Surrealist Self Portrait

Using Adobe Photoshop + Selection Tools

Surrealism

Founded by the poet André Breton in Paris in 1924, surrealism was an artistic and literary movement.

It proposed that the Enlightenment—the influential 17th- and 18th-century intellectual movement that championed reason and individualism—had suppressed the (superior) qualities of the irrational, unconscious mind.

Surrealism's goal was to liberate thought, language, and human experience from the oppressive boundaries of rationalism.

Max Ernst | Two Children are Threatened by a Nightingale

Surrealism

So basically:

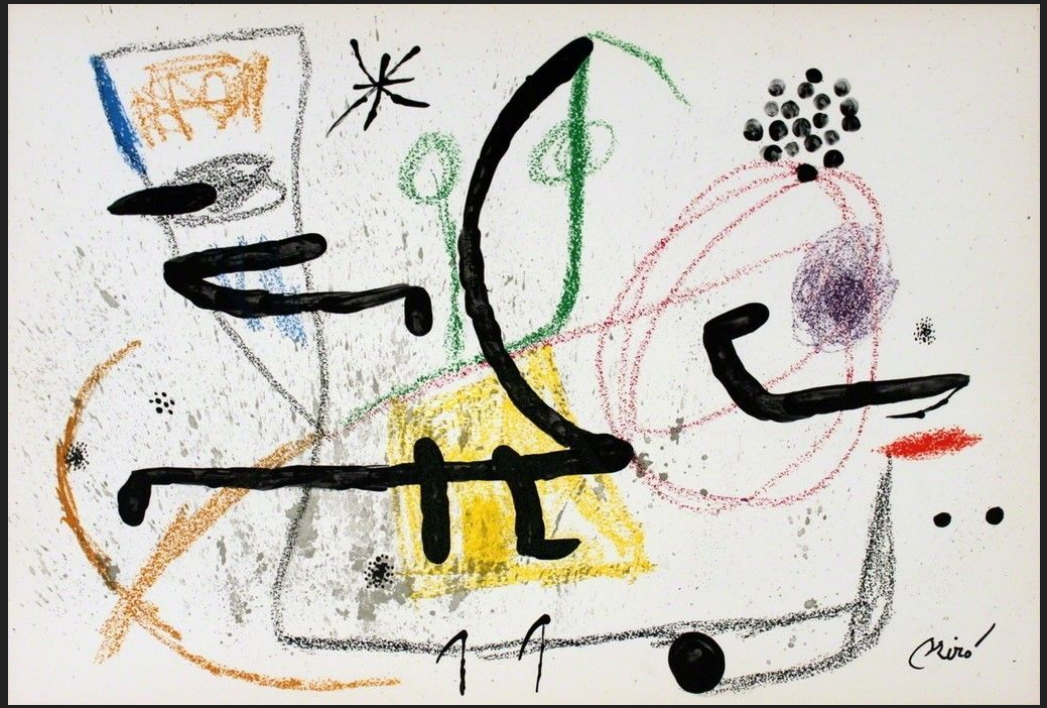
Science, rationality & thinking that makes sense: TIRED.

Free expression, daydreaming, dreams, wandering minds: WIRED.

Salvador Dali | The Persistence of Memory

Surrealism's desire to break free of reason led it to question the most basic foundation of artistic production: the idea that art is the product of a single artist's creative imagination.

The surrealists embraced chance and believed that our collective unconscious would help us bring story and meaning to artwork that didn't make logical sense.



