

Guided Critique

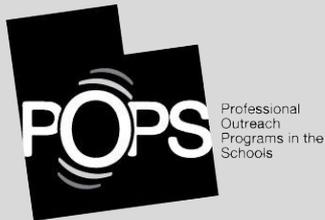
Corinne Geertsen

Grand Tour, 2012

digital photo collage

Springville Museum of Art Collection

Grade Level: 9-12





Do you need a refresher on elements and principles of art and design? [CLICK HERE](#)

Look at this artwork and describe what you see.

1. What is the focal point? How is it emphasized?
2. How has the artist used texture? Color? Line?
3. What other elements or principles of design has the artist used? Which do you find the most successful?



Respond

1. What is your gut reaction to this artwork?
 - a. How does it make you feel?
 - b. What does it make you think about?
2. If this artwork were a mood, how would you describe it?



Analyze

1. What is the relationship between the figures and objects in the artwork?
2. Where do you think they are going? Why?
3. What do you think they each could symbolize or represent?
 - a. Baby
 - b. Umbrella
 - c. Tire
 - d. Tiger
 - e. Storm

CONTEXT

- Corinne Geertsen is a contemporary artist living in Arizona.
- She works digitally, using both her own photographs and found images.
- She uses photoshop to build her compositions. Sometimes she paints or draws objects and then recreates them digitally.



CONTEXT - Artist Statement

- “I assemble my works digitally from photos of my ancestors (making occasional ancestor adoptions at thrift stores) and from my expanding archive of over 45,000 photos.”
- “My images are quirky visual narratives about psychological predicaments. I especially like a good plight.”
- “My art leans toward surrealism, as it has odd juxtapositions, non-sequiturs, and an element of surprise.”
- “My work content mirrors personal, political and global situations – in a sly way.”



Analyze

Corinne Geertsen likes to put her figures in dramatic situations.

1. What is the plight of the figures in *Grand Tour*? What kinds of obstacles can you imagine them facing?
2. What kind of “psychological predicament” could this artwork represent?
3. Can you describe a time you’ve felt or experienced something similar?

CONTEXT - The Grand Tour

- “The Grand Tour” was a tradition of young wealthy European men during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries who went on elaborate trips across Europe to learn about art, philosophy, and culture
- Participants of the Grand Tour often brought back collections of art, antiquities, and sometimes animals

Consider: Who was left out of the Grand Tour experience?



Pompeo Batoni, *Francis Basset, 1st Baron of Dunstanville*, oil on canvas, 1778, Museo Del Prado



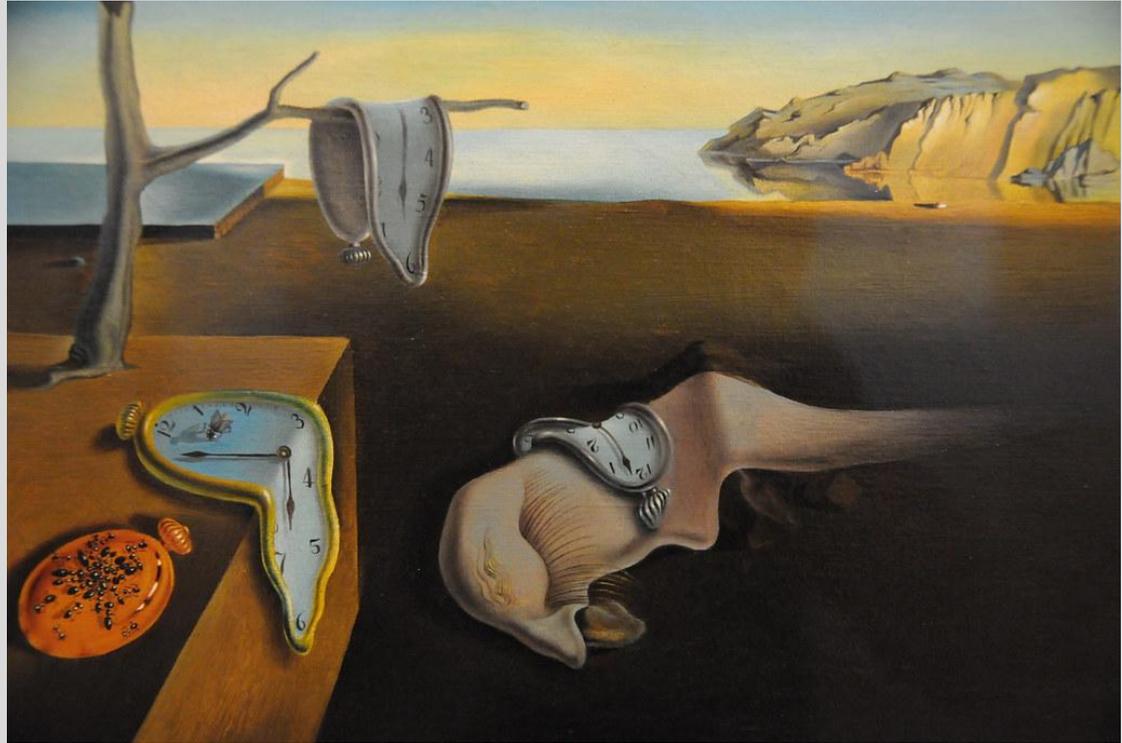
Analyze

1. Why did Corinne Geertsen title this photo collage *Grand Tour*?
 - a. What elements do you think refer to the eighteenth-century Grand Tour?
 - b. Which are absurd or jokes?
 - c. Can you think of an alternative title?

