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## Surrealism and Salvador Dali: Impact of Freudian Revolution

### **Thesis Statement**

“If Sigmund Freud proposed a shift from the common notion of “objective” reality to psychic reality, the Surrealists sought to adopt his method as the possibility of transforming the supra individual reality. Orchestrating the Marxist slogan to “transform the world”; Surrealism would endeavor to extend the Freudian notion of liberation into the sphere of social action”.

### **Discussion**

#### **Freudian Revolutionary Impact on Art**

Freud's work had an enormous impact on Europe of the 20s, when it was empyrean created certain philosophical branches, such as existentialism, the Frankfurt School and critical theory. The model of the human mind that is considered to Freud created a challenge for modern philosophy. Freud also had some influence in politics, and his theories were mixed with those of Karl Marx, which created the Freudo-Marxism. Above all, Freud managed to score popular culture. It is almost impossible to find a work that is not influenced by the theories of Sigmund Freud, whether films, artistic, musical or literary (Becker, 2000).

Freud's thought is not an impersonal structure, as may be a philosophical or scientific work; it is intimately linked to the biography of its founder, because the subject of

psychoanalysis (the man) is a “biographical development,” a biography. Freud himself weaves his theories with aspects of his life and basically reached their theoretical discoveries discovering himself through self-analysis. The theory of the creative process Freud appears scattered in his work, and was not presented systematically.

Freud's work suggests that the literary work as all cultural production arises in the unconscious of the subject, originated in sexually repressed to emerge an unpleasant situation to materialize the drive that resulted. He believes that this material acts sublimation, transforming culture, socially acceptable material. The drive is not diverted into a new sexual order, morally valued. The main activities are sublimated in Freud's description of the artistic and intellectual inquiry. Freud claims that the drive takes to dump a lot of energy to cultural work, the ability to exchange other sexual purpose, sublimation ability flame (Sheringham, 2006)

#### Freudian Revolutionary Impact on Surrealism & Salvador Dali

During the war, André Breton (Surrealism father), who had trained a little in medicine and psychiatry, served in a neurological hospital where the methods of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud was used with the soldiers suffering from neurosis First World War. When Breton returned to Paris, he started a literary magazine called ‘Literature’. In this magazine, they began experimenting with the ‘automatic writing’, an idea borrowed from the ideas of Freud's psychoanalysis. Automatic writing is very simple and the idea is that the authors begin to write spontaneously without censoring his thoughts (Lomas, 2000).

In the founding manifesto of 1924, the reference to Freud revealed in both Central Breton defines surrealism primarily not as a movement but as a psychic automatism method and by stating that this method should replace other “in resolving major problems of life.” In other words, the automation is a method of understanding of underlying strata, and this

knowledge is not purely theoretical or speculative, but tends to influence reality through action(Lomas, 2000).

After the war, when they returned to Paris, the Dada activities continued. Freud understood that the conscious mind, conditioned by social conventions, provides a limited and misleading picture of the personality, and at the deepest level of dreams men express their wishes and concerns through a hidden language of symbols and associations (Mundy, 2001).

In painting and sculpture, surrealism is one of the main trends of the twentieth century. The Catalan painter Salvador Dali was associated in 1930, but was later relegated by most Surrealist artists, as he was more interested in marketing their art on the ideas of the movement. Although for a time was the most renowned artist of the group, his work was so personal that constitutes one of the most representative examples of surrealism (Solms, 2000).

Surrealist painting is varied in content and techniques. Dali, for example, transcribed their dreams of a more or less photographically, inspired by the first stage of the paintings of De Chirico. Arp's sculptures are large, smooth and abstractly. Furthermore, Miró, formal member of the group for a short period, represented fantastic shapes including adaptations of children's drawings. The Russian-American painter Pavel Tchelichew painted pictures and also created ballets for numerous scenes. In the 1940s, coinciding with the exile in Mexico by Spanish artists influenced by Surrealism and Breton's visit, which toured the country along with Diego Rivera and Leon Trotsky Soviet politician, the movement spread in relative and limited among Mexican intellectuals circles (Mundy, 2001).