Joan Miro' | Maravillas #1061

Surrealism Techniques

Scale
Levitation
Juxtaposition
Dislocation
Transparency
Transformation

Scale

Rene Magritte | Personal Values

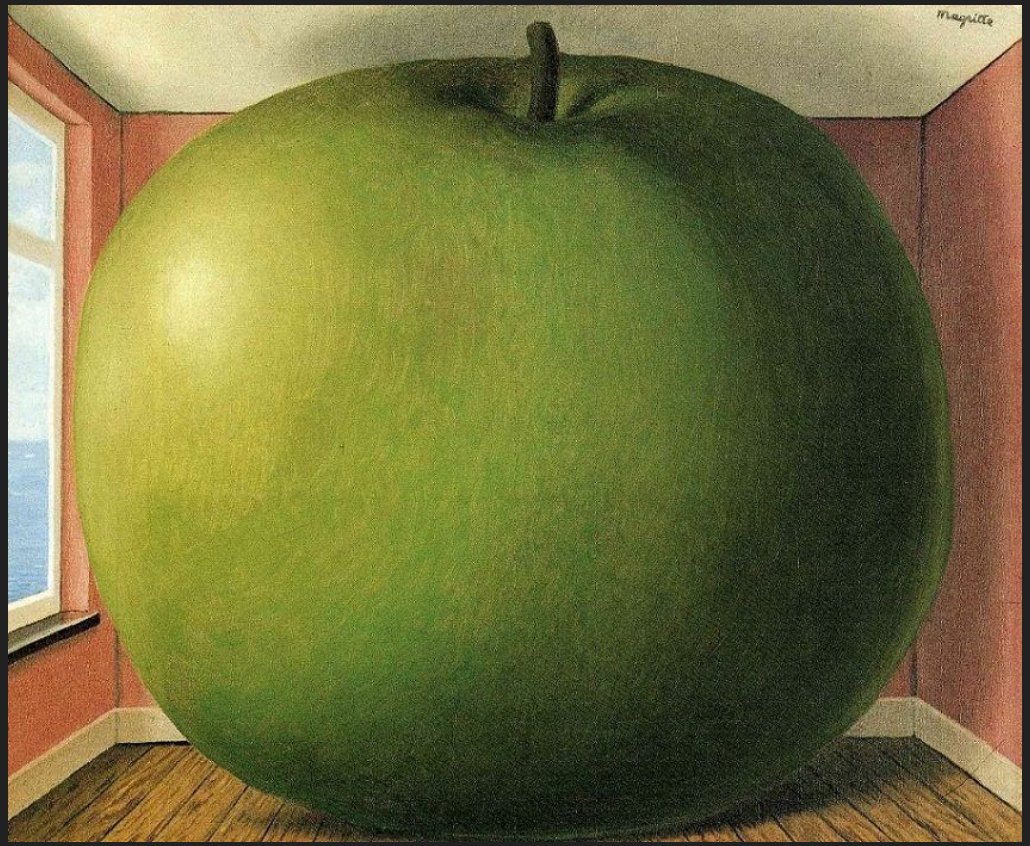
Make the scale of objects in your design extraordinary or unusual, especially by comparison.

Scale

Tetsuye Isheda

Make the scale of objects in your design extraordinary or unusual, especially by comparison.

