Many of the artists showing in "Turn the Page: The First Ten Years of Hi-Fructose" are inspired by the Surrealist art movement. Building on this, MOCA is hosting a Surrealist Challenge. Open to grade K-12 students, we encourage you to create your own Surrealist artwork. Use the provided packet to learn more about Surrealism, some of the artists in the exhibition inspired by Surrealism, and to brainstorm ideas! All works that meet the requirements will be shown at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art.
MOCA is committed to creating awareness of contemporary art. Contemporary art is the art of now. The artists are still alive, and they are still making art that is informative, imaginative and relevant. This exhibition features 51 important contemporary artists. These artists have been featured in the contemporary art magazine Hi-Fructose. Their works are now on view at MOCA.
Surrealism was a style of art and literature that originated in the late 1920s. It was inspired by dreams and experiences, rather than reality. Here is a video about the Surrealist art movement and key figure Salvador Dalí. Resources:

- The Metropolitan Museum of Art Essay on Surrealism
- André Breton’s First Surrealist Manifesto
- Article about the influence of Sigmund Freud on Surrealism
Surrealism continues to have a lasting effect on art. Some of the artists are part of a contemporary art movement called Pop Surrealism. Many Pop Surrealist artists combine pop culture with techniques inspired by past art movements.

Resources:
- Article about the origins of Pop Surrealism
- Hi-Fructose Magazine
- Virginia MOCA
Surrealist Activity 1: Fulvio di Piazza

- Fulvio di Piazza has gained international acclaim for his surreal landscapes.
- These fantastical scenes often show large floating heads or animals in the center of the painting.
- Fulvio Di Piazza explores man’s relationship with nature in his work.
- Resources:
  - Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Representing Gallery Artist Profile
  - Interview with Fulvio Di Piazza by Osservatorio delle Arti e Scrittura in Sicilia (subtitles)
Fulvio Di Piazza
Ratspiderbat, 2013
Oil on canvas
Courtesy of Galleria Giovanni Bonelli, Milan
Surrealist Activity 1:
Fulvio di Piazza

Steps:

• Think about a character from your favorite book or story.

• Sketch this character on the back of this paper.

• Once you have your sketch done, place them into a landscape in which they wouldn't belong. For example, if you drew a mermaid, put them in a tree or on a mountain.

• Draw how that character would interact with that environment.
Surrealist Activity 1 example
• Simkins paints the worlds we create in our daydreams.
• They contain characters that show the influence of Simkins’ love for animals and books.
• Craola was thinking about time while working on the painting called *Killing Time*, wishing he had the power to stop time, so he can slow down and relax.
• Resources:
  • [Artist’s website](#)
  • [Greg Craola Simkins – Where Am I? – Artist Interview](#)
  • “Greg “Craola” Simkins: Timelapse Video,” *Killing Time* Process Video,
Greg Craola Simkins
Killing Time, 2014
Acrylic on panel
Collection of Nick Cassavetes
Surrealist Activity 2:
Greg “Craola” Simkins

Steps:
• Look through a magazine. Find two images that you find interesting. Cut those images out and glue them to the back of this paper.

• Think of a story to connect these two images. What is going on between them? What are they doing? What is around them? You can write your story down if you want, or just go to the next step.

• Draw the story of what is happening between your two images. Make sure to include enough details to help show others your story.
Camille Rose Garcia is known for her dark, fairytale-inspired paintings. Garcia’s paintings are a combination of pop culture, social commentary, and sometimes self-reflection. Music plays a big role in Camille Rose Garcia's life.

**Resources:**
- [Artist’s website](#)
- [Meet LA Artist Camille Rose Garcia](#)
Camille Rose Garcia
*The Ghost of G Sharp Seven*, 2013
Acrylic and glitter on wood panel
Courtesy of the Artist and Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles
Photograph by Karl Puchlik
Steps:

• Play or think of your favorite song. While you are listening, think about how you feel. What does it make you think of? Do any images pop in your head?

• On the back of this paper, sketch everything that comes to mind when you listen or think about that song. Include anything and everything you thought while listening.

• Once you have finished your drawings add color to your paper. Think about the colors you can use and how they relate to your song.
Surrealist Activity 4: Todd Schorr

- Todd Schorr is considered one of the founders of the Pop Surrealist or “Lowbrow” movement.
- His paintings show the influence of cartoons, movies, and art history.
- Schorr’s paintings usually depict people, animals, or fantasy creatures frozen in action, like a comic book.
- He questions how people who are so technologically advanced can devolve to primitive behavior when it comes to our interactions with each other.
- Resources:
  - Artist’s website
  - Todd Schorr: American Surreal video links
Surrealist Activity 4:
Todd Schorr

Steps:
• Write down a word for each part of speech below. When you are done, flip this page over and add your words to the story. Once you have done that, create an illustration for your story!

1. Noun:
2. Verb ending with –ing:
3. Noun:
4. Verb ending with –ing:
5. Adjective:
6. Adjective:

• Noun=person, place, animal, thing. Examples are car, bed, fish. Verb= action words. Examples are run, talk, smell. Adjective= descriptive words. Examples are beautiful, short, yellow.
Something had gone wrong. The latest update to the (1)____________________________ had just been released, but it was (2)________________________________ with (3)____________________________. Everywhere I looked, people were (4)________________________________ – but the (5)____________________________ part is, they were talking to each other, face to face. I have to get away from these (6)____________________________ people before it messes me up, too.
Surrealist Activity 4 example
Surrealist Activity 5:

Jennybird Alcantara

• Jennybird Alcantara creates narrative oil paintings that contain female-animal-nature hybrids.
• She is inspired by fairytales and dreams.
• There are many symbols in her paintings.
• Resources:
  • [Artist’s website](#)
  • [Jennybird Alcantara-The Unfolding Story](#)
  • [Jennybird Alcantara: Hi-Fructose Studio Visit](#)
Steps:
• Fold this paper in to three sections.

• Starting at the top of the paper, you will draw a human head. When you are done, fold your paper over so you can’t see the head. Then hand your paper to the person sitting on your left. The student will draw a torso that looks like a plant. They will fold the paper over again, and pass it to the third student. The third student will fill in the bottom section of the paper with legs that look like an animal.

• When all three sections are finished, the paper goes back to the student who started the head. It is up to that student to add color and a background.
Surrealist Activity 5 example