

# Comparative study

What do artists with drastically different work share?



RENE MAGRITTE

Rene Magritte, is my international artist, who created many famous oil paintings, whose work lives on even though he does not. Sally Duback is my local artist, who gets involved in the community with many works.



SALLY DUBACK

# Rene Magritte

was born in Lessines, Belgium in 1898. He began lessons in drawing in 1910. On 12 March 1912, his mother committed suicide. Rene connected some of his work with his mother. He was a surrealist painter during the period. Started in advertising, creating advertising companies, and was decently successful, but it wasn't what he wanted. He wanted created freedom, and enjoyed creating work that many considered "not proper" or not actually art.



# Surrealist Artist style

The medium that Magritte used was oil paint on canvas. Magritte was a surrealist painter who used repetition in his symbols. He frequently used the symbols, sky, apples, and pears. While Magritte uses a lot of emotion, he uses realistic imagery, and his painting style, while the symbols and scenery is unrealistic, his technique is. Magritte also blends a lot in his paintings, not many brushstrokes can be seen in his paintings. His work is almost unsettlingly smooth, and adds to the atmosphere of the painting. It is clear in *Time Transfixed*, how smooth Magritte works. The painting looks like it could be a rendering of a room in a computer program.



# Works



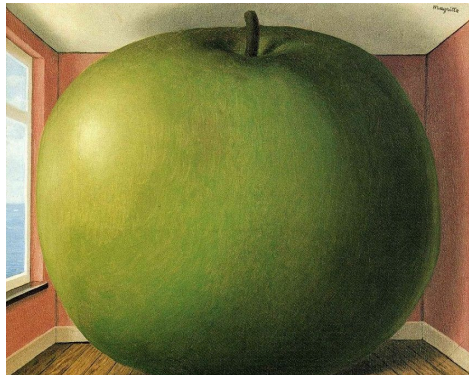
The False Mirror

False mirror is well known, and an example of Magritte's use of the sky, and its importance. The eyelid, and white of the eye is incredibly smooth. With little contrast the skin and eye look plain. The pupil is the focal point because the incredible amount of contrast between the light colors, and the heavy fully darkened pupil. In terms of hierarchy, the pupil is first, since it is so large, and so dark our attention is immediately drawn to it.

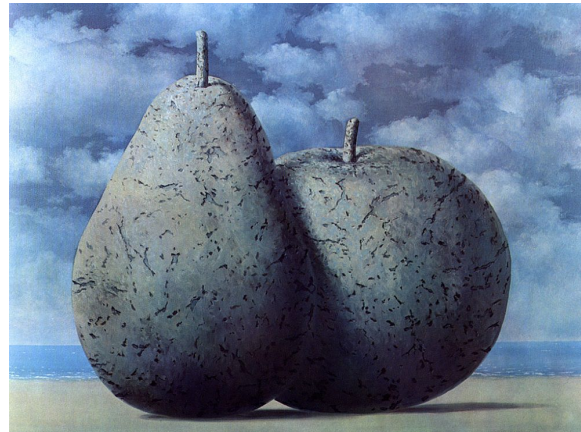
Magritte takes the idea of what we see, and reflects it to the viewer of the painting, the pupil is absorbing this image of the sky. The imagery of the sky does create a sense of a mirror, yet the pupil just makes the viewer question what is going on in the painting. The title even suggests something is wrong with this mirror.

# Similarities in his own work

Many of his paintings include fruit, especially apples, and pears. Realistic things, in unreal situations. Texture is very important with each Composition. The stone apple and pear, and the crispness of the green apple. It is interesting the texture of the apple and pear in *Memory of a Voyage*. The green apple in *The Listening Room* has a more realistic texture, for an apple, while the stone texture on the apple and pear in *Memory of a Voyage* is less realistic, its seems to be oversimplified to get the message across to the viewer. Where does Magritte also over simplify? He oversimplifies the pupil in *The false Mirror* to draw the viewer's attention



