

Surrealism for Kids on Tour

17 – 25
September 2011



QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY | GALLERY OF MODERN ART
REGIONAL SERVICES



Surrealism for Kids on Tour

Dates: 17 – 25 September 2011

Open your mind and step into the world of the surreal!

Regional Queensland venues are invited to participate in *Surrealism for Kids on Tour*. Popular parlour games involving chance, word play and picture-making were rediscovered by the surrealists, providing creative and playful ways to make art and unlock the imagination.

Children will be able to engage with the surrealist artists through multimedia, drawing and making activities, capture their own surrealist vision of the world, and discover how some of the most powerful and imaginative art of the 20th century was created.



Max Morise, Max Ernst, Simone Breton, Paul Eluard, Joseph Delteil, Gala Eluard, Robert Desnis, André Breton / Montmartre Fairground ca 1923.

Max Ernst

Surrealist collage

Leading surrealist Max Ernst is well known for his series of novel collages. By taking cut-outs of nineteenth-century engravings and reassembling, Ernst was able to create seamless images of the strange and mysterious.

Surrealism for Kids on Tour visitors will be invited to make their own surreal scenes using similar illustrations, sourced from nineteenth century catalogues and advertisements and arranged on specially designed templates.



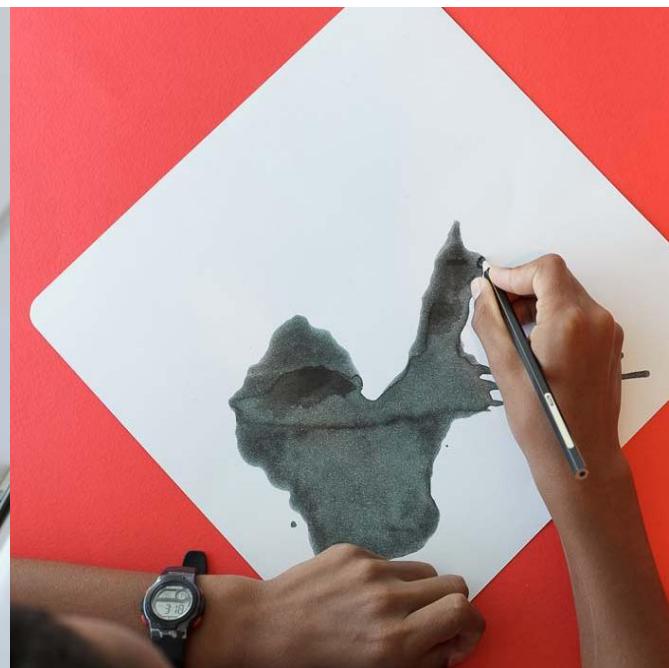


Oscar Domínguez

Decalcomania

Decalcomania is a printing technique that employs freely applied ink or paint and was used by surrealist artist Oscar Domínguez.

In *Surrealism for Kids on Tour*, children are invited to choose from pre-printed ink blot templates and, using their imaginations, draw what they see.



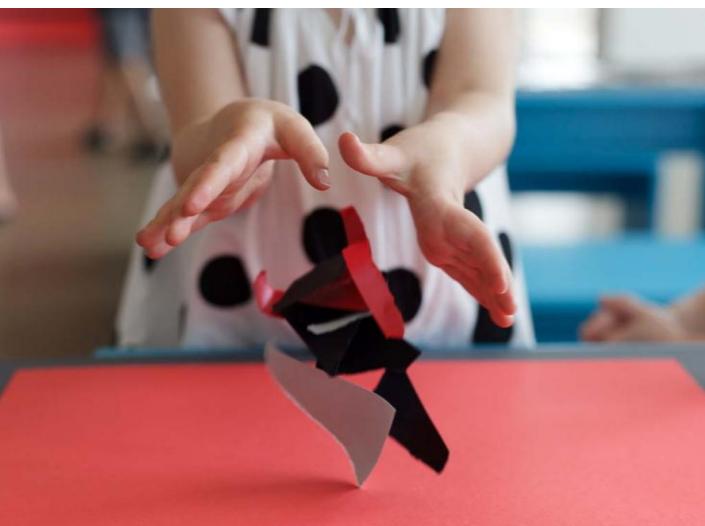
Jean Arp

Torn paper collage

Frustrated with his drawing, artist Jean Arp tore up one of his pictures and tossed it aside. Later, the shapes of the torn paper on the floor caught his eye — Arp immediately recognised it to be what he was striving for.