Scale

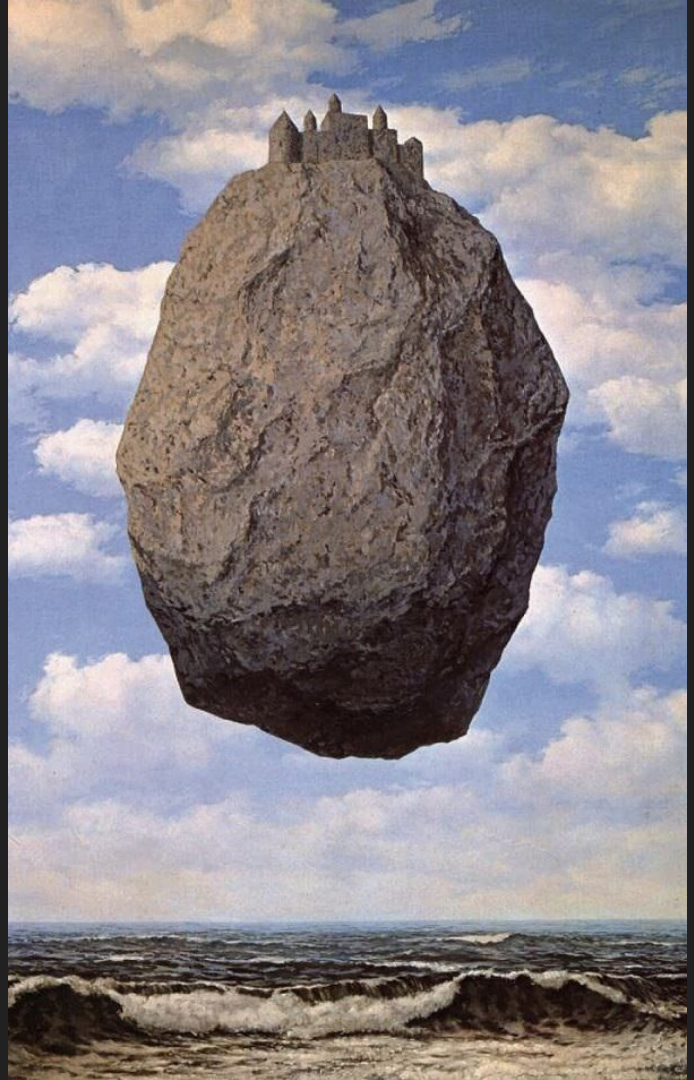


Rene Magritte | The Listening Room

Make the scale of objects in your design extraordinary or unusual, especially by comparison.

Levitation

Make objects float that don't ordinarily float.



Rene Magritte | Castle in the Pyrenees

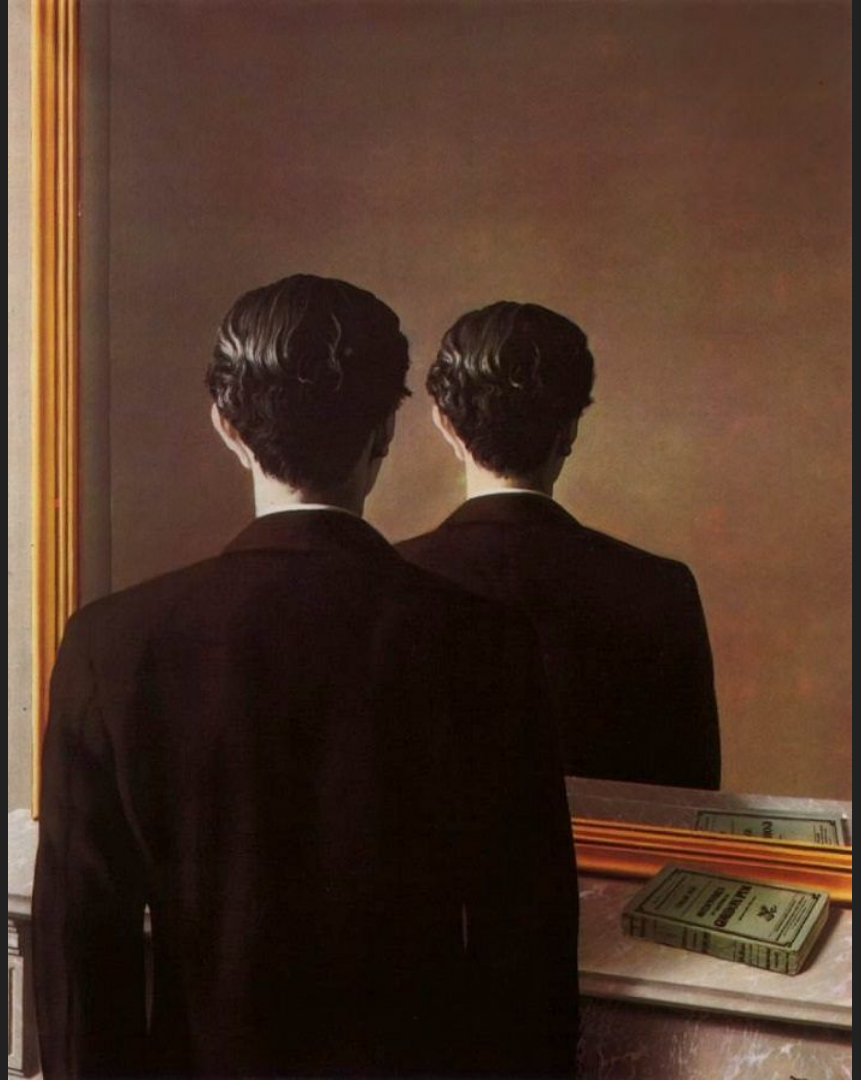
Levitation

Make objects float that don't ordinarily float.

