reality and representation. His imagery has influenced pop art, minimalist art, and conceptual art

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/709246641308732763/>



Ceci n'est pas une pipe.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/dada-and-surrealism/xdc974a79:surrealism/v/magritte-the-treachery-of-images-cest-n-est-pas-une-pipe-1929>



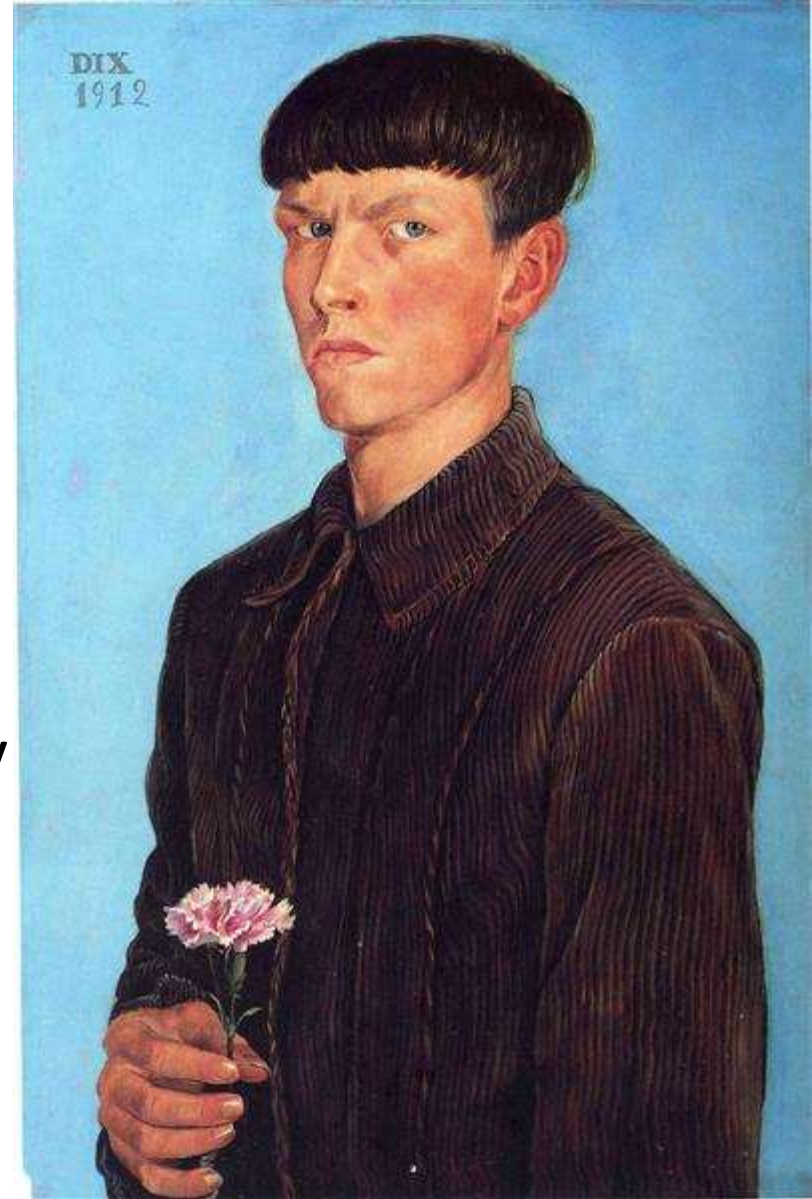
Magritte



Otto Dix

Wilhelm Heinrich Otto Dix was a German painter and printmaker, noted for his ruthless and harshly realistic depictions of German society during the Weimar Republic and the brutality of war. Along with George Grosz and Max Beckmann, he is widely considered one of the most important artists of the Neue Sachlichkeit.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfFFslTduCE>







Carel Willink

Carel Willink was a pioneer of Magic Realism, an avant-garde movement of Dutch modernism closely associated with Surrealism. In this episode of Anatomy of an Artwork, discover how a visit to Italy's Bomarzo Gardens following the death of his wife inspired a series of paintings featuring monsters, see how Willink drew further inspiration from dream-like images and illusions, and learn how his near-photographic style exudes a sense of mystery and enchantment.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1kwyEjHrIY>





Alvin Albright

Ivan Le Lorraine Albright was an American painter, sculptor and print-maker most renowned for his self-portraits, character studies, and still lifes. Due to his technique and dark subject matter, he is often categorized among the Magic Realists and is sometimes referred to as the "master of the macabre."