CONTEXT - Surrealism

- Geertsen describes her work as “leaning towards surrealism.”
- Surrealism is defined as:
 - a 20th-century experimental or avant-garde movement in art and literature which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images.
- Surrealist artwork is often dreamlike, imaginary, random, and absurd.
- Surrealism was started in Paris in the 1920s and was influenced by new psychological ideas about dreams and the subconscious.
- The original Surrealism movement was political. The artists saw themselves as agents of social change and revolution.

Surrealism



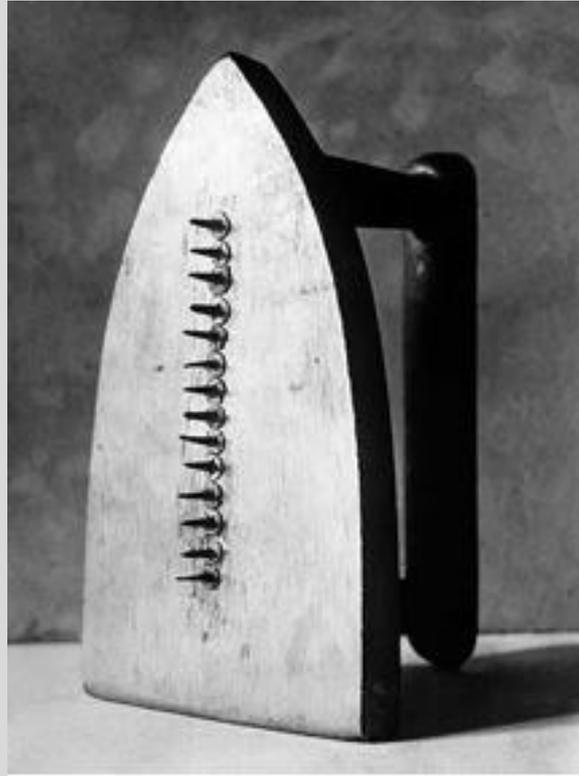
Salvador Dalí, *The Persistence of Memory*, 1931, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Surrealism



Meret Oppenheim, *Object*, 1936, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Surrealism



Man Ray, *Gift*, c1958 (replica of 1921 original), The Museum of Modern Art, New York

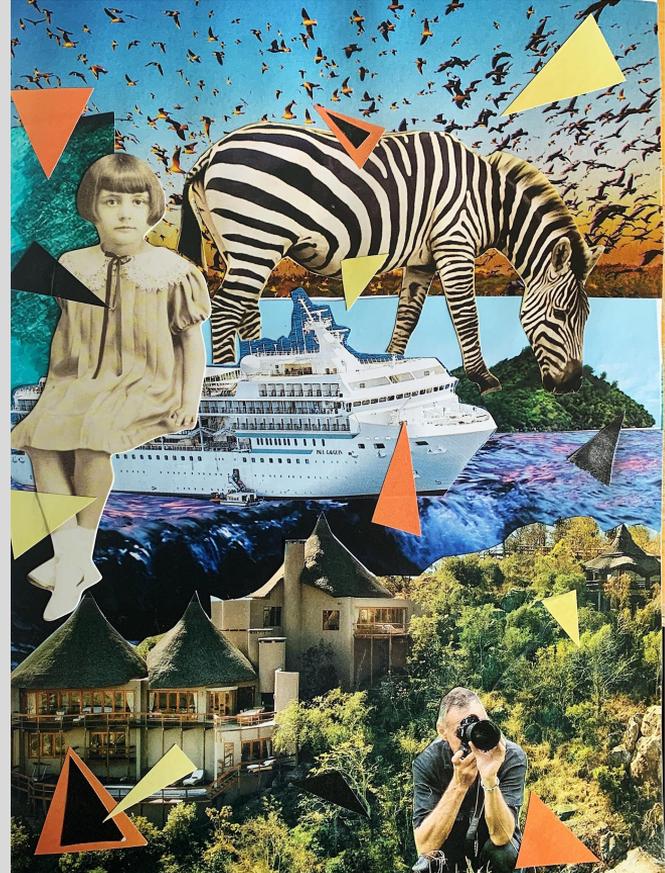


Compare

1. How do the surrealist works on the previous slides combine surprising elements or images to create new meanings?
2. How is Corinne Geertsen using surrealist methods and techniques? What has she borrowed from the famous surrealist artists?

Create - Surreal Collage

1. In an old book, magazine or online at [New York Public Library Digital Collections](#) find an image to be the center of your collage
2. Find 5-6 other random images that show different colors, textures, and patterns
3. Create one image on your own by making your own pattern or design.
4. Using scissors, glue, and paper or a digital app or software combine the images in surprising ways.
5. Title your work.
 - a. Think about what will be humorous, insightful, or emphasize the absurdity of your collage



Further Learning

- Artist Website: <https://www.corinnegeertsen.com/>
- Surrealism: <https://www.moma.org/collection/terms/97>
- Surrealism: <https://smarthistory.org/surrealism-intro/>
- Explore Contemporary Collage: <http://kolajmagazine.com/content/>