Rene Magritte | Golconde

Juxtaposition

Join two images together in impossible combinations.



Rene Magritte | Not to Be Reproduced

Juxtaposition

Join two images together in impossible combinations.

Salvador Dali | Myself at the Age of Ten When I Was the Grasshopper Child

Dislocation

Taking an object from its usual environment and placing it in an unfamiliar one.

Rene Magritte | The False Mirror

Dislocation

Taking an object from its usual environment and placing it in an unfamiliar one.

Aftermath | Marion Adnams

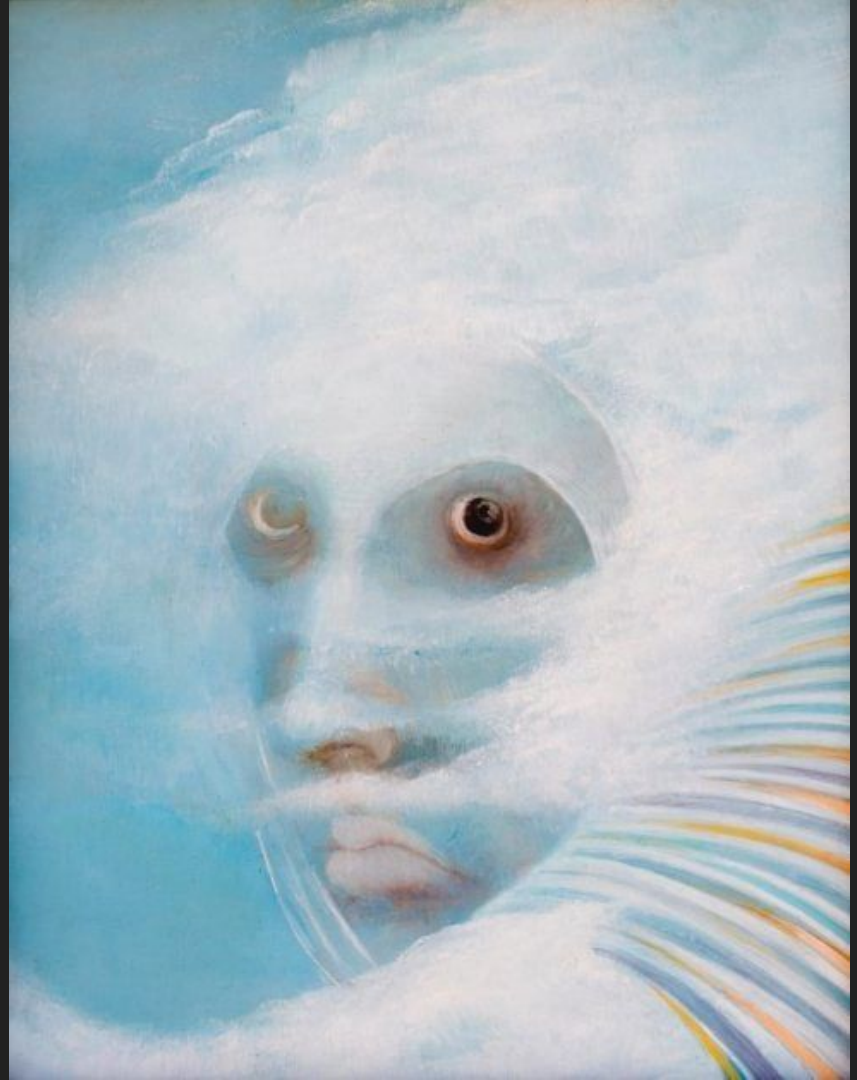
Transparency

Making objects transparent that are not usually transparent.

The Large Family | Rene Magritte

Transparency

Making objects transparent that are not usually transparent.



