

TIMELINE OF SURREALISM

1914-18: World War I devastates Europe, 22 million dead, 15 million injured. Many artists die or are wounded and traumatized. André Breton works as an orderly in a psychiatric hospital, Max Ernst, Georges Braque & Guillaume Apollinaire wounded.

1916-18: Disaffected artists, poets, and draft dodgers meet in Zürich, form the Cabaret Voltaire. As a reaction to the war, they create Dada, full of irreverence and nihilistic performance. German-French artist Hans/Jean Arp creates artworks using automatic writing and “laws of chance.”

1917: French poet and critic Guillaume Apollinaire uses the word “surrealist” for the first time. (Apollinaire had also coined the term “cubist.”) He dies of Spanish flu in 1918.

October: The Russian Revolution establishes the Soviet regime along Marxist lines.

1919: *Littérature* journal, directed by André Breton, Louis Aragon and Philippe Soupault, publishes its first issue.

Cabaret Voltaire abandoned, Dada artists disperse, organize new Dada centers in Germany, New York, Romania, and Japan.

1920: Romanian writer & artist Tristan Tzara, who wrote the *Dada Manifesto* in 1918, brings Dada to Paris. Breton & other literary figures join Paris Dada, carry out performances, publish Dada poems and writings.

1921: Rift between André Breton and Tzara during a final demonstration of Dada.

German artist Max Ernst, out of Cologne Dada, brings visual art to Paris Surrealists.

American artist & photographer Man Ray arrives in Paris, joins Dadaists, invents new photographic techniques.

1922: Breton quits the Dada movement, formulates a more rigorous program for a new culture based on Freud, Marx, and his own ideas of individual liberation.

1924: October 15th: Breton publishes the *Surrealist Manifesto* eschewing rationality in favor of creativity produced by dreams and the unconscious.

December 1st: The first copy of *La Révolution surréaliste* (The Surrealist Revolution) is published.

1925: Breton, as the self-declared “Pope of Surrealism,” aligns the movement with Communism as well as Freudian ideas. His insistence on political allegiance causes friction with other artists.

1927: Breton joins the Communist Party. In Mexico, Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera also join the Communist Party.

1928: The first surrealist film, *Un Chien Andalou*, by Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel is presented to the public for the first time.

Breton publishes his story *Nadja*; his ideas about women as muses or *femme-enfants* are solidified.

1929: *Variety* magazine publishes a special issue: "Surrealism in 1929".

October: The film *Un Chien Andalou* is screened in Studio 28 of Paris.

American model & photographer Lee Miller joins Man Ray in Paris as his apprentice and lover.

Spanish artist Salvador Dalí joins Parisian Surrealists, ego battles reign, solidarity of surrealist group under Breton begins to fray.

1930: The third *Surrealist Manifesto* by Robert Desnos is published, as is Breton's controversial second *Surrealist Manifesto*. Surrealist group in Paris consists of Breton, Dalí, Ernst, Man Ray, Yves Tanguy, Tzara, Rene Crevel, Paul Eluard, and Arp. Breton's authoritarian attitudes are challenged, as the movement's members begin to disperse.

1931: First exhibition of surrealist artists (Dalí, De Chirico, Ernst, Miró) in the U.S., at Hartford, Connecticut.

Salvador Dalí and Luis Buñuel create *L'age d'or*, the most surrealist film to gain popular distribution.

1932-35: Surrealism spreads around the world, through journals, exhibitions, and visits by Surrealist artists, e.g., in 1934 Salvador Dalí visits New York.

1933: Breton expelled from French Communist Party because of his support of ousted Russian leader Leon Trotsky.

German-Swiss artist Meret Oppenheim arrives in Paris, meets Arp & Giacometti, who invite her to participate in Surrealist exhibitions.

1935: Italian artist Leonor Fini meets the Surrealists in Paris, has an affair with Max Ernst.

1936: July: A second international surrealist exhibition is held in London, with artists such as Duchamp, Giacometti, Max Ernst, & Picasso.

December: MoMa holds an influential exhibition of Surrealist and Dada art in New York.

1936-39: Spanish Civil War causes artists to take sides, victory of Franco's Nationalists leads to many Loyalists seeking asylum in Mexico. Open-door policy by Mexican president Cárdenas allows artists and other cultural leaders to emigrate.

1937: Leonora Carrington meets Max Ernst in London; they become a couple. They travel to Paris, where they are part of the Surrealist group, then flee Ernst's wife to settle in Saint-Martin-d'Ardeche.

Meret Oppenheim creates most famous Surrealist piece, *Object*, her fur-lined cup.

1938: Galerie des beaux-arts presents an international exhibition of Surrealism in Paris. Breton meets Leon Trotsky in Mexico and together they write the *Manifesto for an Independent Revolutionary Art*. Breton declares Mexico "the most surrealist country in the world."

1939: Beginning of World War II in Europe leads to exile of the Surrealists to the United States and elsewhere. Breton rejects Salvador Dalí as member of Surrealist movement. By this time, Surrealist ideas are so popularized that neither is a leader of a cohesive group.

1940: The International Exhibition of Surrealism is held in Mexico City. In the South of France, Surrealist artists trying to escape Nazism gather together. Max Ernst arrested as German national; Carrington flees to Spain, where she has mental breakdown, is sent to a sanitarium.

August 20: Leon Trotsky assassinated in Mexico by Stalinist agent.

1941: Because of the war, Breton exiled himself to New York, refuses to learn English. Remedios Varo with partner Benjamin Peret and other artists granted asylum in Mexico. Carrington marries Mexican diplomat Renato Leduc, Ernst released from prison & marries American art dealer Peggy Guggenheim.

1942: Exiled artists reassemble in New York. Peggy Guggenheim's The Art of this Century Gallery celebrates its opening in the city with installation by Marcel Duchamp.

Carrington & Leduc settle in Mexico City, where she meets Varo, Kati Horna & other artists. "Feminized" Surrealist imagery becomes part of expatriate artists' repertoire.

1945: End of World War II. A retrospective of the works of Max Ernst is held in Paris. Luis Buñuel arrives in Mexico.

1946: Breton is back in France, Dalí & his wife Gala popularize Surrealism in America. Carrington marries Chique Weisz in Mexico. Peret and others return to Europe, Varo stays in Mexico, as does Kati Horna & family. Max Ernst and American artist Dorothea Tanning marry in Hollywood, then settle in Sedona, Arizona.

1947: *Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme* (International Exhibition of Surrealism) held in Paris, at Galerie Maeght.

1952: Breton's closest associate in first years of Surrealism, Paul Eluard, dies in France.

1954: Venice Biennale salutes Max Ernst, Jean Arp and Joan Miró.

1955: Death of the French artist Yves Tanguy in Paris.

1956: A retrospective of the works of Max Ernst is held in Berlin.

1960: A major international exhibition on Surrealism is held in Paris.

1963: Death of Remedios Varo in Mexico City.

Death of Tristan Tzara in Paris, France.

1966: Historical end of the Surrealism.

June 7: Death of Jean Arp in Basel, Switzerland

September 28: Death of André Breton in Paris

1976: Death of Max Ernst in Paris. Death of Man Ray in Paris.

1977: Death of Lee Miller in the UK.

1985: Death of Meret Oppenheim in Basel, Switzerland.

1996: Death of Leonor Fini in Paris.

2011: Death of Leonora Carrington in Mexico City.

2012: Death of Dorothea Tanning in New York, aged 101.