**The Listening Room, 1952 by Rene Magritte**



**Memory of a Voyage, 1951 by Rene Magritte**

# Magritte's Emotion

Blank face, dull background is used to convey despair, yet raises questions in the viewer. Like Duback, Magritte has contrast in the background of son of man, and the shining apple in front of the man's face. The dreary ominous background speaks to the business appearance of the man in the bowler hat. There is a common stigma of businessmen to be slick, and hide information from their customers. This branches to how society feels that there is a "man" bringing them down, or some higher power controlling their life, like this cliché, the man is faceless. The man is just out of place in general, the contrast between the man and the background is so suspect, and uneasy. The hue of the tie, is especially drawing of the viewers attention. The tie, at first seems to be of so little importance, yet it is red, not a dull red, nor light, but a deep bright red. This choice of red, can speak to the interpretation that this is a businessman.



# Sally Duback

Sally Duback has gotten involved in her community for many works, which influence the meaning, and influences the meaning of why she does work in the first place. Duback Works with many mediums, many more than Magritte. Although some mediums like mosaic are apart of her larger projects that she has help from the community on, she has created Sculpture, oil paintings, drawing, prints, digital prints, installations. Sally Duback's oil paintings have more adult themes, but still do feature children.



# Duback Prints

Duback has made a lot of negative prints. She shows high levels of contrast. The Black and white color in the prints focus on machinery, showing meaning in how we think of how society runs, and how we view factories and their workers.

Like in Magritte's paintings Sally duback also has recurring symbols, like the butterfly in Survivor, also can be seen in more colorful prints.





# Duback's Emotion



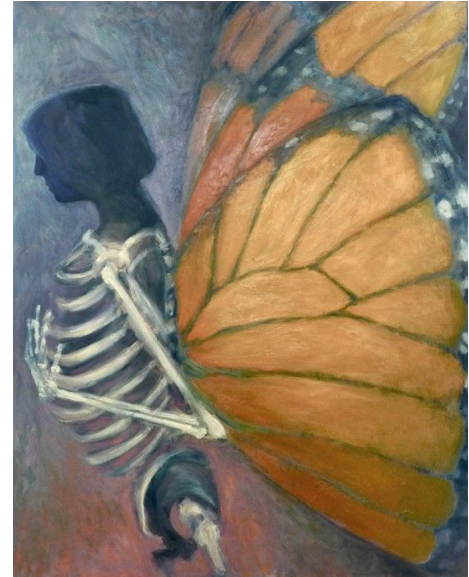
Contrast is created by differentiating forms, this contrast is what Duback uses constantly in her work. The plain paper background, with the bright detailed face, and pumpkin basket are illuminated forward for the viewer to bounce their attention between. The symbols are highlighted, and the meaning and passion becomes clear. The boys face is in tears, and this also adds to the tension, and emotion in the piece.

Color is used to help with contrast, as well as emotion. The red background is clearly very important in this untitled oil painting Duback has created, the girl is not as important as the background, and seems embarrassed. This loud background is like loud voices of criticism of her.



# Beginnings of similarities

Texture is developed and a focal point of many of Duback's Pieces. Survivor has contrasting images with wings, and rib cage. She uses symbols like Magritte, and the technique of the painting makes it easy to view what is being shown. Like Magritte the head is over simplified using black paint. The head is first in the hierarchy of the painting, then the wings, since they are so large, and they contrast the more dull background, and finally the viewer's eyes are brought to the skeletal frame, and melt away in the background.

