

Monsters & Myths: Surrealism and War in the 1930s and 1940s

Upper-Level Galleries | June 21–September 29, 2019

Organized by The Baltimore Museum of Art and The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art



André Masson (French, 1896–1987). *There Is No Finished World*, 1942. Oil on canvas, 53 x 68 in. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Bequest of Saidie A. May, BMA 1951.333

What:

Few artists in the 1930s and 1940s produced images more powerfully disturbing than the Surrealists, who conveyed dark premonitions and unsettling responses to the rise of Hitler, the Spanish Civil War, and World War II. These events profoundly challenged the revolutionary hopes that had guided most Surrealist artists in the 1920s. Drawn primarily from the collections of The Baltimore Museum of Art and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the exhibition highlights the brilliance and fertility of the art of this period, which arose amid political and personal turmoil as an effort to engage with psychological forces that propelled contemporary history. As Surrealist scholar Martica Sawin observed, it was part of Surrealism's project to "explore those areas of the human psyche where the propensity to violence lurked."

The exhibition and related programs have been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



The exhibition is supported in part by the Frist Art Museum's **Picasso Circle members** and



**Frist Art
Museum**

919 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203
FristArtMuseum.org



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Standard connections and Frist resources:

Tennessee Academic Standards for Fine Arts Education

By analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating artworks, students fulfill the respond domain of the Tennessee Fine Art Standards. Synthesizing information and contextualizing the works applies to the connect domain.

Literacy Standards

Writing activities based on artworks and themes presented in this exhibition may connect to Tennessee writing standards. Possible writing prompts may include:

- Collectively tell or write a story in the fashion of the surrealists' "exquisite corpse" method by which participants take turns continuing a sentence or story.

SL.CC.1 Cornerstone: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with varied partners, building on others' ideas and expressing one's own ideas clearly and persuasively.

W.TTP.3 Cornerstone: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

5th Grade Social Studies

World War I, The Roaring Twenties, and World War II: Students will analyze the involvement of the United States during World War I, the cultural, economic, and political developments of the 1920s, and the causes and course of World War II.

World History and Geography

World Wars 1914–1945: Students analyze the causes and course of World War II, along with the long-term military, economic, and political effects of the World War II.

Frist resources

Available on-site, at FristArtMuseum.org, or on the Frist App

- Gallery guide
- Audio tour
- App

Selected programs and events

Gallery Talk
Thursday, August 15, 6:30 p.m.

In-Gallery Music Performance, by Timbre
Thursday, September 19, 6:30 p.m.

Catalogue

Monsters & Myths: Surrealism and War in the 1930s and 1940s

Edited by Oliver Shell and Oliver Tostmann

List price: \$50. Available in the Frist Art Museum gift shop

Interested in a group tour? Sign up at FristArtMuseum.org/tours