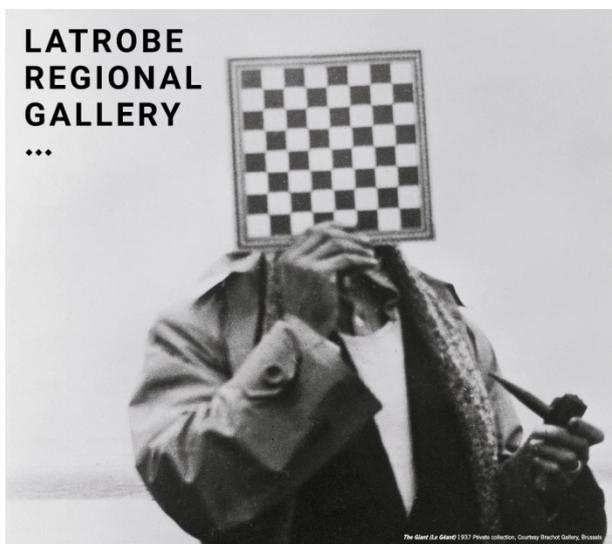




LATROBE
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MEDIA KIT

Latrobe Regional Gallery will welcome photographs and videos from world-renown artist René Magritte.



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RENÉ MAGRITTE
THE REVEALING IMAGE
PHOTOS AND FILMS

19 AUGUST - 19 NOVEMBER 2017

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAGRITTE FOUNDATION BELGIUM

Latrobe Regional Gallery - 138 Commercial Road Morwell - latrobre regionalgallery.com

MEDIA CONTACT

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

Cr Kellie O'Callaghan, Mayor, Latrobe City Council

Dr Mark Themann, Director, Latrobe Regional Gallery

Xavier Cannone, Chief Curator, author of *Rene Magritte: The Revealing Image* and Director Museum for Photography Charleroi, Belgium

Peter Ruyffelaere, Publisher, Ludion Publishers and Rene Magritte Exhibition Production Manager

EXHIBITION DETAIL

René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films will feature 130 original photographs and eight films by renowned Belgian Surrealist, Rene Magritte.

One of the signature Western artists of the 20th Century, Magritte used photography and film as exemplars for paintings and commercial work. The works were discovered in the mid-1970s, more than 10 years after the artist's death, and are pervaded by the spirit of Magritte, making them inseparable from his famous paintings.

The majority of these works have never been exhibited outside Europe, and premiere exclusively at the newly-renovated Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell, Victoria, Australia.

TICKETING

General Admission - \$18

Concession - \$15

Child - \$10

Family Ticket (2 Adults + 2 Children) - \$55

Group bookings welcome. For bookings of 10 or more people, please book direct by phoning the gallery on 03 5128 5700

Tickets on sale now and can be purchased online

<https://latroberegionalgallery.com/rene-magritte-exhibition>

or at Latrobe Regional Gallery.



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MEDIA RELEASE

07.06.17

Latrobe Regional Gallery to host world-class Magritte exhibition

Befitting the \$1.51 million renovations to the Latrobe Regional Gallery in Morwell, the world-class exhibition of photographs and films by major Belgian Surrealist, René Magritte will raise the bar for art in our region and the state.

“This exhibition will attract visitors from the region and beyond, including interstate and international art lovers.

“It will not only provide enjoyment locally, it will help raise morale, increase the region’s profile, and bring economic benefits to local businesses through greater visitation.

“The Latrobe City Council is delighted to welcome the Magritte exhibition as the first exciting outcome of the Latrobe Regional Gallery’s successful renovation program, supported by the Council’s vision for a Strength Led Transition,” Cr O’Callaghan said.

Director of the Latrobe Regional Gallery, Dr Mark Themann, said the Magritte exhibition, *René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films*, 19 August – 19 November 2017, was a significant coup for the Gallery.

“This is an exhibition of international standing that puts Latrobe Regional Gallery on the global art map.