With the paper provided, young visitor can try this innovative method of working with the laws of chance.

Every torn paper collage will be the only one of its kind!



Marcel Duchamp

Make a sculpture

In 1913, Marcel Duchamp was the first artist to make a sculpture using found objects. He took a stool and a bicycle wheel, attached the wheel to the seat of the stool and turned it into a work of art.

Like Marcel Duchamp, many of the surrealists were also fascinated with objects and things. André Breton regularly collected items from flea markets and Salvador Dalí is famous for his surreal objects.

In *Surrealism for Kids on Tour*, young visitors will be invited to construct their own sculpture using familiar everyday items. They may even wish to take a photograph of their creation.





Multimedia interactives

The surrealists were renowned for manipulating and combining different texts, writing poetry and including collages of text in art works. In addition, the group published surrealist manifestos, exhibition catalogues and the journals *Minotaure* and *La Révolution surréaliste*.

A multimedia interactive, presented in the format of newspaper articles, stories and advertisements for each game has been designed for *Surrealism for Kids on Tour*.

Children and families can participate in a number of text based games, such as How to make a Dadaist poem, Exquisite corpse, Directions for use and Parallel stories can be played in a multimedia format.



**Please note these activities can also be played as hands on making activities.

Tristan Tzara

How to make a Dadaist poem

Artist and poet Tristan Tzara's instructions on how to write a Dadaist poem have been brought to life in a interactive touchscreen activity.

Participants select newspaper articles and watch the text transform into a piece of Dada poetry!

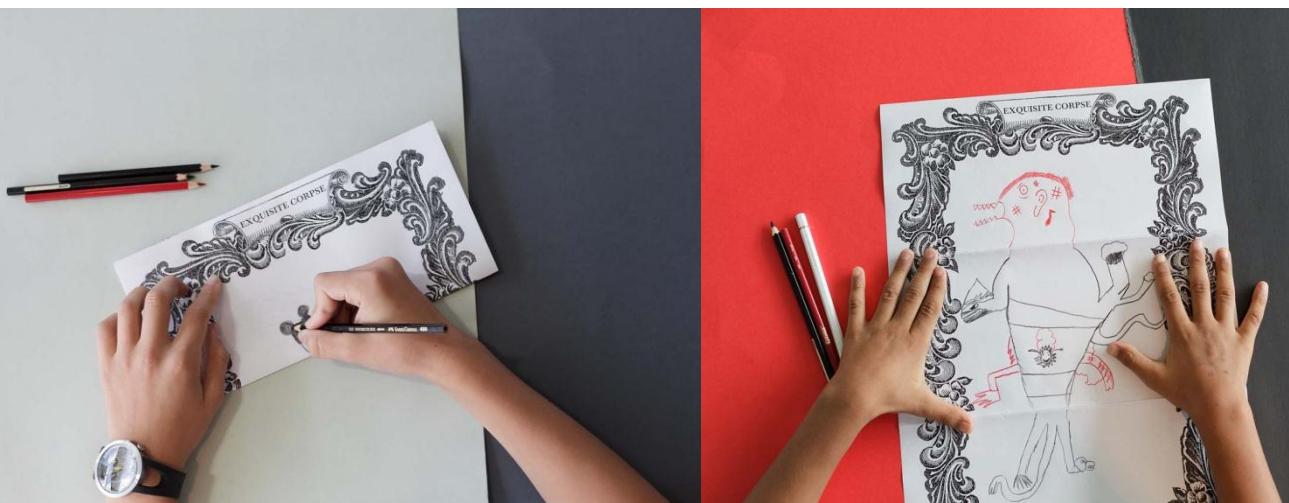


André Breton & the surrealists

Exquisite corpse

'Exquisite Corpse', a game popular with the surrealists, relies on collaboration and the unknown to compose intriguing sentences and images.

