

How Surrealism Gave Form to the: Psychoanalysis of Unconscious

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Abstract

This research paper about how unconscious mind effect artist vision on his art and aesthetic form to the invisible working mind of the human mind.

Surrealism emerged as the one of most revolutionary movement, aiming to express the unconscious mind through visual forms. Surrealism is deeply influenced by Sigmund Frued's theory of psychoanalysis. Surrealism sought to the gap between dream and reality, imagination and reason. For interprets scholar examining some artworks, figures such as Salvador Dali, Andre Breton, and Rene Magritte.

This paper highlight how surrealism transformed psychoanalytic idea into powerful visual literary expressions that continue shape modern conceptions of creativity, psychology and the self.

Introduction

The early twentieth century was a period of immense upheaval politically, socially, and intellectually. Amid the trauma of the first World War. Artists and thinkers began questioning the values of rationality, logic. And order that had dominated Western thought. It was in this context that surrealism arise, offering a radical alternative to explore the unconscious as the source of true creativity and human authenticity.

Surrealism was not merely an artistic style but a philosophy of the mind. Influence and guided by Sigmund Freud's theories of dream, repression, and free association, Surrealists sought to reveal what lies beneath conscious awareness. They try to make visible the invisible by translating the language of dreams, fantasies, symbols, and repressed desires into painting.

In this paper argues that Surrealism gave form to the invisible mind by transforming Freudian psychoanalytic principles into creative methods and visual symbolism. first artist of began surrealism Andre Breton, studied medicine and psychiatry. He was fascinated by Freud's exploration. He defined Surrealism as "pure psychic automatism" (process by expresses, the actual functioning of thought without rational control or moral censorship). Like writing something without any thought or control of mind.

Freud Theory of Unconscious

The core philosophical idea of Surrealism lies on psychoanalysis, particularly Freud's modal of the mind. Freud divided human mind into three part, first the id, second ego, and third super ego. Freud proposed that much of human behavior is governed by unconscious drives like, repressed desire, fears, and conflicts that emerge symbolically in dreams, slip of the tongue, or automatism.

What is Freud's theory? Freud believed that that most of our thoughts and feelings are hidden in the unconscious mind. Unconscious part of the mind stores _ Repressed memories, Hidden fears, Desires, and Instincts.

According to Freud, our dream, slip of the tongue (Freudian slip), and creative expressions often reveal these unconscious thoughts. In his book "The Interpretation of Dreams" (1900), Freud said that dreams are the 'royal road to the unconscious'.

Dreams express our hidden desire in symbolic forms. For example, strange or unrealistic images in dreams are not random- they represent suppressed emotions or wishes from real life. From this theory many artists, especially Surrealists were inspired by this idea. They believed that by painting dreamlike images, they could express what deep inside the human mind. Surrealist artists such as Salvador Dali used Freud's theory to create a new kind of art that explore the nature of human, dreams, desire, and fantasies which derives from the unconscious/subconscious mind.

Artists like tried to paint what they feel, not what they see. Some techniques inspired by Freud's idea include- Automatism drawing or writing, to express thoughts without

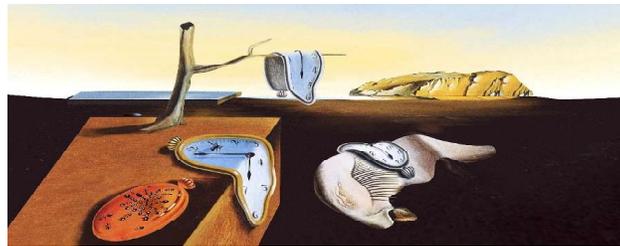
conscious control. Deep imagery, strange, symbolic, and illogical scenes inspired by dreams. Juxtaposition, combining unrelated objects to reveal hidden meanings.

For example, Dali's "melting clocks" in *The Persistence of Memory* represent the fluid, irrational nature of time as experienced in dreams.

Studies of Artworks

We analyze some artworks of surrealist artists and see their perspective how they express their emotions, feelings, and symbols in their artwork.

Salvador Dali



In *The Persistence of Memory* (1931), Salvador Dali

Dali's work is perhaps the Direct visualization of Freudian theory. "In *The Persistence of Memory*" (1931), in the artwork Dali makes melting clocks which symbolize the fluidity of time in dreams, where logic dissolve. A white creature in center and landscape in background all these elements create dream like image. Dali claimed that his method was 'hand painted dream photographs', meaning it is painted with realistic precision but represents an unreal, dreamlike world. Dali himself explained that the painting expresses the softness and relativity of time, how time changes in dreams and memory. Dali transformed the dreams theory and unconscious into visual presentation of melting forms and timeless space.