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“Locals and visitors to the region will have the opportunity to experience an impressive artistic event in a facility that is purpose-built to stage exhibitions of the highest calibre.

“The Magritte exhibition sets a high standard for art in the region, and is not to be missed,” Dr Themann said.

René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films will feature 130 original photographs by Magritte and eight films. The majority of the works have never been exhibited outside Europe.

Staged in collaboration with the Magritte Foundation Belgium, the exhibition is described by Chief Curator, Xavier Canonne, as a rare cultural treasure.

“The photographs and films were created as works of art by Magritte, one of the signature Western artists of the 20th Century.

“The works were discovered in the mid-1970s, more than 10 years after the artist’s death, and have contributed significantly to our appreciation of Magritte’s wider oeuvre.

“Magritte used photography and film for a range of purposes, including as exemplars for paintings and commercial work, circumventing the need for live models, improvising scenes with friends, and recording family events and images of other Brussels Surrealists.

“These photographs and films are pervaded by the spirit of Magritte, making them inseparable from his famous paintings,” M. Canonne said.



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The Latrobe City Council contributed \$740,000 towards the Gallery renovation, with a further \$770,000 funded by the Latrobe Valley Authority as part of the State Government's \$266 million transition funding.

The renovations have involved a total revamp of the building, externally and internally, to bring it up to a standard required to host world-class exhibitions.

Aesthetic changes to the building have included a new facade, open foyer and new lighting, with some major works behind the scenes to enable the special handling of valuable art work.

Storage, shelving and climate control systems at the Gallery have been upgraded to accommodate major exhibitions which are expected to attract tens of thousands of new visitors.

It was also announced today that, following the Magritte exhibition, the Latrobe Regional Gallery will stage another major international exhibition, titled ***MINE/The Film will always be with you***, 30 September - 3 December 2017. The exhibition, which was last shown at the Tate Modern Museum, London, will feature contemporary South African video art by a collection of well-known artists, including William Kentridge.

ENDS



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BACKGROUND: RENÉ MAGRITTE

René Magritte (1898–1967) is closely linked to the surrealist movement, which was founded in Paris by French writer André Breton in 1924. Surrealism was shaped by emerging theories of perception, including Sigmund Freud's theories (though Magritte always denied any Freudian interpretations of his work), such as the psychoanalytic concept of the uncanny — a sense of disquietude provoked by particular objects and situations. The movement's primary aim was to resolve the contradictory conditions of dream and reality into an absolute reality — a super-reality — and to revolutionise human existence by freeing people from what the surrealists saw as false rationality and restrictive social customs.

Initially influenced by Italian painter Giorgio de Chirico, Magritte was one of the founders of Belgian Surrealism in 1926. His work from this period frequently places objects in unusual contexts or with unusual words or phrases, thus giving them new and surprising meanings. In 1929, Magritte moved to Paris in order to collaborate with Breton's group. However, the idiosyncratic Magritte grew tired of their rigidity.

In 1933, he broke from them by stating that the primary aim of his work from that point on would be to reveal the hidden and often personal affinities between objects, rather than juxtaposing unrelated objects. Nevertheless, he would remain associated with surrealism in general throughout his career.

Magritte's philosophical approach to images and language interested many post-war artists. In 1954, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg saw a ground-breaking exhibition of Magritte's word-and-image paintings at the Sidney Janis Gallery in New York, and later acquired examples of these works. Magritte's interests also foreshadowed other post-war artistic pursuits: a generation before the artists involved in pop art began working with images from popular culture, Magritte himself turned to this source. And before his death in 1967, Magritte even lived to see the impact of his own works on advertisements, popular culture, and television [internationally]. From: <http://www.lacma.org/magritte-index> (Los Angeles Museum of Art)



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BACKGROUND: LATROBE REGIONAL GALLERY

Established in 1971, LRG is one of the largest public galleries in eastern Victoria, Australia, presenting exhibitions and curated projects across contemporary art and design, experimental and interdisciplinary practices, curated collections of note, works by regional artists and national touring exhibitions.

