



René Magritte (November 21, 1898 - August 15, 1967) was a Surrealist artist, born in Lessines, Belgium. In 1912, Magritte's mother committed suicide by drowning herself in the river Sambre.

He studied at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Brussels for two years until 1918. Magritte held his first exhibition in Brussels in 1927. The exhibition was not a success: critics heaped abuse on it. He was depressed by

the failure of his show and he moved to Paris.

A consummate technician, his work frequently contains a juxtaposition of ordinary objects or an unusual context giving new meanings to familiar things. In addition to these fantastic elements, his work is often witty and amusing, and he created a number of surrealist versions of other famous paintings.

Rene Magritte described his paintings saying, "My painting is visible images which conceal nothing; they evoke mystery and, indeed, when one sees one of my pictures, one asks oneself this simple question, 'What does that mean?'. It does not mean anything, because mystery means nothing either, it is unknowable."

Magritte's work was shown in the United States in New York in 1936 and again in that city in two retrospectives, one at the Museum of Modern Art in 1965, and the other at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1992.