

Art A Day CHALLENGE: It Was All A Dream

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day during school closures! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE. The order you complete the challenges is up to you!

Stuff you'll need: Materials are up to you! Read through the challenge and make your decision based on your idea!

Words you need to know:



Surrealism: art that looks for truth through dreams and subconscious mind rather than reality.

Examples: Sometimes surreal artist place something real in an unrealistic situation or exaggerate proportions (like a fish swimming through trees, paint elephants with legs that are too long and skinny).

Abstract art: art that uses lines, shapes, colors, space, and forms but do not always represent something recognizable.

Keith Morrow Martin (1911-1983)
American

Reliquary, 1979

Oil on canvas

LOOK at this painting created by Keith Morrow Martin called Reliquary (1979). Reliquary is a container used to hold very important, sacred objects. This artist was an abstract artist and he was heavily influenced by surrealism. Surrealism is art that is dream-like. Notice the colors, lines and patterns. What connections can you make with this? Discuss or think about the parts of this painting that could have been influenced by surrealism.

THINK: Imagine what the container in the painting could have inside. What type of special items could it hold? Could this could have been inspired by a dream or subconscious thoughts like surreal art that inspired the artist? What kind of dream do you think he was having?

MAKE: Create surreal art. As usual, use whatever materials you have. Think of a dream or thought you've had. Think about the mood or feeling you had when you woke up from your dream. Were you anxious? Scared? Angry? Excited? What colors, shapes and patterns could you use to represent this dream or thought? It can either be abstract or tell the story more realistically.

Look a little deeper: Check out some art that may have influenced Keith Morrow Martins work:

Frida Kahlo (although some argue she wasn't surreal): <https://www.frida-kahlo-foundation.org/>

8 Female Artists that aren't Frida Kahlo: <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-8-female-surrealists-who-are-not-frida-kahlo>

10 Famous Surrealist Artists You Must Know <https://www.widewalls.ch/surrealist-artists/yves-tanguy/>

Writing Prompt Extension: Imagine the abstract container in Martin's *Reliquary* opened up and poured all of its contents out. What is hiding inside? Write a journal entry about the items!

SHARE: POST your creation in the comments on FACEBOOK and Tag @WCMFA on Instagram and use the hashtag # ARTaDayCHALLENGE