Presented in a multimedia format, this variation of the game is stocked with words and phrases that everyone can use to make surreal and surprising sentences.



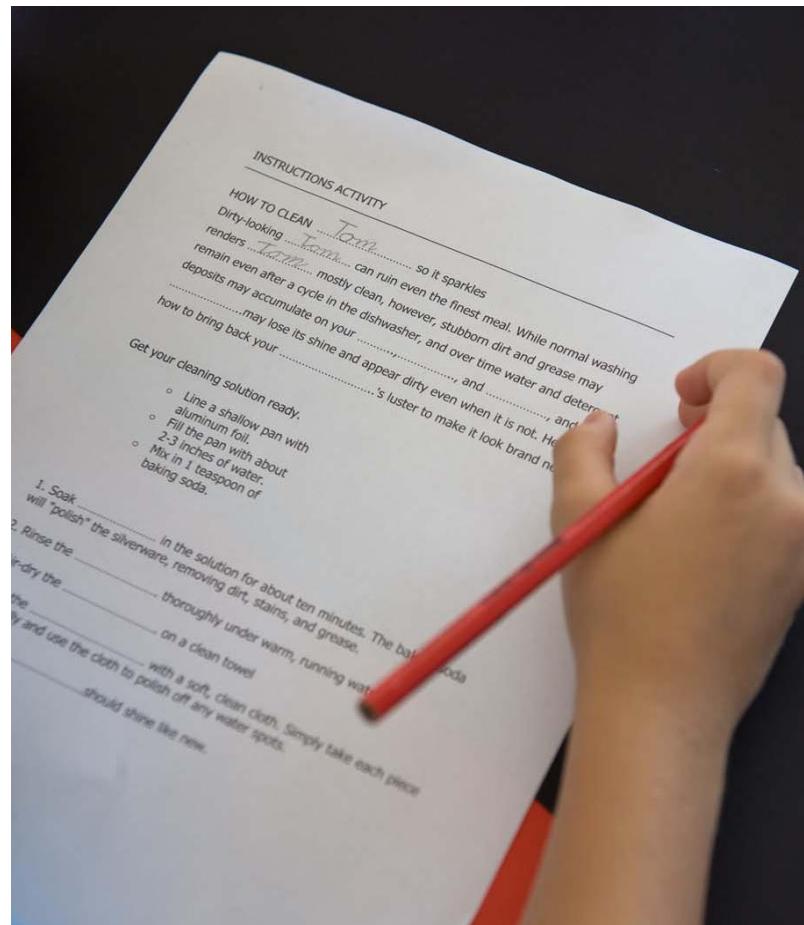
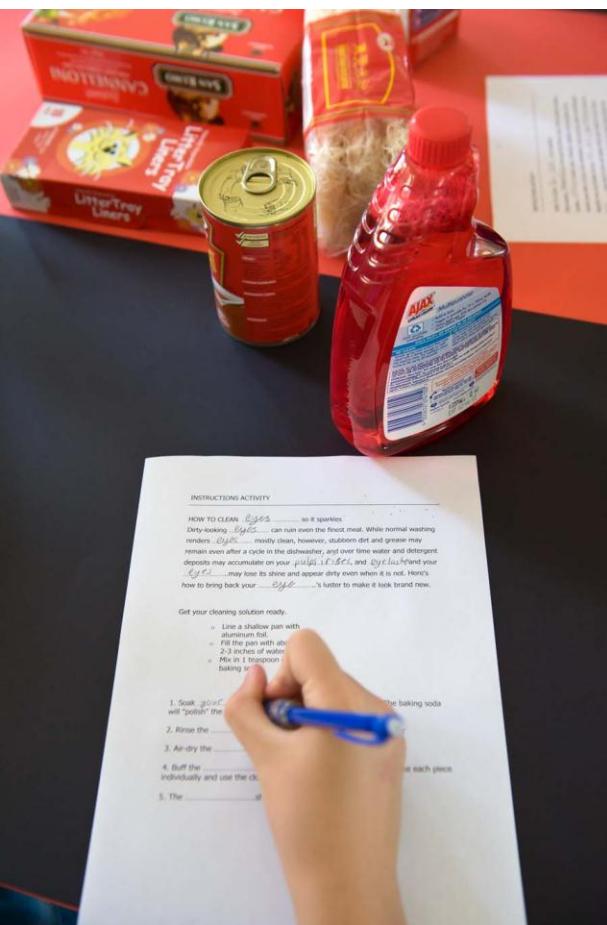
**Venues will also be provided with templates and materials to complete this as a hands on making activity.

