



Rene Magritte,

Le Temps Menaçant [Threatening Weather], 1929

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Purchased with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Art Fund 1995



SCOTTISH NATIONAL
GALLERY of
MODERN ART

ANOTHER WORLD

DALÍ, MAGRITTE, MIRÓ AND THE SURREALISTS

10 July 2010 - 9 January 2011

DEAN GALLERY, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR

Admission £7 (£5 concessions)

Press view - Friday 9 July 2010, 11.30am – 1pm

A comprehensive survey of Surrealist art, featuring European and British masterpieces, will be the major summer exhibition at the Dean Gallery in 2010. *Another World* will offer a fascinating overview of arguably the most important art movement of the twentieth century featuring works by internationally renowned artists such as Salvador Dalí, René Magritte, Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti and Joan Miró, alongside their British counterparts including John Armstrong, Edward Wadsworth, Eileen Agar, and Ithell Colquhoun. This is the only showing of this major exhibition which will feature loans from public and private collections and will be the centrepiece of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Surrealism is the name given to an art movement which began in Paris in the 1920s and soon spread around the globe. Meaning 'beyond realism', the term refers to the world of dreams, nightmares, the irrational and the strange. Today Surrealism has become part of our daily visual language, infiltrating every aspect of art, design and advertising. Befitting an art movement which championed the irrational, *Another World* will be displayed in an unusual and exciting manner. Coloured walls will be densely hung alongside display cases filled with the Gallery's extensive collection of books and manuscripts. In this dynamic setting visitors will be able to experience the visceral intensity of Surrealist art shown as it was originally intended.

The beginnings of Surrealism lie in Dada, a radical artistic and literary movement that was a direct reaction against the horrors of the First World War. Dada artists took an anti-establishment attitude and favoured the irrational and the absurd. This is explored in the opening room of the exhibition including an eye-catching sculpture comprised entirely of wooden coat hangers by Man Ray, alongside Marcel Duchamp's iconic *Fountain* on loan from the Tate.

After the First World War, Paris became a melting pot for artists and writers, and between 1919 and 1922, Francis Picabia, Man Ray, Duchamp and Ernst all moved to the city. André Breton emerged as the leader, shifting Dada's focus away from its love of anarchy and nonsense, and towards more intellectual pursuits. By 1922, Breton was using Apollinaire's term 'surrealist' and overseeing sessions involving hypnosis, automatic writing, and the exploration of dreams and the unconscious. This portion of the exhibition includes spectacular paintings such as René Magritte's *Threatening Weather (Le Temps menaçant)* (1929) and Yves Tanguy's *Never Again (Plus Jamais)* (1939) complimented by a wealth of archival material including letters, sketches, publications and photography.

Although Surrealism had become a potent force in many countries by the 1930s, in Britain interest was only just beginning to stir. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, a small band of British artists, including Paul Nash, John Banting, Edward Wadsworth and John Armstrong, were responding to Continental Surrealism. A key figure in British Surrealism was Roland Penrose, whose collection was acquired by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 1995 and which is included in its totality in the exhibition. This display also includes significant work by female British Surrealists such as beautiful large paintings by Ithell Colquhoun *Gouffres Amers* (1939) and *Rivieres Tièdes* (1939) and intricate collages and sculpture by Eileen Agar.

The exhibition ends with an examination of the movement as it progressed towards abstraction in the 1940s and 1950s. Works on display include *Birth* (1941) by Jackson Pollock and *Jingling Space* (1950) by Alan Davie alongside sculptures such as *St Sebastian I* (1957) and *His Majesty the Wheel* (1958 – 1959) by celebrated Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi.

The Surrealist collection of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (SNGMA) is one of the largest anywhere in the world and rivals those found in New York, Paris, Chicago and London. As well as containing dozens of famous paintings and sculptures, it also includes a substantial number of prints, archival material, periodicals, books, letters and other publications. *Another World* will explore this collection in its entirety and will include several print portfolios which have never been shown before by artists such as Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst and Yves Tanguy. The holdings of Surrealist art are particularly rich thanks to two major acquisitions: in 1995 the SNGMA purchased part of the collection formed by the English Surrealist artist Roland Penrose; and that same year, Gabrielle Keiller bequeathed her magnificent collection to the Gallery.

Simon Groom, Director of Modern and Contemporary Art, said: '*The 50th anniversary of the Gallery provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our world-famous collection of Surrealist art. The collection contains over sixty paintings, including masterpieces by artists such as Dalí, Miró and Picasso, as well as four of Magritte's best paintings, collages and prints by Max Ernst, major sculptures by artists including Giacometti and Duchamp, and a vast collection of rare and beautiful, illustrated books. This will be the first time the entire collection will have been shown together, and will occupy the whole of the Dean Gallery. We have also negotiated some outstanding loans, to produce a really comprehensive and stunning exhibition.*'

ENDS

For further information and images, please call the Press Office on 0131 624 6247/ 325/ 332/ 314

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NOTES TO EDITORS

***Another World* catalogue**

Published by: National Galleries of Scotland

This handsome catalogue provides a rich survey of the world-class Dada and Surrealism collection at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Over 150 works are illustrated, ranging from celebrated paintings by Dalí, Miró and Magritte, to the extraordinary but little-known works of the British Surrealists. With accessible and engaging text by Senior Curator Patrick Elliott, this book will appeal to the Surrealist expert and newcomer alike.