Rene Magritte



The Castle of Pyrenees, 1959, Rene Magritte

The Castle of The Pyrenees 1959, shows a massive rock floating in the sky above a calm sea, with a castle built on top of the rock in the daylight. below it waves crash gently against the sea, and behind a cloudy, open sky. The image quiet, balanced, and realistic in technique, yet the concept is impossible, which creating a powerful sense of wonder. The painting explores paradox and mystery. The rock suspended in mid-air challenges our understanding of gravity and nature, forcing the viewer to question what is possible. The castle may represent human civilization, logic, or ambition, resting on something impossible, like human belief and social systems, they mostly built on illusions. The floating rock also can symbolize the unconscious mind, heavy meanings in it but detached from the ordinary world, floating in a dreamlike space.

This visual contradiction reflects Magritte's interests in the conflict between perception and reality. Contradictions coexist naturally, if we see symbolic interpretation the rock as the permanence, memory, or the foundation of existence. Castle presenting as a human achievement, ego, civilization, or security. Sea as the unconscious, vastness, emotional depth. Sky as the spiritual or imaginative realm. Magritte realistic brushwork, smooth, controlled and photographic technique and the illusionistic detail makes the impossible seem rational gives it's psychological power.

Surrealism and Psychoanalytic Interpretation

Surrealism result of psychological thinking Freud's however, was ambivalent about surrealism, suggesting that artist merely illustrated the unconscious rather than analyzed it. Yet surrealists viewed their artwork as a continuation of psychoanalysis, on the canvas. Symbols.

According to psychoanalytic interpretation, surrealist paintings are symbolic representations of hidden desire or fears. Some of interpretation we se such as keys, doors, or eyes may represent secrets or the search for inner truth. Nude figures or melting forms can symbolize repressed sexuality. Floating objects shows detachment of the mind from physical reality. Repetition of faces or mirrors may represent identity crises or self-reflection. These symbols often appear in surrealist art because artist used same technique like free association, automatism, and dream analysis, this technique borrowed from psychoanalysis, to let the unconscious speak without censorship.

Surrealism can be seen as a visual psychoanalysis. Just as Freud helped patients uncover repressed memories through dream interpretation, surrealist artists revealed their hidden emotions through images. Art became a mirror of psyche, a way to express what word could not. By giving form to dreams and subconscious imagery, surrealism allowed artist to explore deep questions about identity, fear, desire, and the nature of unconscious. Surrealism and psychoanalysis share the same goal, to uncover the hidden truth of human

mind. Through dreamlike and symbolic imagery, they opened a path to understanding how imagination and the unconscious shapes human experience.

Surrealism in Contemporary Art

In contemporary art, surrealism has evolved into a powerful means of expressing psychological, emotional, and social realities through dreamlike and symbolic imagery. Rather than following the early surrealists focus on the unconscious mind alone, contemporary artist use surrealism to question identity, memory, technology and human experience in a changing world.

Today's surrealism appears across various medium like painting, digital art, photography, film, and installation, blending realism with imagination to challenge how we see reality. Many artists create fantastical scenes where nature, architecture and human figures merge in impossible harmony, symbolize the connection between reality and fantasy.

In photography surrealism used to explore emotional depth and psychological state. Surrealism also used in cinema, moreover, many contemporary female artists reinterpret surrealism to address theme like identity, gender, and cultural memory, giving the movement a more inclusive voice. However, as psychoanalysis gained cultural acceptance, surrealist art was reinterpreted as deeply psychological. Today's scholars see surrealism as a bridge between science and art, emotion and intellect.

Modern neuroscience even echoes surrealist insight much of our perception and decision making occurs below conscious awareness. Thus, surrealism vision of the invisible dialogue between creativity and cognition.

Conclusion

Surrealism gives visible form to unconscious depth of mind. Freud's psychoanalysis transformed perspective, perception and thought of artists. Surrealism reshapes the relationship between reality and dream. Key point of the surrealism is irrationality, the mind demands irrationality but we bound ourselves from conditioning of society, but in deep of our mind we see the reality in symbolic way in dreams and indirectly in personality of a human.

How a human think why he does something, when we try to find out the unconscious mind appear as a mirror. Artist tries not to make what he sees in dreams but the symbols and how they can make their senseless thoughts into some sensible visual form. Sometimes artwork subjects distorted twisted totally against the law of nature, but when we describe the work, it makes sense. Surrealism became the bride of hidden emotions, perception, Identity and memory. Ultimately surrealism is about that creativity not born from logic and control, but surrender to unconscious and irrationality.

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