

The Dalí Museum's Student Surrealist Art Exhibit "Irrational Technology: From the Ridiculous to the Sublime"

Statewide

May 17 – August 23, 2020

Initiated in 1985, this annual art exhibit presents work by middle and high school students whom we invite to explore ideas and visions similar to those explored by Salvador Dalí and the surrealists. This year, the theme is "Irrational Technology."

Today most of us associate the word "technology" with smartphones, gadgets, and robots, but we have been developing technology since the conception of stone tools. The creation of new technologies seems to be intrinsic to humanity, and it deeply affects the way we live. We invent to meet basic human needs, for social and economic needs, for our own convenience and to fulfill curiosity and the urge to create.



Dalí posing with his invention, the Ovocipede in 1959. Look familiar?

Dalí is renowned for his curiosity and urge to create. Science was a lifelong interest of his, and he read up on the newest scientific discoveries and technologies regularly. Dalí was inspired by the technology that could challenge reality and the visible world around us. We can see this influence in his art, particularly during his Nuclear Mysticism period (1950-58). And like his Renaissance counterpart Leonardo da Vinci, Dalí designed his own surreal ideas for new technology and inventions.

Had Dalí lived into this era, he would have embraced 21st century technological tools to make his dream paintings ever more real. Technology can shape the way we live and the way we see the world—it can make the impossible possible. Our society is infatuated by technology and the possibility it brings, good or bad.

For the 2020 Student Surrealist Art Exhibit, we challenge students to explore surreal ideas about technology. Students may consider the absurdities of technology, the possible benefits and consequences of our fascination for technology, surreal technologies of their own, or an irrational world shaped by its technology. Interpretations may be dystopian or fanciful and humorous. All 2D media types are welcomed and encouraged.

What's the Big Idea?

Artist Statements

To encourage students to reflect upon their creative processes and to articulate their artistic decisions, We ask students to consider the questions below as they reflect upon their artwork. Students should limit their responses to 50-75 words.

Questions to consider:

- What inspired you?
- How did the exhibit's theme influence you?
- How do you connect to this artwork? What makes this work important to you?
- What was your method for creating the work?
- What did you learn from making the work?
- What makes your work surreal? Which surrealist techniques did you use?
- What do you want the viewer to know?

Details:

- Artist statements are due on **May 1**, either with mailed artwork or via email.
- Teachers should attach artist statements and submission forms to the back of accepted student artwork before sending to The Dalí Museum
- Artist statements may be considered in the awards judging but scoring remains based on the merit of the artwork in accordance to the scoring rubric
 - Artist statements may bolster submissions but will never be detrimental to scoring
- *Please advise students that artist statements will appear on display to the public with their artwork if selected for the exhibit – please do not include private information*

Resources

The Dalí Museum produced two videos to support students and teachers prepare for the Student Surrealist Art Exhibit.

"Surrealism: The Big Ideas" is an 11 minute introduction to Surrealism. The video goes through the history of Surrealism and its key components. Consider it Surrealism 101.

The second video, "How to Make Surrealist Art," is meant to inspire students to create their own surrealist art. The video introduces surrealist techniques, like dislocation, transformation and symbolism, and presents prompts to try in the classroom.

Find the videos here: <https://thedali.org/programs/education-2/activities-2/> or on The Dali Museum's YouTube account.

The Dalí's Flickr account with past years' exhibits:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/dali_museum/albums/72157709367501216

Statewide Exhibit Dates

April 1	Digital submissions due via EntryThingy
April 15	Accepted artwork announced
May 1	Selected work due to The Dalí Museum 1 Dali Blvd St. Petersburg, FL 33701 ATTN: Student Art Exhibit
May 16	Exhibit opens
May 29	Awards judging
June 13	Reception at The Dalí, 5:30-7:30 PM
Aug. 23	Last day of exhibit
Sept.	Artworks mailed back to teachers

Entry Requirements

- Up to 6 entries per teacher & one work per student
 - If two teachers submit for the same student, only one will be chosen for consideration
- Finished work must be 8"x10" to fit our frames and cannot be thicker than ½"
 - If work does not fit into frame, the work will be disqualified
- We cannot accept 3D objects or clay reliefs (due to fragility)
 - Photographs of three-dimensional pieces are permitted but will be judged on the merit of the photograph first and the object second
 - Example of successful submission of photographed 3D work on right
- Artwork in the exhibit must be original work and cannot be digital reproductions
- Any work found to be plagiarized will be disqualified
 - Please remind your students to use original ideas and imagery
- The Dalí Museum wishes to show varied work and represent as many schools as possible, please avoid submitting similar work by different students



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Exhibit Details

- Exhibit website: <http://thedali.org/ssae>
- Open to middle and high school students in Florida
- Teachers must submit student artwork; students may not submit their own artwork
- About 100 works selected for exhibit
- The Dalí Museum frames accepted work for exhibit
- Exhibit held in The Dalí Museum Raymond James Community Room
 - Please call before visiting a student exhibit as the Community Room occasionally closes for private events
- Six middle school works will be given awards and twelve high school works will be given awards (Honorable Mention, Merit, Excellence)
- Artwork will be returned to teachers after the Exhibit

Suggested Surreal Strategies and Techniques to Consider:

Juxtaposition	Metamorphosis	Collage
Displacement	Dreamlike settings	Levitation
Double images and illusions	Dislocation	Transparency
Transformation	Symbolism	Scale

Guidelines for judges

- **Theme:** Artwork that addresses appropriately the exhibition theme and surrealist themes
- **Innovation:** Artwork that exhibits an original approach to process, concept and/or subject matter
- **Original Expression:** Artwork that communicates personal voice, aesthetic, vision and/or style.
- **Skill/Technique:** Artwork that exhibits technical competency in chosen medium
- ***NEW Guideline***
Completeness: Artwork that exhibits thoughtful use of space and balanced treatment to all elements of artwork

Scoring Rubric

Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shows strong evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. ○ Shows strong use of innovation and creativity. ○ Communicates a strong personal and/or original message. ○ Shows strong application of the design principles and excellent technical use of media to express ideas. ○ Shows strong use of space and is fully finished.
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shows good evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. ○ Shows good use of innovation and creativity. ○ Communicates a good personal and/or original message. ○ Shows good application of the design principles and good technical use of media to express ideas. ○ Shows good use of space and/or is predominantly finished.
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shows little evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. ○ Shows little use of innovation or creativity. ○ Communicates limited personal vision or original message. ○ Shows limited and/or inconsistent application of the design principles. ○ Novice in use of space and/or is partially unfinished.
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shows no evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. ○ Shows trite and/or simplistic approaches. ○ Communicates no personal or original message, and/or is direct copy of copyrighted photographic resources. ○ Shows no understanding of the design principles and/or very little or no technical competence or control of media. ○ Shows poor use of space and/or elements appear to be rushed or unfinished

The Dalí Museum Education Department thanks you for your participation.

Peter Tush, Curator of Education

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Accepted Entry Form (required)

ACCEPTED ENTRY FORM: STUDENT SURREALIST ART EXHIBIT

- Fill out the form completely and attach to the back of each accepted artwork
- Check spelling of student's name and title of work
- Indicate the orientation of the work

Student Name First & Last	
Title of Work	
Media Be specific (colored pencil, acrylic paint, watercolor etc.)	
Grade	
School	
City	
Teacher Name First & Last	
Teacher Email	

Accepted Submission checklist:

- ✓ Student artwork
- ✓ Submission form
- ✓ Artist statement