The American Surrealist branch consists of the group known as 'magical realist', under the leadership of the painter Paul Cadmus. The sculptor Joseph Cornell began as

surreal, but later pursued a more individual form of expression. A representative collection of the graphic work of the surrealists is in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA).

One can see that the thoughts of Freud had a great impact on the ideas the Surrealist movement. Specifically, it can be seen that psychoanalysis and the idea of speaking without censoring their ideas / thoughts as a medical treatment was very important for the development of the ideas of Breton to write what he was thinking without censoring ideas. An important aspect of surrealism is the liberation of the imagination in a way that had been impossible without the ideas of Freud's free association, dream analysis, and the unconscious. This release was different because it was based on the idea that to be free and imaginative, we need to know who we are and look within ourselves to find our personality. This reflects the ideas of Freud, obviously. Apart from the use of dream analysis, they gave much importance to the idea that one could combine elements not normally found together to produce illogical and special effects.

Another writer of this period was influenced by the thoughts of Breton and Freud was Jorge Luis Borges. He was a poet and writer from Argentina and was born in 1899. His two most famous works are *Fictions* and *The Adelp* and some are compilations of short stories interconnected with issues of dreams, labyrinths, symbolism, and God. With themes of dreams and symbolism we see the influence of Freud's thoughts were on this influential author. Borges' had progressive blindness, and some think that this blindness helped him to create literary symbols through imagination.

At the same time the development of surrealist literature, there were several Surrealist artists influenced by the thoughts of Freud. Perhaps the best known artist of this movement is Salvador Dali. Dalí was an artist with a creative imagination and we can see examples of Freud's great ideas in his works, as well as aspects of surrealism as the unexpected juxtaposition and the element of surprise. The characteristics of Surrealism as a visual

movement were trying to find the psychological truth by stripping ordinary objects of their normal to create an image that is not satisfied with the ordinary formal organization, in order to provoke empathy meaning.

Dali believed that dreams and imagination were very important to be creative, and then he tried to find a method to maintain a state of creativity. He did something very interesting to maintain this state of creativity. After eating a big lunch, he sat with a large metal plate in his lap and a spoon in his arms. The idea was that when sleep begins, the spoon would fall from her arms and wakes. He continued doing this and could remain in their state of creativity. Many of the images of his work come from his thoughts during these times of creativity. The best work of Salvador Dali Persistence of Memory was in 1931.

One can see the idea of Freud's Interpretation of Dreams in Dali's work. One interpretation of this work is that the fallen clocks represent that time does not follow a conventional, linear path. This almost gives the effect of a dream, in which time is not relevant and the passage of time is not normal. This time distortion can be easily seen by anyone who has tried to think about their own dreams. Another work of Dalí containing heavily influenced by Freud called Dream Caused by the back of a Bee around a Granada one minute before awakening, or in English: 'Dream Caused by the Flight of a Bee around a Pomegranate One Minute before Awakening '.

Although all the influence of Freud appears to be in the past, there are examples of Freud's influence today also. One can see the influences of Freud in literature, music, and film. Almost everything today is concerned because the unconscious thoughts and revelations made by Freud. For example, the movie 'Inception' has turned the thoughts of Freud, and this movie would not exist without these thoughts. This film emphasis is given to topics that explore dreams within dreams of others to discover secrets or information about this person (Mundy, 2001).

## **Conclusion**

Surrealism was the most important literary and artistic movement between the wars, but their intentions were not limited to art. Its purpose was to transform life through the release of the man's mind all the traditional restrictions that enslave, religion, morality, family and country thus become institutions to review. The Surrealist movement was officially launched in Paris in 1924 with the publication of the first manifesto, written by André Breton. However, during the past three years can be considered was brewing, as the Parisian Dadaist focus configured so that the same shall later be ascribed to the Surrealists.

From any perspective, surrealism always tried to be a revolution, appealing to the power of the unconscious, he used the irrationality of the dream life and even a glimpse of the madness to which can yield the uncharted territory of the human spirit.

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