Jean-Claude Silbermann

Directions for use

Taking key words from the 'Directions for use' on the packets of household products, Jean-Claude Silbermann would exchange them for new, random words to create unexpected and often hilarious results.

Following Jean-Claude's technique, young visitors are invited to create their own 'Directions for use' in a multimedia interactive to share with their friends and family in.



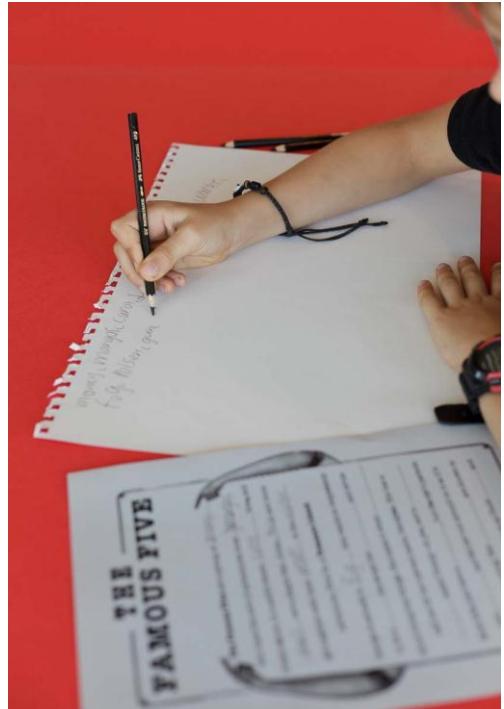
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Hervé Delabarre

Parallel stories

Using a pre-existing text, Hervé Delabarre would remove a number of nouns, verbs and adjectives and replace them with unrelated words.

Young visitors to *Surrealism for Kids on Tour* can delight in creating texts in a multimedia format that appear ordinary until they discover some new and surprising substitutions.



Surrealism for Kids publication

Each regional venue will receive a copy of the activity book for children which accompanies the exhibition *Surrealism: The Poetry of Dreams*.

The publication introduces children to Surrealist artists like Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst and André Masson who loved to play games to inspire their art. Children are invited to join in the fun with friends and family with games and activities that explore chance and transformation, turning everyday objects into unexpected art works.

Regional venues can use the publication to inspire additional activities for children to partake in as part of *Surrealism for Kids on Tour*.

Max Ernst

In 1922 German-born artist Max Ernst moved to Paris and made new friends with fellow Surrealist poet Tristan Tzara and artist André Breton. Max had been experimenting with collage, mixed media and block prints, as well as print to create artworks with many different layers of materials.

Surrealism allowed Max to create artworks that made him think of dreams and fantasies.

Max's 'surrealist collages' are bizarre landscapes filled with unexpected and often random images. These images are generally things that we know from our everyday lives (a fish, a bottle of milk, etc) placed in a situation that would never happen in reality – like a fish in the sky or a giant cherry sprouting on top of the Eiffel Tower.

Did you know?
Max Ernst was obsessed with birds – there are many birds pictured in his paintings and drawings. He even called himself 'Loplop, Bird superior.'

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Santos
We have the energy

'On Tour' is offered as a free program to regional Queensland communities through the Gallery's Regional Services department. By participating in the program, the Gallery will provide you with materials drawn from the Children's Art Centre to engage local families in workshops and other activities exploring the Surrealism for Kids' exhibition and artists.