

# Surrealist Animals like Salvador Dalí

Surrealism is an art movement that began in France during the 1920s. Works often express the unconscious mind; thoughts we don't know we are having. It is characterized by dream-like images that don't usually make sense and include things you wouldn't expect to see together.



Materials: Paper, pencil, watercolor paint or markers, cup or bowl with water, and a paintbrush.

Directions:

1. Look at the picture of Salvador Dalí's 'Les Elephants'. Notice how tall the elephants are. Notice the dreamy colors of the sky behind the elephants. What are they carrying?
2. On your paper, draw a horizon line (the line that separates the sky from the ground) near the bottom of your paper. This leaves room for your animals to get really tall!
3. Draw your own surreal animals on your paper, maybe cats, dogs, or farm animals. Make their bodies close to the top of your paper and draw long legs down to the ground.
4. Get silly! Think of how dreams don't always make sense and apply that same fun nonsense to your drawing. Will there be fish flying in the sky? Will your animal have giant ears? Or be walking on two feet like a human? Nothing is too crazy.
5. Color in your picture with watercolor paints or markers and use the bowl of water and paintbrush to blend the colors making a dreamy background.



art

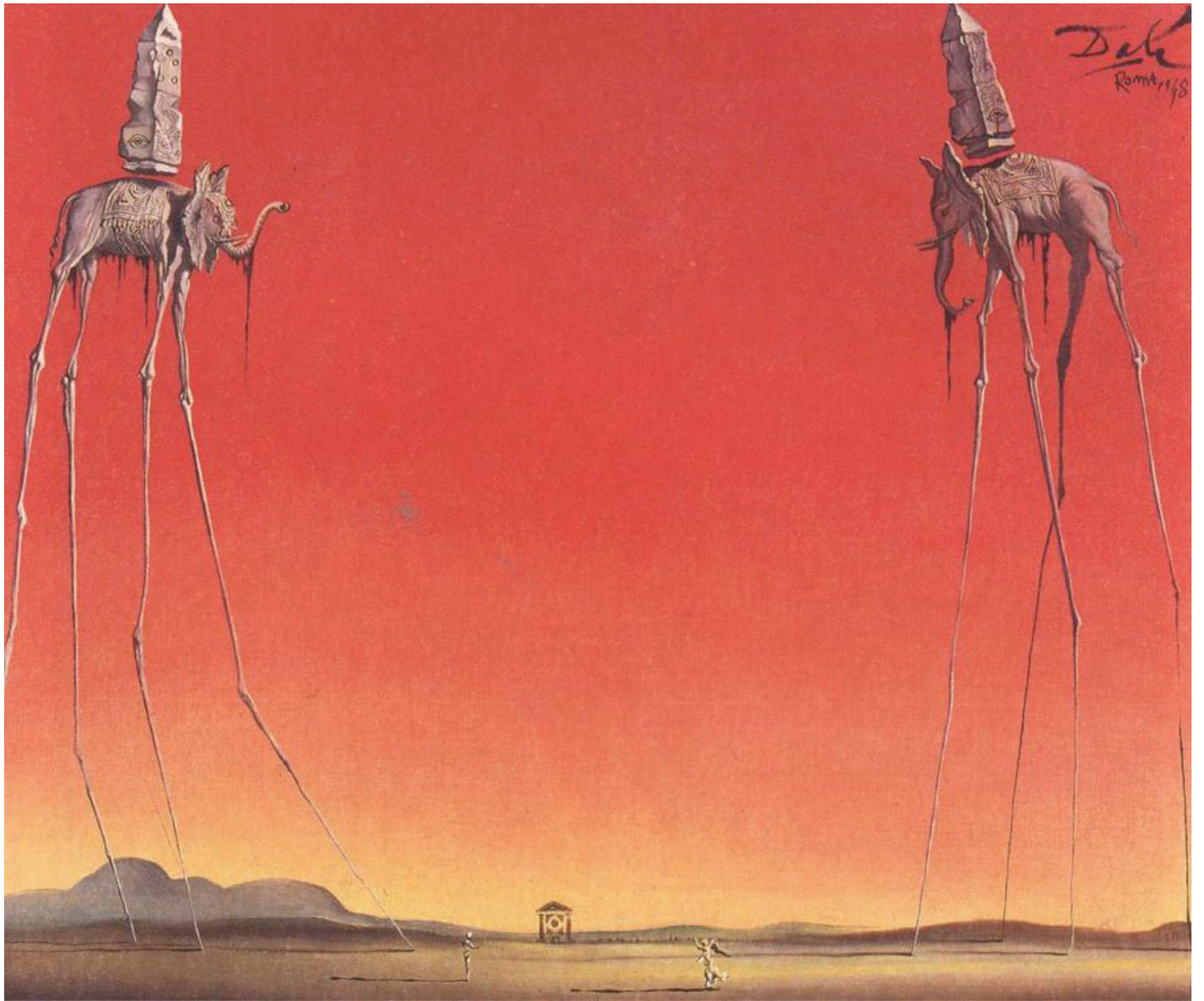
CHESTER COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

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Lesson Plan by CCAA Education Planner Casey Egan. Consider the following summer camps:

- Experimental Art (grades 5-7), July 6 – July 10, 12:45 to 4PM
- Animals on Canvas (grades 6-8), July 27 - July 31, 12:45 to 4PM





## Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí was born on May 11, 1904 in Spain. Dalí was a Spanish Surrealist, renowned for his technical skill, precise draftsmanship and the striking and bizarre images in his work. Influenced by Impressionism and the Renaissance masters from a young age, he became increasingly attracted to Cubism and avant-garde movements. He moved closer to Surrealism in the late 1920s and joined the Surrealist group in 1929, soon becoming one of its leading proponents. Dalí's artistic repertoire included painting, graphic arts, film, sculpture, design and photography, at times in collaboration with other artists. He also wrote fiction, poetry, autobiography, essays and criticism. Major themes in his work include dreams, the subconscious, sexuality, religion, science and his closest personal relationships. There are two major museums devoted to his work: The Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres, Spain and the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida. Dalí passed away on January 23rd, 1989 at age 84.