

Lesson Plan featuring Art (Salvador Dalí, Vik Muniz and their favorite artist)

- ❖ **Target Audience:** ESOL or BL class – Level 4+
- ❖ **Goal:** Students will increase speaking, writing, listening and reading skills.
- ❖ **Objectives:** Students will be able to describe Salvador Dalí's background, use new vocabulary and write about what they see in Dalí's painting, "The Persistence of Memory." Additionally, students will be able to listen to a TedTalk about another artist Vik Muniz and write about what they learned from it.
- ❖ **Class Time:** 90 minutes
- ❖ **Prep:** *Make copies of handouts noted below. Bring a laptop to class to show color version of painting noted in #3 below.*

Lesson Flow:

1. **Discussion:** Ask students what they know about Salvador Dalí.
2. **Reading:** Ask for volunteers to read the article, Salvador Dalí, Artist. Highlight any vocabulary that is new as they read. Point out bolded vocabulary words and their meanings listed on the second page. (Handout 1)
3. **Writing Assignment:** Ask students to look at the painting, "The Persistence of Memory" (and, if possible, also show them a color version of it on a laptop). Ask them to read the writing prompt and describe the painting that they see along with the meaning it has for them. (Handout 1a)
4. **Lab Assignment – TedTalk about Vik Muniz:** Ask students to read the introduction on the handout about Vik Muniz. (Handout 2). Ask students go to Lab and listen to the TedTalk (see directions on handout). Ask them to complete Questions #3 and #4.
5. **Sentence Writing Using Art Idioms:** Review the three idioms on the handout (Handout 2). Ask students to write sentences using each idiom. Ask for volunteers to read their sentences.
6. **Discussion:** Ask students to share the name of their favorite artist and any information they know about the artist.

Salvador Dalí – Artist (Handout 1)

About Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí was born in Figueres, Spain on May 11, 1904. His father was a lawyer and very strict, but his mother was kinder and encouraged Salvador's love for art. Growing up he enjoyed drawing and playing football. He often got into trouble for **daydreaming** in school. He had a sister named Ana Maria who would often act as a model for his paintings.

Becoming an Artist

Salvador began drawing and painting while he was still young. He painted outdoor scenes such as sailboats and houses. He also painted portraits. Even as a teenager he experimented with modern painting styles such as **Impressionism**. When he turned seventeen he moved to Madrid, Spain to study at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Dalí lived a wild life while at the academy. He grew his hair and had long **sideburns**. He **hung out** with a radical group of artists and got into trouble often. When he was close to graduation he was **expelled** for causing problems with the teachers. Not long after that, he was imprisoned for a short time for supposedly opposing the dictatorship of Spain.

Experimenting with Art

Salvador continued to experiment and study different kinds of art. He explored classic art, Cubism, Dadaism, and other **avant-garde** painters. Eventually he became interested in Surrealism through artists such as Rene Magritte and Joan Miro. From this point he would concentrate much of his work on Surrealism and become one of the preeminent artists of the Surrealist movement.

Surrealism

Surrealism began as a cultural movement. It was started by a French poet named Andre Breton in 1924. The word "surrealism" means "above realism". Surrealists believed that the subconscious mind, such as dreams and random thoughts, held the secret to truth. The movement had an impact on film, poetry, music, and art. Surrealist paintings are often a mixture of strange objects (melting clocks, weird blobs) and perfectly normal looking objects that are out of place (A lobster on a telephone). Surrealistic paintings can be shocking, interesting, beautiful, or just plain weird.

The Persistence of Memory

In 1931 Salvador Dalí painted what would become his most famous painting and perhaps the most famous painting of the Surrealist movement. It is titled *The **Persistence of Memory***. The scene is a normal looking desert landscape, but it is covered with melting watches.

Note: The painting is shown on Handout 1a.

Salvador Dalí – Artist (Handout 1 - Continued)

Becoming Famous

Dalí's art began to gain international fame. He married his longtime love Gala and they moved to the United States in 1940. The Spanish Civil War took place in the late 1930's and then World War II in the early 1940's. Dali painted pictures depicting the horrors of war.

Religion

After the war, Dalí began to paint about religion. He had grown up in a Catholic family. One of his most famous paintings during this time was *Christ of St. John of the Cross* which he painted in 1951. In the picture the cross floats high in the sky. You look down from an extreme angle and see a lake with a boat and some fishermen.

Impact of His Work

Dalí is the most famous of the Surrealist artists. His ability to shock and entertain made his paintings popular to many people. Many of today's artists have been **inspired** by Dali's work.

Interesting Facts about Salvador Dali

- His full name is Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domènech.
- All of the watches in *The Persistence of Memory* tell different times.
- He was famous for his long curly mustache.
- He wrote an autobiography called *The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí*. Some of the stories in the book are true, but some are just made up.
- Dalí admired scientist Albert Einstein and was especially interested in his Theory of Relativity.
- He once worked on a film with movie director Alfred Hitchcock.

