

Setting Up Your Discovery Stations

This lesson will help us understand how various elements — including historical events and the works of other artists — influence a work of art.

Students will rotate through these three discovery stations, gaining valuable background knowledge about the productions of *Parade* and *Quidam*:

- *Quidam*, a contemporary multi-arts production of Cirque du Soleil
- *Parade*, a 1917 multi-arts production
- Surrealism, an arts movement

Construct your discovery stations with materials appropriate for your class. The materials listed below are suitable for most children. You can find most of them on the Internet or at your public library. Out-of-print books may be located at used-book Web sites or at public libraries.

Discovery Station 1: Quidam
Information about Cirque du Soleil and *Quidam*

Suggested materials:

- *Quidam* poster
- Official *Quidam* program
- *Quidam* videotape

Download information about Cirque du Soleil and *Quidam* from www.cirquedusoleil.com.

Discovery Station 2: Parade
Information about the creation and context of this historic work, biographical material about the artists, background on what was happening politically and socially at the time, and samples of critics' responses to the performance

Suggested materials:

- Images of the 1917 performance of *Parade* from Perloff, Nancy. *Art and the Everyday, Popular Entertainment and the Circle of Erik Satie*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991.
- Rothschild, Deborah Menaker. *Picasso's "Parade": from Street to Stage: ballet by Jean Cocteau; score by Erik Satie; choreography by Léonide Massine*. London: Sotheby's Publications in association with the Drawing Center, New York, 1991.
- Recording of *Parade* from Satie, Erik. *The Complete Ballets of Erik Satie — Parade*. Maurice Abravanel, Utah Symphony Orchestra. Vanguard Classics OVC 4030, 1991.
- Information about the composer and the work from Fogwall, Niclas. *Erik Satie Homepage*. 1996. www.af.lu.se/~fogwall/satie.html (April 30, 2001).
- Myers, Rollo H. *Erik Satie*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968.

- Orledge, Robert. *Satie Remembered*. Portland: Amadeus Press, 1995.
- Perloff, Nancy. *Art and the Everyday, Popular Entertainment and the Circle of Erik Satie*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991.

Discovery Station 3: Surrealism

Examples of surrealism in works of visual art, poetry, and drama, along with background information about significant artists working in this style

Suggested materials:

- *Mystery of Magritte* CD-ROM (CD-ROM contains dozens of images, writings by Magritte on the philosophy of art, biographical information, and discussion of various artworks)
- Definition of surrealism and biographical information of Andre Breton, Salvador Dali, René Magritte, and Pablo Picasso from “Art in the 20th Century,” abstracted from Gerald F. Brommer’s *Discovering Art History*
- Works by Magritte, such as:
 - *The Anniversary*
 - *Blood Will Tell*
 - *Golconde*
 - *Good Faith*
 - *The Haunted Castle*
 - *The Heartstring*
 - *The Human Condition*
 - *The Liberator*
 - *The Listening Room*
 - *The Natural Graces*
 - *The Red Model*
 - *The Son of Man*
 - *The Territory*
 - *The Treachery of Images*
- Works by Dali, such as:
 - *A Couple With Their Heads Full of Clouds*
 - *Mae West’s Face Which May Be Used as a Surrealist Apartment*
 - *The Persistence of Memory*