<https://www.pbs.org/video/ivan-albright-master-macabre-flesh-y2jpvs/>





Andrew Wyeth

Reaction to the work of [Andrew Wyeth](#) (1917–2009) has always been binary: he's either revered or reviled. An exhibition on view through September 17 at the [Brandywine River Museum of Art](#) in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania—the heart of “Wyeth country”—aims to settle the debate once and for all by disproving the conventional wisdom that he was a master draftsman of shallow interests. The show makes it clear that Wyeth diverged from strict realism not only at the beginning and end of his career. Throughout seven decades of work he distorted, distilled, and transmogrified form and perspective for metaphorical meaning. Wyeth, who insisted he wasn't a photographic realist at all, painted with a magic realism that draws on surrealism and abstraction.

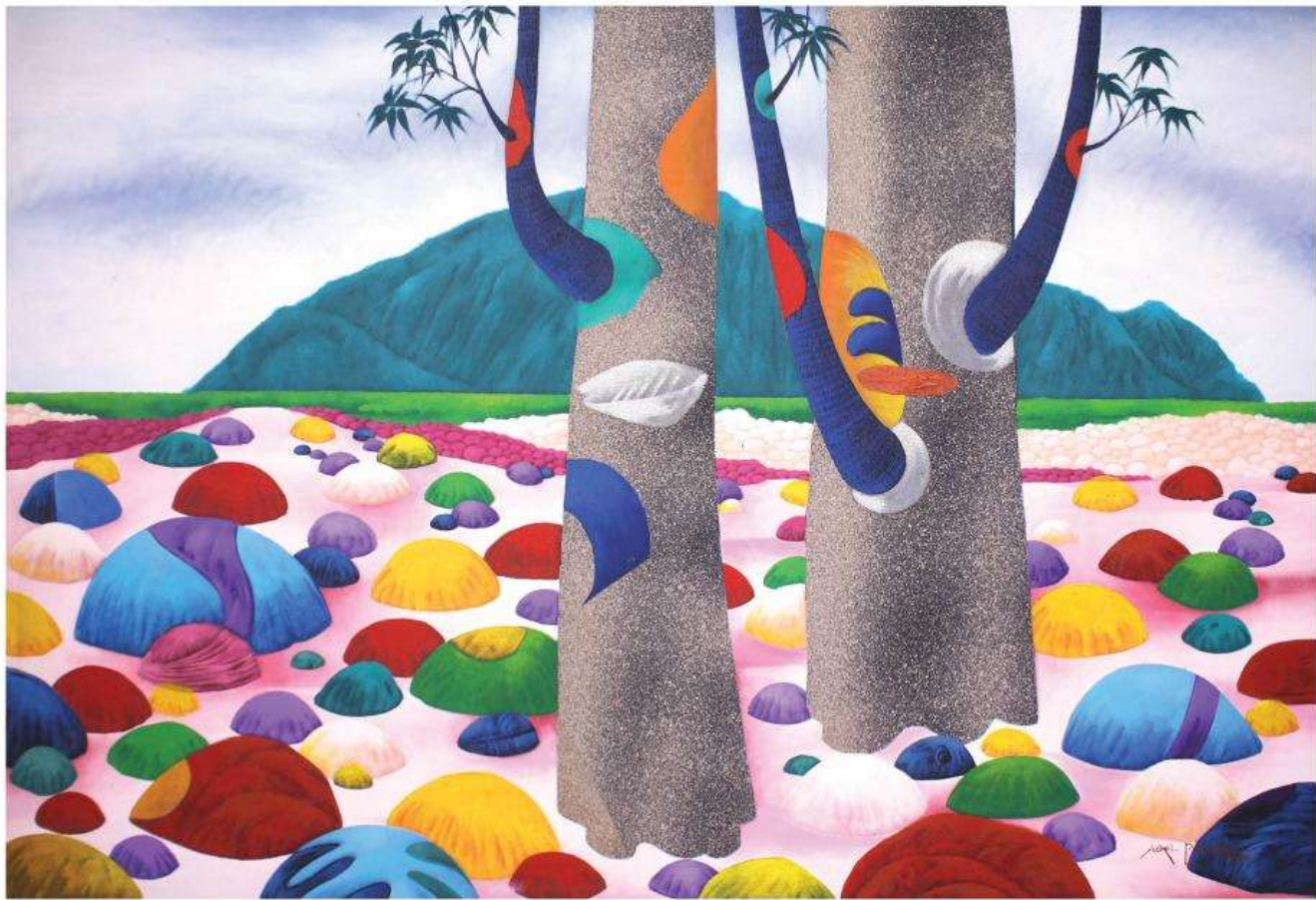




Noel Pascual

The Maestro of Magical Realism shares his journey from start to where he is right now in the Philippine Art scene. One of the country's established and highly esteemed Filipino visual artist specializing in muted yet strikingly appealing floral paintings.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdHrpIDGHEs>





Marie-Therese Ross

Marie-Thérèse Ross explores the hidden workings of the mind, focusing on states of physical, emotional & psychological transformation. Her work appears humorous as well as darkly subversive, as she seems to hide herself in plain sight. She seeks to both reveal and hide difficult childhood memories, episodes that reflect on her own sense of vulnerability and mortality. She makes anthropomorphic furniture as well as mythological creatures & birds, at times incorporated into atmospheric installations with accompanying music creating immersive environments. Her work might hang on the wall, lean, or sit between wall and floor, or move completely into the physical space of the viewer. Sculptures are fragmented to capture the sensation of movement, including flight, as well as the drawn line. Imagery is used as a container for our consciousness, and the vehicle in her exploration of themes.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnEVOsyJFbo>





William Hernandez

William Hernandez paints wild, colorful scenes that highlight the surprising and the surreal. He studied classical painting at The National School of Fine Arts of Peru, one of South America's most prestigious institutions. William moved to Oregon in 2009 but he keeps his connection to Peru alive through the vivid colors and characters in his paintings.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfPTx8m2Nkk>











Paul Bond

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwYVJuJ6DLM&t=131s>





Simphiwe Ndzube

Simphiwe Ndzube's candy-colored, craft-inspired works turn their exhibition spaces into absurd, profound, and mythic universes: The artist dresses his 2D paintings in 3D garments that hang to the floor, and his chimeric, figurative sculptures bring his paintings' characters to life. Ndzube has said his creations inhabit the "Mine-moon"—his fictional, fantastical world that serves as an allegory for post-apartheid South Africa. The artist has exhibited in Cape Town, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Mexico City, and in 2019, he showed at the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art. His works have been acquired by the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#), the [Denver Art Museum](#), the Rubell Collection, and [Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa](#). Inspired by stories from his childhood and the tradition of magical realism, Ndzube tells stories of race, power, freedom, and love.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyzoAxnUCDQ>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSuKZ8ITEV4>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrjbuaNZw_g



