

## **Surrealism**

Surrealism is a modern art movement located primarily in Paris, France, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Surrealism is one of many avant-garde art movements from this time period. Surrealist artists included poets, writers, sculptors, painters, and photographers. Surrealists were motivated in part by the brutality of WWI. They responded to this brutality by embracing the irrational, and the absurd. Surrealists used numerous techniques to introduce chance into their works, they used free association, collaborative and 'automatic' drawing, frottage, collage, and they drew on their dreams. Although photography was still considered a minor art in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the medium has become important to our contemporary understanding of Surrealism. Photography is a representational medium. Surrealist photographers drew on photography because of its capacity to make the real appear strange. They produced photographs using distortion, solarization, chance events, and photo-montage, in order to express ideas such as the uncanny. Surrealists, especially Andre Breton, were interested in the writings of Sigmund Freud. They used their work to tap in the unconscious, and to explore psychoanalytic ideas, such as abjection.