Current renovations of the seven gallery spaces has elevated LRG to international museum standards, with archival storage facilities, hosting significant collections such as the Allan Aldous Collection (Asian Art), a substantial collection of handcrafted glass objects, and a range of modernist, impressionist and recent post-war art. LRG is also the custodian and manager of collections of regional and national significance such as The Cbus Collection of Australian Art, hosting more than 1400 works of art across all media and across more recent historical periods.

LRG has ambitious plans for presenting a diversity of exhibitions ranging from exhibitions of high quality art historical merit with intellectual heft, contemporary art practices across media, alongside some populist exhibitions.

BACKGROUND: CHIEF CURATOR, XAVIER CANONNE

Director, Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi, Belgium

www.musephoto.be

Chief Curator, *René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films*

Xavier Canonne studied Art History at the University Libre of Brussels and received his Doctorate in Art History and Archaeology from the Sorbonne University in Paris with a doctoral thesis dedicated to Surrealism in Belgium.

Mr Canonne has been the director of the Musée de la Photographie since March 2000. Prior to this, he was the director of the collection of the Province of the Hainaut (modern and contemporary art) from 1987 to 2000. He has curated numerous exhibitions internationally



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and has edited and authored a significant number of publications. He was the curator of the exhibitions *Intimate Man Ray* (2003), *Scenes of Atget* (2004), *Lee Miller a Life* (2005), and the exhibition *Surrealism in Belgium* in the Fine Arts Museum in Mons-BAM (March-April 2007). He is the publisher of the review "Marées de la Nuit". He is the author of the book "Looking at the U.S. – 1957-1986, Fred Baldwin and Wendy Watriss", published by Schilt Publisher, Amsterdam, 2009; also the book "Requiem pour un homme seul, Le Samouraï de Jean-Pierre Melville", 2010.

COMING UP AT LRG

René Magritte: The Revealing Image – Photos and Films, August 19 to November 19, 2017

A world-first exhibition of photos and film-works by one of the world's most influential Surrealists, who used photographic mediums as exemplars for his paintings and commercial work. These works were discovered in the mid-1970s, more than 10 years after the artist's death, and are pervaded by the spirit of Magritte, making them inseparable from his famous paintings.

René Magritte is one of the signature artists of the 20th century and this is the first time the 130 original photographs and eight self-made films have ever been grouped together from private collectors' loans.

MINE/The Film will always be with you, September 30 to December 3, 2017

An exhibition which was previously shown at Tate Modern, Bankside, London and which has now been expanded features new video art from South Africa by a selection of well-known artists including William Kentridge. This important international exhibition is showing for the first time in Australia and Latrobe Regional Gallery is the only Australia and New Zealand venue.

NOTE: Extended opening hours for Magritte are as follows:
Monday to Thursday 10am to 5pm
Friday 10am to 7pm
Saturday and Sunday 10am to 5pm



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PR IMAGES - AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD VIA [DropBox](#)

1.