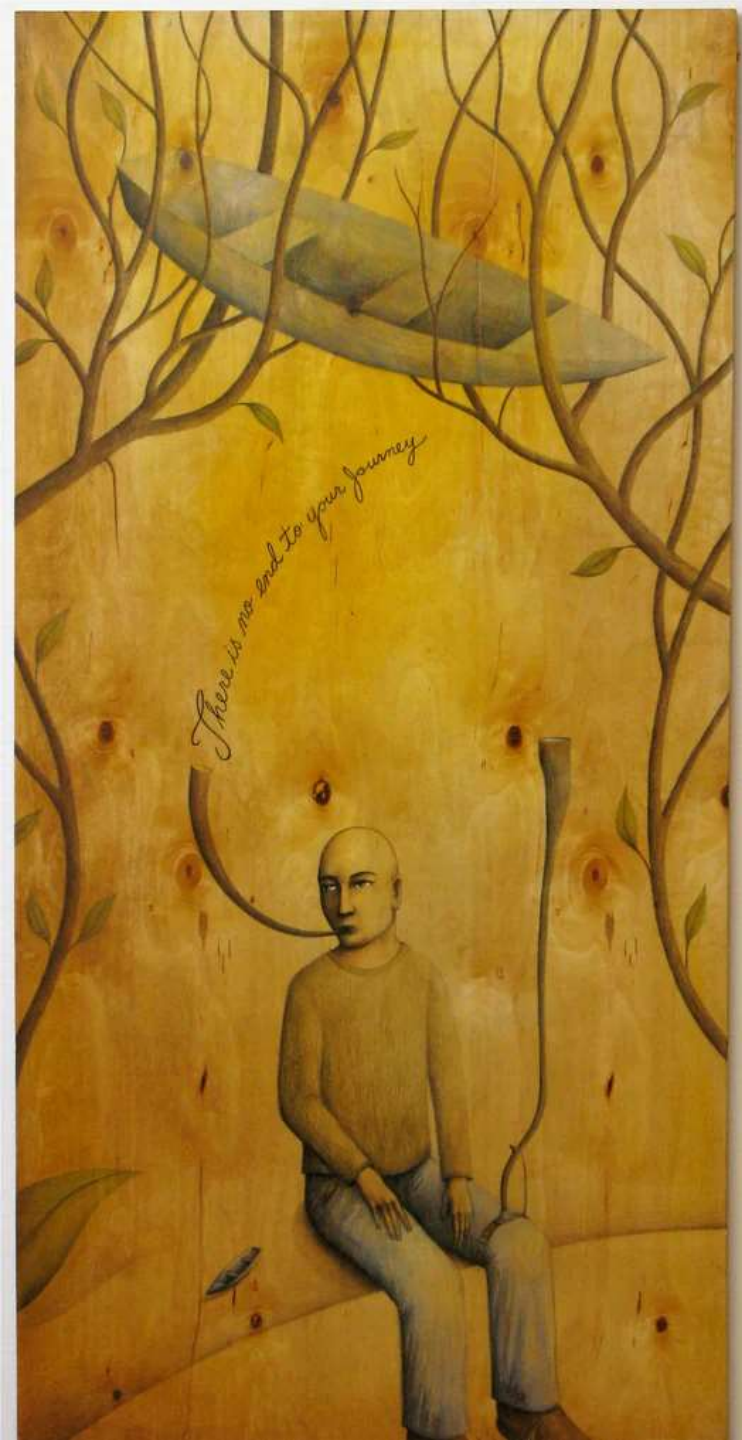




Rene Vasquez

- <https://mlagallery.com/collections/rene-vasquez/products/rene-in-the-jungle>







Rob Gonsalves

- <https://www.sapergalleries.com/Gonsalves.html>





ROB GONSALVES PHENOMENON OF FLOATING



Gertrude Abercrombie

Gertrude Abercrombie was an American painter based in Chicago. Called "the queen of the bohemian artists", Abercrombie was involved in the Chicago jazz scene and was friends with musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, and Sarah Vaughan, whose music inspired her own creative work.

- <https://www.pbs.org/video/surreal-life-chicago-artist-gertrude-abercrombie-25ssnm/>







Giorgio Casu

Giorgio Casu is an Italian contemporary visual artist and designer whose signature style has achieved a distinguish following of collectors, galleries and art lovers all around the world. Using bright acrylics on canvas, Giorgio creates bold, multi-layered, thought-provoking artworks, which combine a variety of cultural symbols and are inspired by such s broad styles as traditional renaissance painting, tattoo art, Japanese woodblock printing, North American sign painting, religious, spiritual and anthropological iconography.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhuPrr6uBhI>



Nneka Uzoigwe

While she likes to paint from life, Nneka Uzoigwe works as much from her mind when creating her visionary pictures. Like waking dreams, they meld the real with the surreal, the concrete with the curious, forcing the viewer to question what they believe they see, whether that's a knitted piece of fruit or a shell-shaped doorknob. Born in Nigeria in 1990, Nneka – who is the recent recipient of two awards by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and is represented by Panter & Hall – had a peripatetic childhood, memories of which have shaped her chimerical imagery; as a consequence, she says she feels “more a person of the world” than anything else. Home, to this nimble-minded artist “is where you make it”. Right now, that's London, a place she's always yearned to live in. Join us as we visit her Battersea studio, a glowing room full of unexpected objects, as the painter walks us through her magical imaginings.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hvQJcsWR50>





