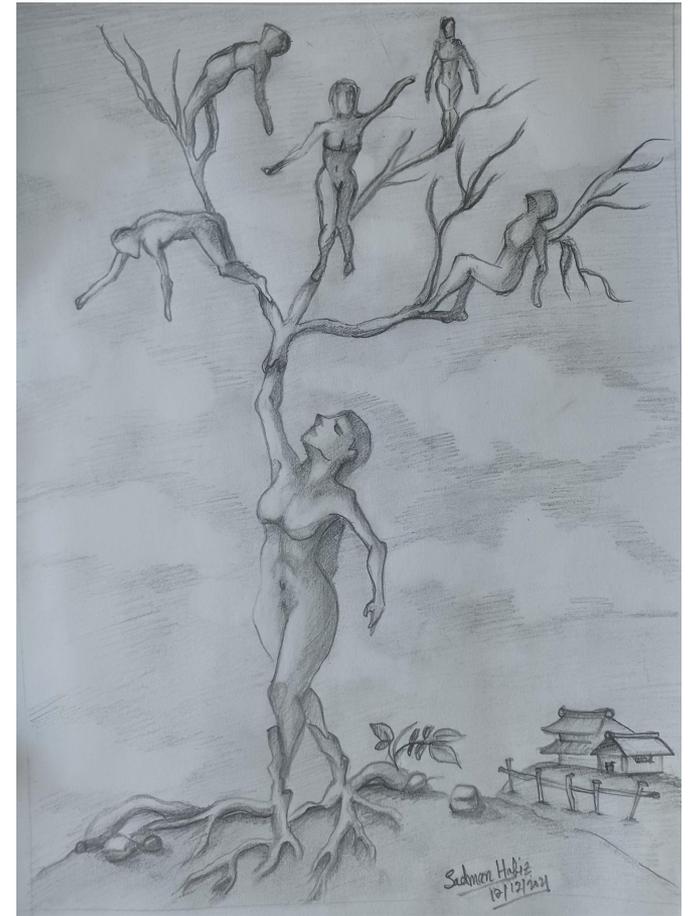


Surrealism in Recent Album Covers

By Sadman Hafiz

About Surrealism

- Surrealism began in 1924
- Andre Breton's Surrealist manifesto
- Surrealism emerged directly from the Dada movement
- inspired by the paintings of Giorgio de Chirico
- Also inspired by psychologist Sigmund Freud's theories on mental health
- Visual representation of mental health, the conscious and unconscious mind of an individual.
- A relation between reality and dream



Surrealist Art by Sadman Hafiz

Surrealism in Recent Years

Surrealism is a very old concept but many designers and artists still uses surrealism in their works. Currently many of the music album covers uses Surrealism. We want to know how surrealism still works so well on the album covers even now.

Now lets look at some of these album covers. I will try to breakdown the first one so we can understand how surrealism actually works visually then i'll simply show all the album covers that I have collected for this presentation.

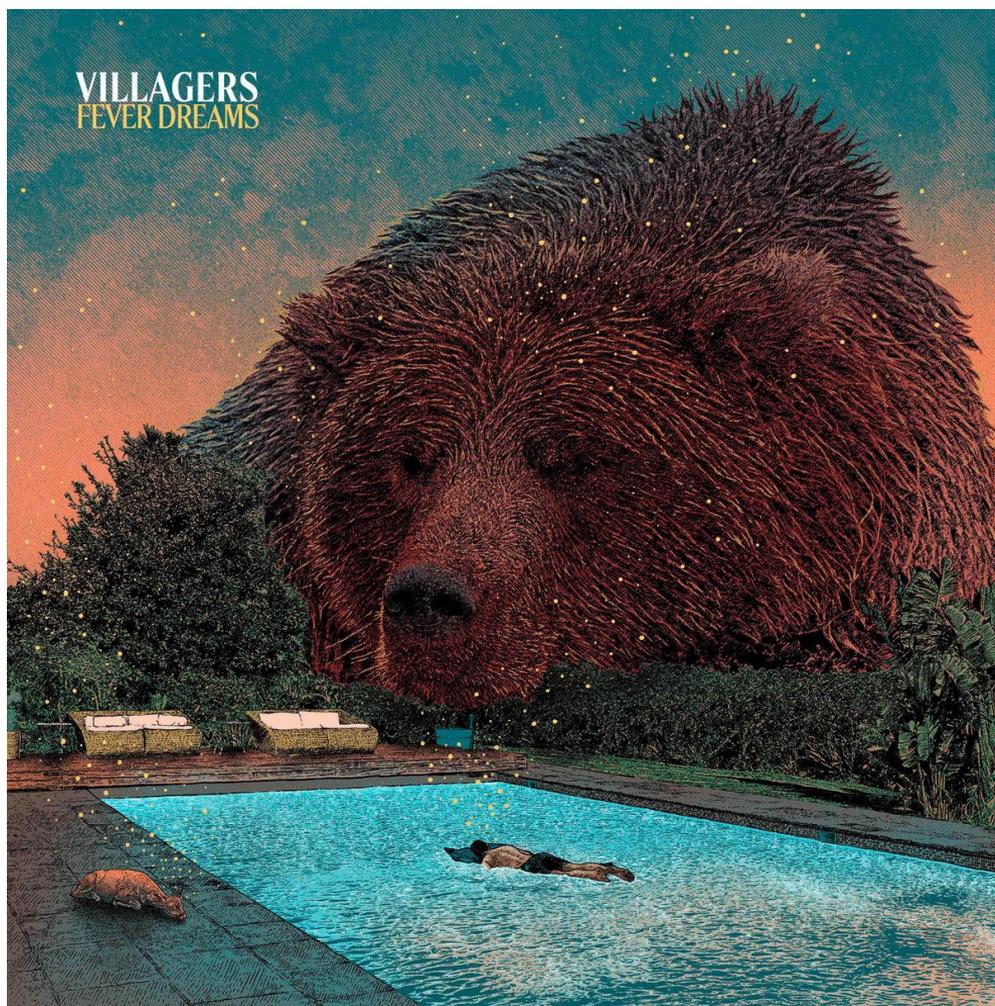
This cover art uses Surrealistic representation. If we use Roland Barthes's terminology from the "Rhetoric of the Image", this cover is a connoted image which contains coded messages. The duck here is a signifier that signifies that the red ground is actually a large body of water. This further gives us the message that this person is alone and is sad sitting on a small island surrounded by water or even darkness which can be symbolized as the color red.

Now let's look at all the Cover designs...



The Marias, Cinema

VILLAGERS
FEVER DREAMS



Fever Dreams



California by Reggie Becton



The Dodos Grizzly Peak



Eternal Atake



Nubya Garcia



Trust in the Lifeforce of the Deep Mystery

AMERICAN **SIN**



American Sin



Suga by Kyle Dion

My thoughts

Surrealism works beautifully in album covers because of its ability of breaking boundaries and incorporating realism in an unrealistic manner. The fascinating visuals sets the mood for the audience before even listening to the music. This is why I think that surrealism is still very effective even in current times.