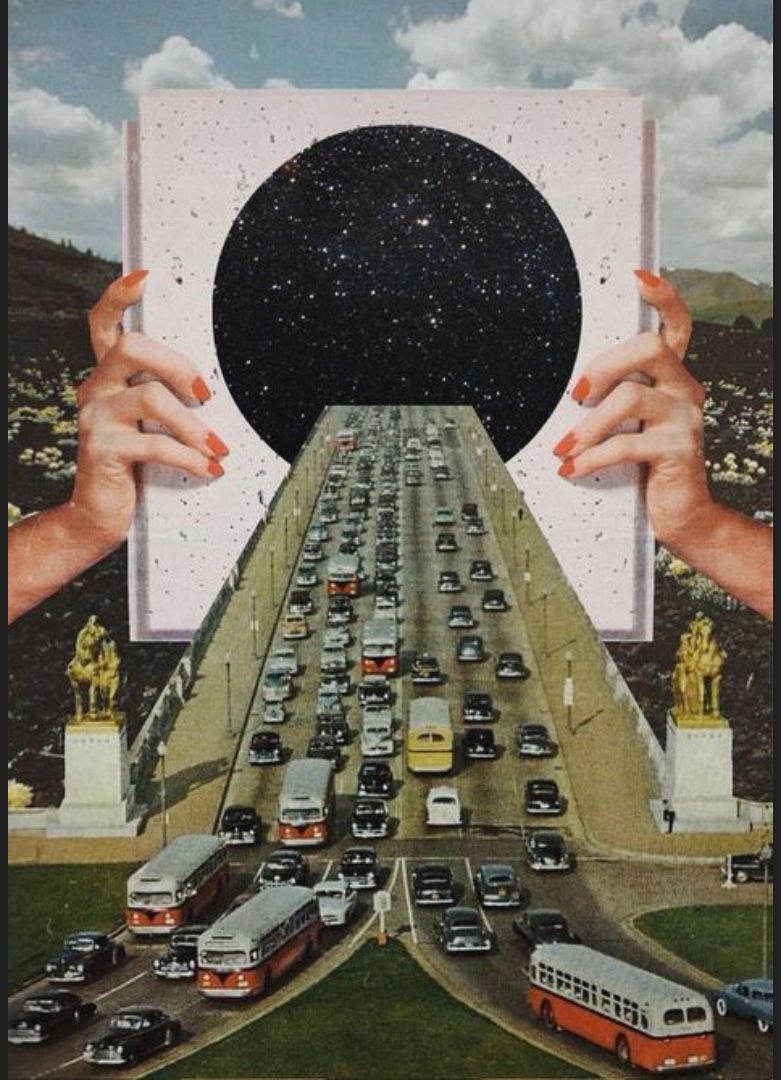
Bridget Tichenor | Guia I

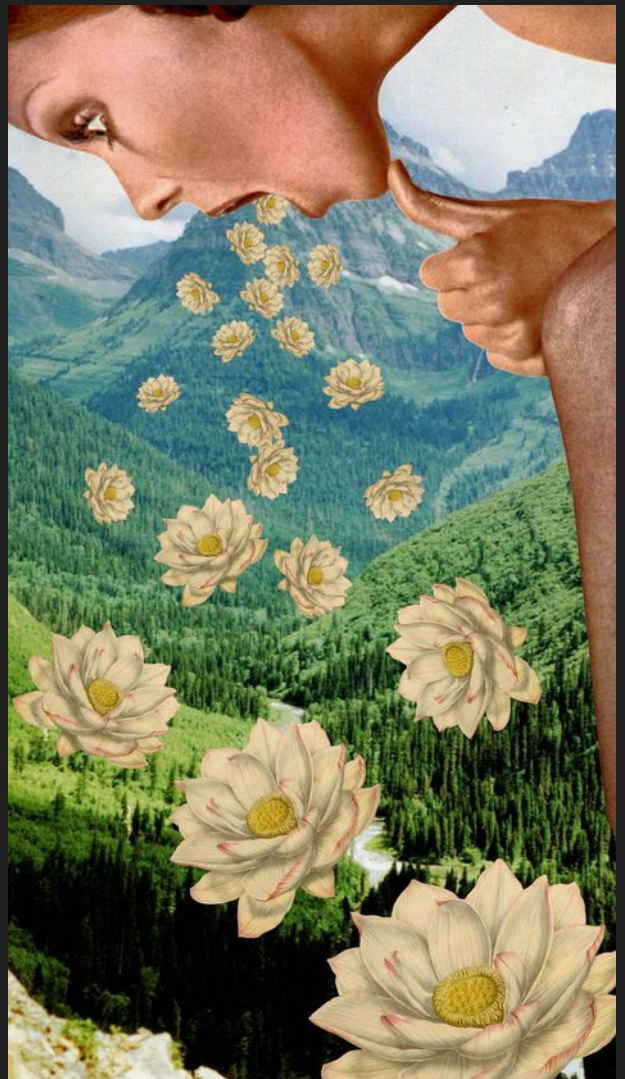
Transformation

Depicting OR suggesting a transformation of one object into another

The Fern Cat | Remedios Varo

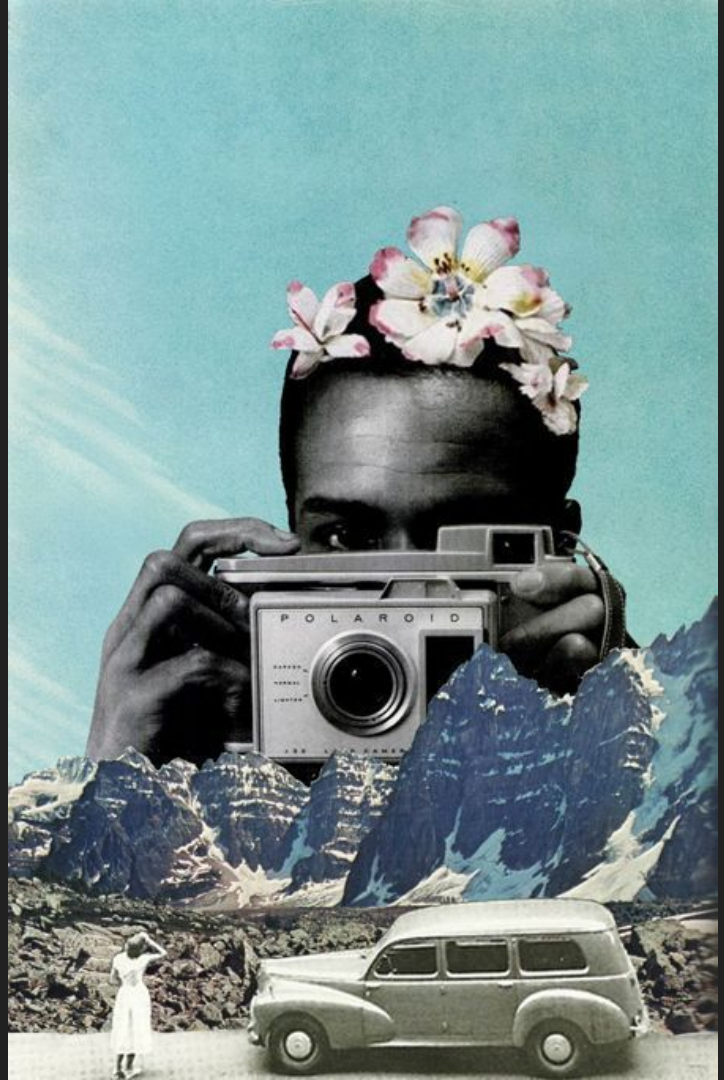
Photoshop selections make it possible for us to experiment with surrealism without all the painting technique.





Last Waltz in Vienna
George Clare
KELVIN.ST

barkthins


POLAROID

PROMPT: Create a surrealist self portrait photomontage using Photoshop selection tools.

Take a picture of yourself in a deliberate pose to fit into a composition that expresses something about yourself.

Post to fit into the circumstances of a background space that you choose.