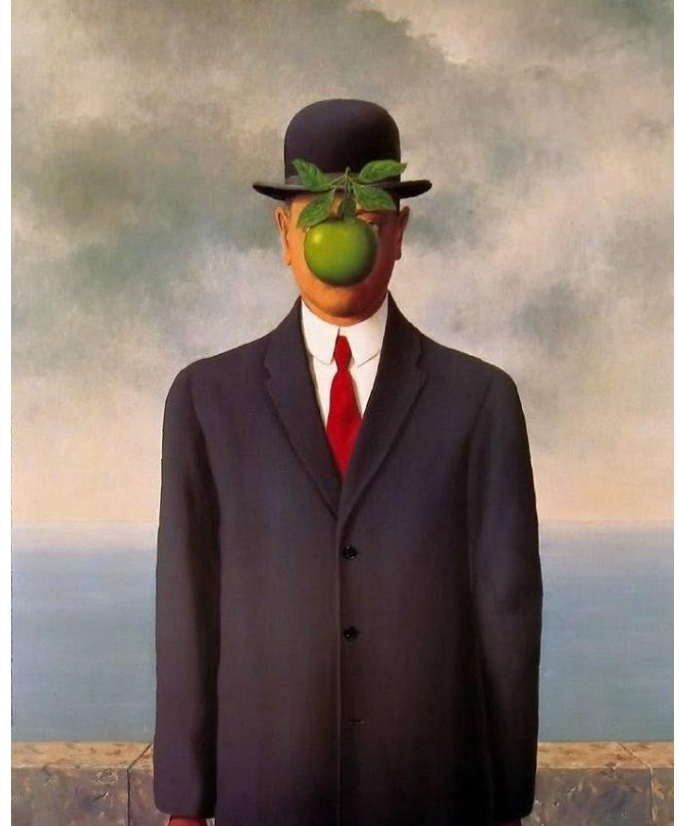


survivor

# Different yet similar



Seems to have different technique in painting. However both use similar Hues, like the tie of the businessman, and the background behind the girl. Both are also hiding something, the girl with the frog, and the man, with the apple. The man however does not seem to be hiding his face by choice, it is more of a connotation of the meaning.



# Technique



Both of the paintings are oil paintings. Both have something blocking apart of the piece. In Dubacks piece the girl is holding a frog, which distracts from her hip region. The frog blocks the girl's stomach, while that apple blocks the man's face. Texture is used in the dress, the smoothness of the apple, the fuzzy bowler hat.



# Their Paintings

## Duback-

Hues- colorful choices, less dull, more contrasting

Balance- creates balance through simple means of control of placement

Shape- uses organic shapes throughout, little to no straight lines or edges in paintings.

Texture- rough strokes, and less blending overall.

## Both-

Hues- Make bold choices

Balance-

Movement- hierarchy is used to emphasize symbols

Texture- both can have smooth texture on their oil paintings.

## Magritte-

Hues- uses small amounts of bold hues, while most of the composition is duller, and less contrasting.

Balance- creates a focal point, and places objects around that focal point.

Shape- constant use of shape

Texture- unnaturally smooth, blending, sometimes looks like a computer rendering.

# Conclusion

Magritte and Duback use texture, and contrast in their works. Duback uses many mediums, yet still relies on contrast like Magritte's son of man. Magritte overall uses a very smooth texture no matter the form, like in Duback's work as well.



# Citations

<http://www.renemagritte.org/images/rene-magritte-photo.jpg>

<http://sallyduback.com/welcome/about-me/>

<http://sallyduback.com/welcome/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/DSCF5178-copy-e1422585717794.jpg>

<http://www.renemagritte.org/images/paintings/son-of-man.jpg>

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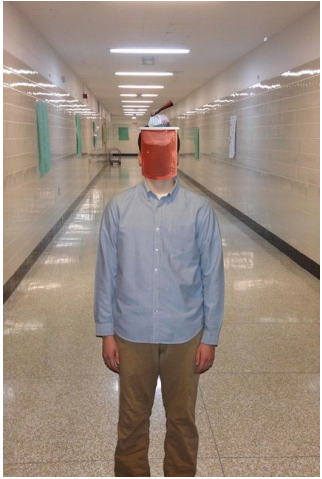
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<http://www.renemagritte.org/images/rene-magritte.jpg>

Time trasnfixed- <http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/34181>

# Connection



This piece was made inspired by Rene Magritte's Son of man. Similar to how Magritte uses an apple to cover the man's face, I used a garbage can representing poor self esteem. Both show half body portraits. Have something covering face, and setting is oddly un fitting for both.