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PR IMAGE CAPTIONS

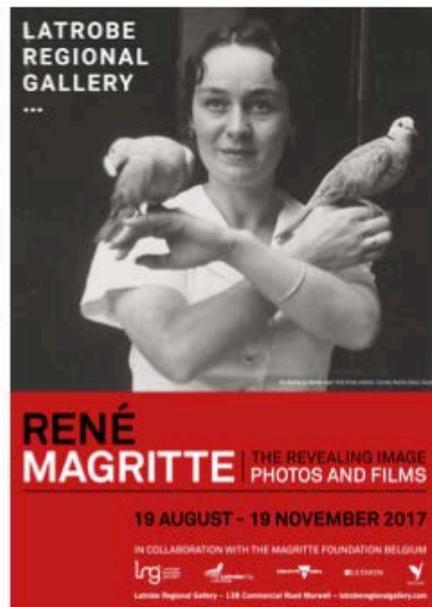
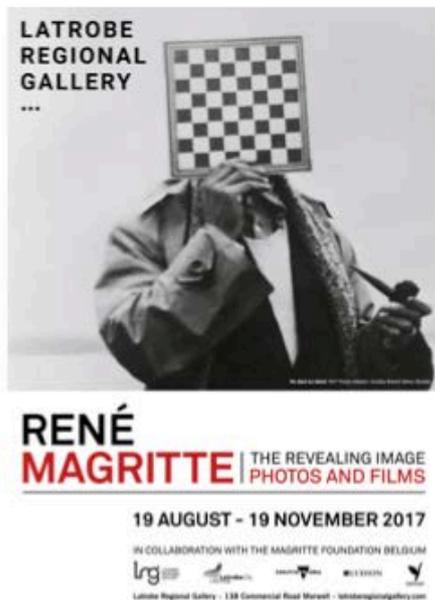
1. *Shunk Kender: René Magritte in front of Le sens de réalité, 1960*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 43.2 x 33.2 cm
2. *The Bouquet (Le Bouquet), 1937. Georgette and René Magritte, Rue Essegheem, Brussels*
Collection: Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Medium: Original Photograph, 43.2 x 33.2 cm
3. *The Meeting (Le Rendez-vous), 1938. Brussels*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 43.2 x 33.2 cm
4. *Flirtatiousness (La coquetterie), 1929. René Magritte at the Jardin des Plantes, photo-booth photo*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 43.2 x 33.2 cm
5. *The Giant (Le Géant), 1937. Paul Nougé on the Belgian Coast*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 41.2 x 33.2 cm
6. *René Magritte and The Barbarian (Le Barbare), London Gallery, London, 1938*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 43.2 x 33.2 cm
7. *The Shadow and Its Shadow (L'ombre et son ombre), 1932. Georgette and René Magritte, Brussels*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 41.2 x 33.2 cm
8. *Shunk Kender: René Magritte and The Likeness (La ressemblance), about 1962.*
Private collection, Courtesy Brachot Gallery, Brussels
Original photograph, 41.2 x 33.2 cm



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MASTHEAD DESIGNS

Available for download via dropbox



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DESCRIPTION OF THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition *René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films* consists of 132 original photographs from the archives of the painter and those closest to him, presented in six sections, and eight self-made films.

The photographs are organised thematically, eschewing strict chronology, each section introduced by a text, the individual photographs including a caption and a comment. They are accompanied by enlargements in the form of posters and, depending on the section, by reproductions of Magritte's paintings or films, or by films which made an impression on him.

A FAMILY ALBUM

The photographs in this section, arranged chronologically, are devoted to Magritte's family life. Snaps taken with his parents and brothers, his military service, the early years of his marriage to Georgette, their period of residence at Perreux-sur-Marne near Paris, their life in Brussels — all revealing the daily life of René Magritte.

A FAMILY RESEMBLANCE

Organised chronologically, this section brings together photographs representing René Magritte's other "family", the Brussels Surrealist group with which the painter threw in his lot in 1926. Paul Nougé, Marcel Lecomte, Louis Scutenaire, Irène Hamoir, Paul Colinet, Marcel Mariën, Camille Goemans and Marthe Beauvoisin are some of the characters who feature in these compositions, in many cases improvised "photographic tableaux" bearing witness to the intimate relationship between René Magritte and his immediate circle.

RESEMBLING A PAINTER

This third section of the exhibition consists of photographs of René Magritte at his easel, covering the years from 1917 to 1965. They show the painter with works from different periods, taken impromptu or posing, generally in a suit, in the succession of houses where he never established a workshop, preferring to paint in his living-room. Working documents or "staged" photographs, they show how Magritte often tended to parody his work as a painter.



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PHOTOGRAPHY ENHANCED

This section of the exhibition comprises paintings by Magritte placed on his easel or forming the background of portraits of him and his wife. Essential paintings, some of which have been lost, provide the painter with a stage set into which he projects himself with his wife, going beyond documentary photography.