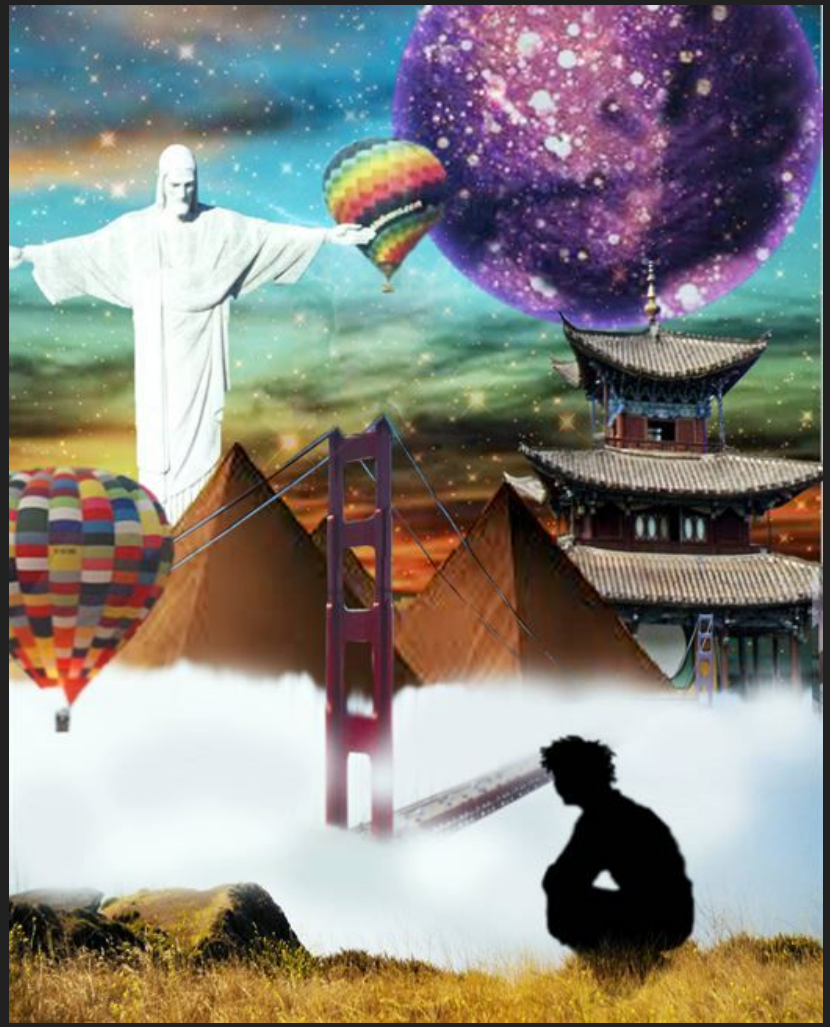
You may use a picture of yourself when you were younger if this makes sense for your concept, or something taken now. (We can scan old photographs if necessary.) *The photograph should be high resolution.*

Use selection tools, layers, image adjustments, and blending modes to add at least five elements to this image that work together to tell a story. Concentrate on making the additions seamless.

Keep in mind that our concept is surrealism—so that story does NOT need to make rational sense.

Your composition should be visually intriguing, technically correct, and unexpected.

High School Samples



High School Samples

Your image must have a clear foreground, middle ground, and background.

You must use all of the following Photoshop techniques:
1: Masking
2: Blending Modes
3: Image Adjustments

You must use at least THREE of the Surrealism Techniques:
1: Scale
2: Levitation
3: Juxtaposition
4: Dislocation
5: Transparency
6: Transformation

High School Samples

FORMAT:

9x12, either portrait or landscape, 300 dpi

GETTING STARTED:

Choose a background image. Use a Google Image Search at LARGE. You can also use an image from the LANDSCAPES folder we used in a previous assignment.

Take your picture, or have a classmate take your picture.

Remember that a simple background may make your selection easier.

Add your portrait to the background image first—then start bringing in other imagery. *The selections should make technical sense, but not rational sense!*

SUBMISSION:

Photoshop File (PSD)

Caras Ionut

(4) Correct Format

(3) Uses required Photoshop techniques

(3) Uses at least three Surrealism techniques

(5) Brings in at least five images in addition to the background and figure

(5) Distinct and seamless foreground, middle ground, and background

(5) Efforts taken with blending modes, image adjustments, and overall image quality to produce a unified work

(5) Overall quality, complexity, and professionalism

30