Sara Swink

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A85rszornG8>









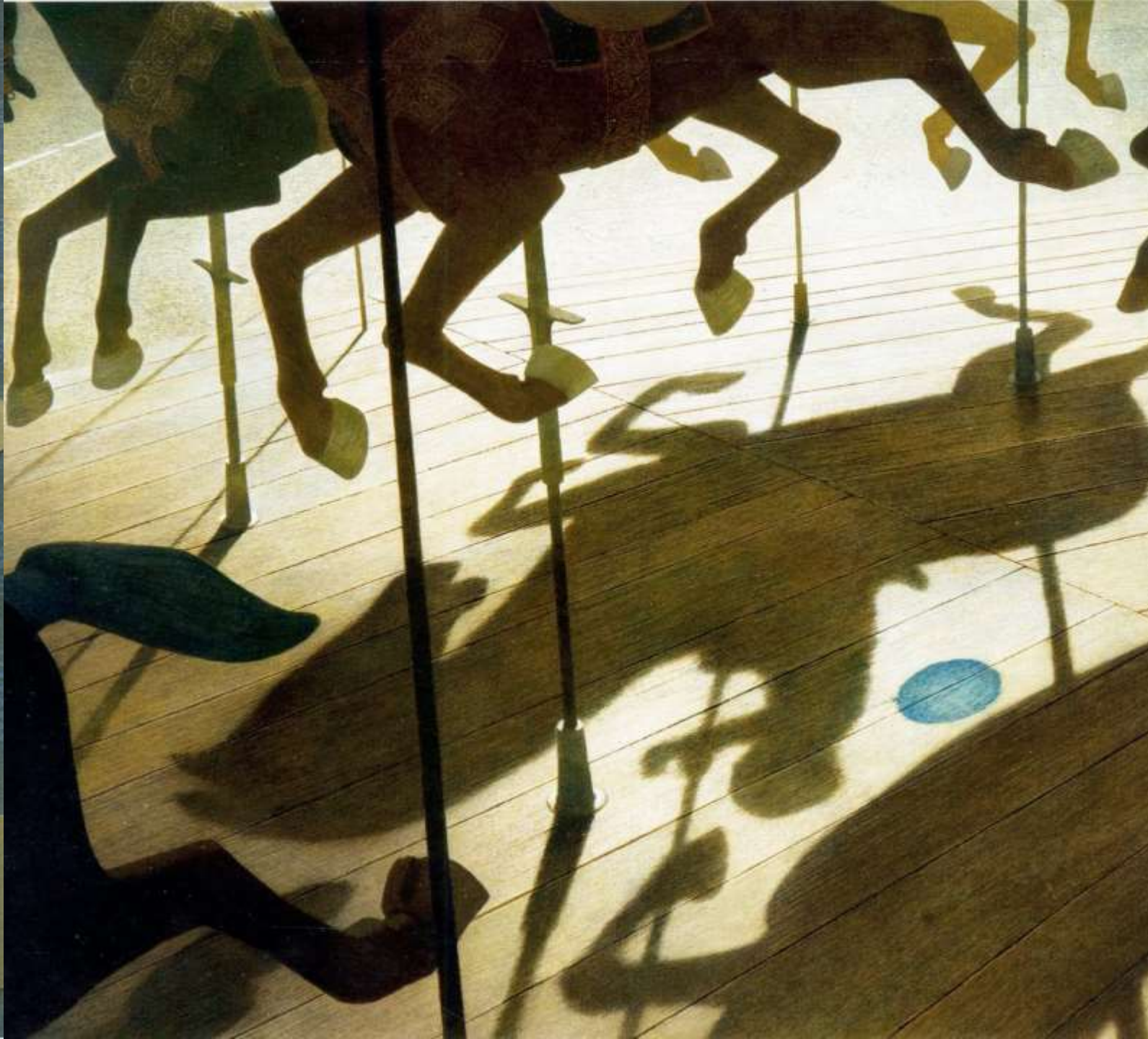
Robert Vickery

Robert Remsen Vickrey was a Massachusetts-based artist and author who specialized in the ancient medium of egg tempera. His paintings are surreal dreamlike visions of sunset shadows of bicycles, nuns in front of mural-painted brick walls, and children playing.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z66QPWnrxW8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tR1zXS6zWk>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PxlaGc6KmM>











Nicole Abuhamada

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-uAi3vglA0>





Assignment Suggestions...

- Create an artwork that “breaks the frame” extends beyond the surface plane in any direction.
- Depict everyday objects in an uncanny way. (Mess with scale or perspective or color)
- Create an artwork where you reveal the magical in the real.
- Create an artwork where 95% of the subject matter is “real” and 5% of the subject matter is “unreal/magical/abstract.”
- Read Gogol’s The Nose or 100 Years of Solitude (again)