This section also includes a series of photographs which served as models for his paintings, featuring Georgette and René Magritte, Louis Scutenaire and various close friends – photographs directly connected with his works, which are presented in the form of reproductions.

Magritte used the same procedure in the short films he made between 1940 and 1960, and extracts in television format or reproductions are shown alongside the original photographs.

THE IMITATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY. MAGRITTE AND THE CINEMA [TOGRAPH]

The cinema, more even than painting and to the same extent as literature, was a seminal influence of the work of René Magritte. As a child, he had been exposed to the first silent films and he tried to recreate their freshness and spontaneity in the short films he made, featuring his close friends. Magritte may still be posing in this section, but the emphasis is on entertainment.

This section of the exhibition is accompanied by extracts from his own films, presented on the TV screens, and by images from films by directors he admired, such as Louis Feuillade with his celebrated *Fantômas*.

THE FALSE MIRROR

This title of a celebrated painting by René Magritte opens the final section of the exhibition. Consisting essentially of portraits of Magritte at different stages of his life, they sometimes depict him in dreamy mood, sometimes expressing amusement, generally with his eyes closed, focused inwards. The section also includes photographs in which the painter and his friends mask their faces or turn away from the camera lens, prolonging in photographic mode his painterly research on the *caché-visible* (things hidden in plain sight).



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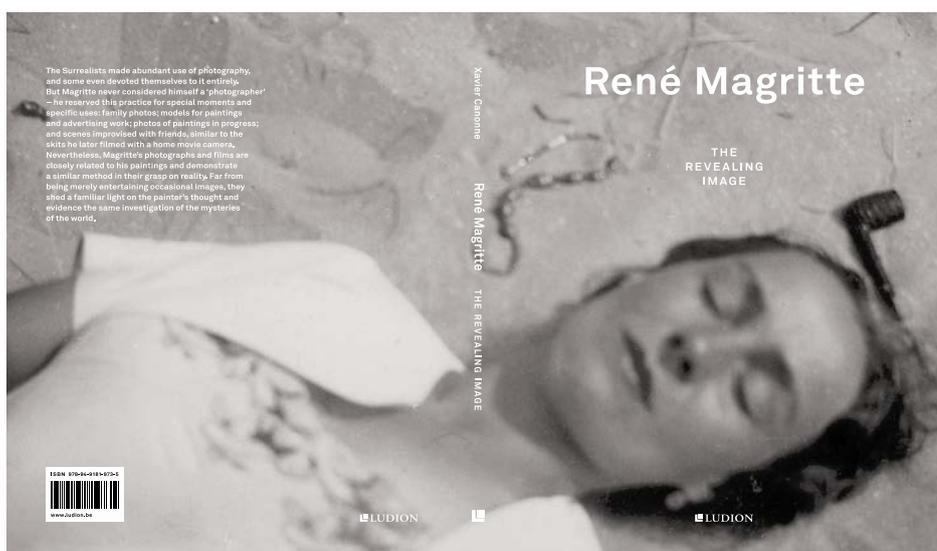
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MAJOR PUBLICATION

René Magritte: The Revealing Image by Xavier Canonne, published by Ludion and distributed globally by Thames & Hudson, is 263 pages.

RRP: \$65 available at Latrobe Regional Gallery

Review copies and images available upon request.



Introduction from the book

“The discovery of the photographs and films of René Magritte in the mid-1970s, more than 10 years after the painter’s death, and their subsequent appraisal and study have given us a look into a family album that reveals an intimate side of Magritte, independent of the biographical documents unearthed from his archives and those of people he was close to. This discovery has also led to an investigation of Magritte’s relationship with these ‘other images’, for which he served as creator, director and model, and of his relationship with the mediums of photography and cinema, to which, in his experience as a painter, he assigned a role of both recreation and creation”. Xavier Canonne.