

# RENÉ MAGRITTE

## THE REVEALING IMAGE, PHOTOS AND FILMS



RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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



RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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



RENÉ MAGRITTE  
THE MEETING (LE RENDEZ-VOUS), 1938, BRUSSELS  
PRIVATE COLLECTION, COURTESY BRACHOT  
GALLERY, BRUSSELS ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH,  
43.2 x 33.2 CM

RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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



The newly renovated Latrobe Regional Gallery (LRG) has scored a major coup by unveiling the world premiere of a groundbreaking exhibition of photos and films by René Magritte, one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

*René Magritte: The Revealing Image, Photos and Films* features 130 original photographs and eight films by the hugely influential Belgian Surrealist. The works were only discovered in the mid-1970s, more than 10 years after Magritte's death, and help reshape our understanding of the paintings he was best known for.

Latrobe City mayor, Councillor Kellie O'Callaghan, says the exhibition reflects the positive transformation taking place in the region and will also provide a significant economic boost. The exhibition will attract visitors from the region and beyond, including interstate and international art lovers.

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

### A WORLD PREMIERE, EXCLUSIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Most of the images in *René Magritte: The Revealing Image* have never been seen outside of Europe, and many have come from private collections. Following

the exhibition's global premiere at the LRG in Morwell, this world-class exhibition will tour internationally to museums in Asia, South America, USA and Europe. Latrobe Regional Gallery is the exclusive Australian venue.

The exhibition has been created in partnership with the Magritte Foundation Belgium. Its chief curator, Xavier Canonne, is director at the Museum of Photography in Charleroi, Belgium, and a leading expert on Surrealism.

"The photographs and films in *The Revealing Image* were created as works of art by Magritte, one of the signature Western artists of the 20th century. Only discovered more than 10 years after his death, they have contributed significantly to our appreciation of Magritte's wider oeuvre," Mr Cannone says.

### SERIOUS PLAY AND THE FIELD OF EXPERIMENTATION

The images and films in *René Magritte: The Revealing Image* present a rare chance to understand the artist's working methods, as he playfully experimented with new ways of bending reality.

"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," says Mr Cannone.

"There are a lot of connections with his paintings, not only in the photos being models or documents for the paintings but also as a field of experimentation. He held exactly the same position towards the cinema. The little movies he made with an 8mm camera in the 1950s were to play, to have fun, but they were also made in order to find something more – to extend the possibilities of the universe."

### A SURREAL FAMILY ALBUM

*René Magritte: The Revealing Image* is divided into six sections, broadly following the artist's life story and matching the in-depth analysis Mr Cannone has provided in the gorgeously illustrated book that accompanies the exhibition. For those unfamiliar with Magritte's life and career, the details of his childhood may come as a shock, or as an explanation for his later fascination with the surreal.

# A WORLD-CLASS EXHIBITION FOR LATROBE REGIONAL GALLERY



Image by TM Photo, Tanja Milbourne



RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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

RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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





RENÉ MAGRITTE  
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



RENÉ MAGRITTE  
THE BOUQUET (LE BOUQUET),  
1937. GEORGETTE AND RENÉ  
MAGRITTE, RUE ESSEGHEM,  
BRUSSELS COLLECTION: PRIVATE  
COLLECTION, COURTESY BRACHOT  
GALLERY, BRUSSELS MEDIUM:  
ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH,  
43.2 X 33.2 CM

## RENÉ MAGRITTE

### THE REVEALING IMAGE, PHOTOS AND FILMS

His mother committed suicide by throwing herself into the Sambre River; her body was found two weeks later, her face obscured by her nightgown.

Magritte would later paint pictures of people with their faces draped in fabric, but this was not the only disturbing event witnessed by the young René. One fine day hot-air balloonists crashed onto the roof of the family home and came down the stairs dragging their deflated balloon behind them before the eyes of the incredulous child.

#### SURREALIST CIRCLES

Magritte would grow up to divide his time between Brussels and Paris, where he became a member of the circle associated with Surrealist founder André Breton. Magritte preferred to paint near a window at home rather than setting up a dedicated artist's studio and the photographs in *The Revealing Image* allow us to see the pleasure he took with framing devices and blurring the boundaries between media. Creating a frame within a frame, he would have himself photographed in a pose identical to the one he was painting. In other photographs Magritte would enlist his friends to recreate the strange compositions of his current paintings.

#### FROM MAD MAN TO MAD MEN

Latrobe Regional Gallery director Mark Themann says Magritte's art and radical ideas would go on to influence generations of creative people.

"René Magritte is considered to be one of the most significant artists of the postwar European era. He has influenced countless artists, architects, graphic designers, advertising people, those in pop culture, as well as musicians and film directors. This exhibition is a world first; this is the first time that these rare works have been brought together in one exhibition," Mr Themann says.

#### A WORLD-CLASS VENUE TO MATCH

Of course, an exhibition of such stature would not be permitted to go on show at a venue whose facilities were not first rate. The LRG 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. 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.

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 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 says.

"This is a must-see exhibition, and only on until November. I strongly urge art lovers everywhere to visit Morwell and enjoy these rare works of art."

*Images and references supplied by Latrobe Regional Gallery*