

Surrealism

Art & Design

The unconscious as subject matter, and the methods invented for it.

A movement launched by André Breton's manifesto in Paris in 1924, growing out of Dada. It set dream, chance and the unconscious against the reason it blamed for the war.

MANIFESTO
1924

GREW OUT OF
Dada, from 1916

- Against: rationalism, and the order that produced 1914.
- Automatism: drawing or writing without conscious control.
- Exquisite corpse, frottage, decalcomania, collage.
- Ernst, Miró, Magritte, Tanning, Carrington, Oppenheim.
- Dalí's dream painting is one strand, not the whole.
- Freud's theory of dreams supplied the framework.

LOOK FOR IT

Oppenheim's fur-lined teacup, 1936: two ordinary objects, one impossible combination.

The chance methods outlived the theory. Randomised procedures are now ordinary studio practice for getting past a fixed idea.