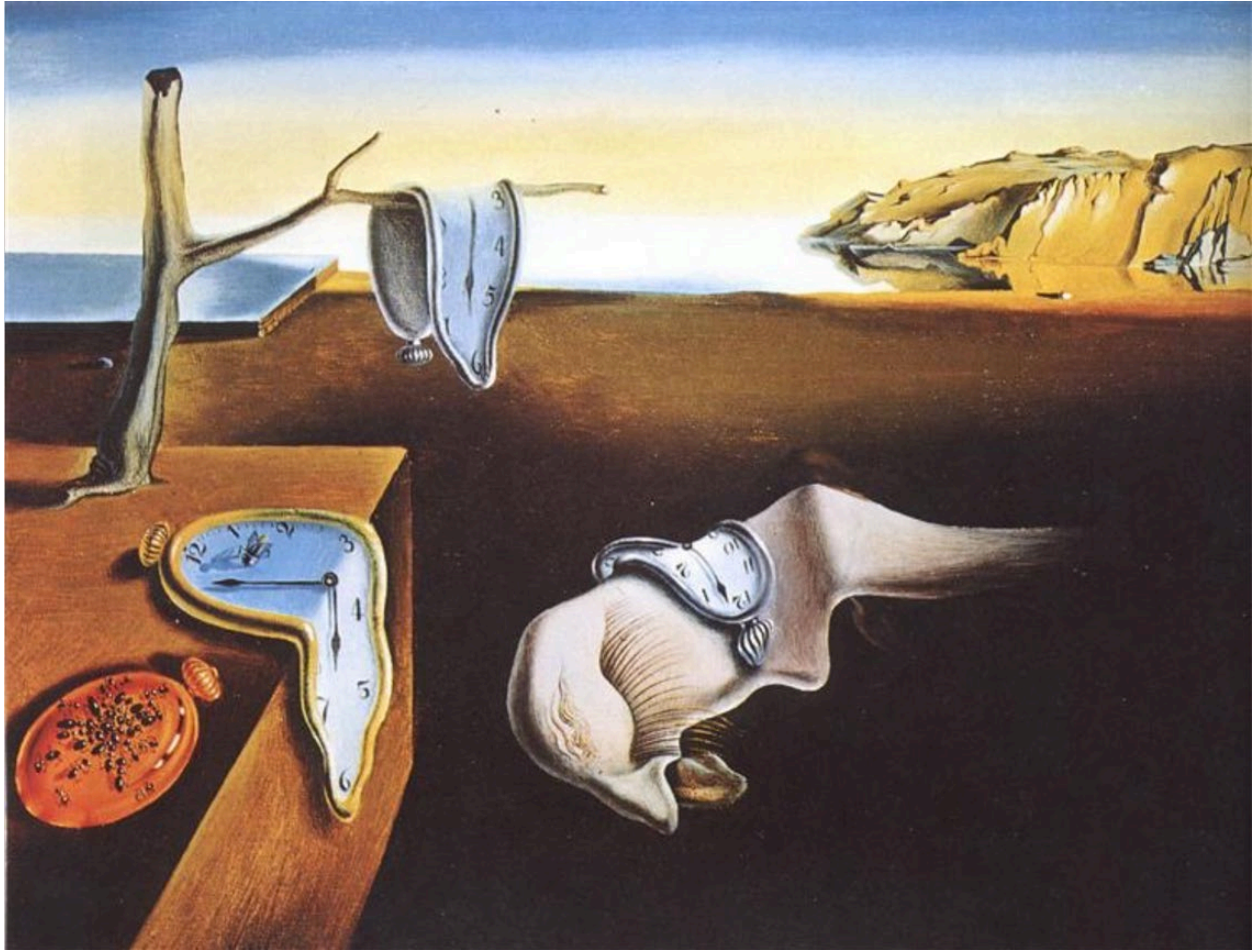
Vocabulary

- ✓ **Daydreaming:** pleasant thoughts about your life or future that you have while you are awake.
- ✓ **Impressionism:** a style of painting that began in France around 1870, that attempts to capture the feeling of a scene rather than specific details.
- ✓ **Sideburns:** hair that grows on the side of a man's face in front of his ears.
- ✓ **To hang out:** to spend time with a group of people.
- ✓ **To expel:** to officially force (someone) to leave a place or organization.
- ✓ **Avant-garde:** a group of people who develop new and often very surprising ideas in art, literature, etc.
- ✓ **Persistence:** ability to continue doing something or trying to do something even though it is difficult.
- ✓ **To inspire:** to move (someone) to act, create, or feel emotions.

The Persistence of Memory by Salvador Dalí (Handout 1a)

Writing Assignment

Look at the painting below. Write one-two paragraphs that describe what you see in the painting. What meaning does the painting have for you?



Lab Assignment: TedTalk (Handout 2)

***Art with Wire, Sugar, Chocolate and String* Vik Muniz - Speaker**

I. Introduction to TedTalk (in the classroom)

Vik Muniz, born in Brazil, makes art from pretty much anything such as shredded paper, wire, clouds or diamonds. In his TedTalk, he describes the thinking behind his work and takes us on a tour of his incredible images.

II. TedTalk (14 minutes) and answer questions #3 and #4 (in the Lab)

1. Go to the computer lab.

2. Search for: *Vik Muniz Ted Talk*.

You should be able to find his Ted Talk and click on it to listen:

https://www.ted.com/talks/vik_muniz_makes_art_with_wire_sugar

3. Write about one interesting point you heard from the TedTalk.

4. List new vocabulary words that you learned while listening to the TedTalk.

III. Expressions: Art Idioms (return to the classroom)

1. **Blank canvas**: refers to something with no content such that it can be easily filled with completely new things.

2. **Paint something with a broad brush**: to describe something in general terms, without mentioning specific details and without paying attention to individual variation.

3. **State of the art**: refers to something that reflects the highest level of development, something that is very up-to-date.