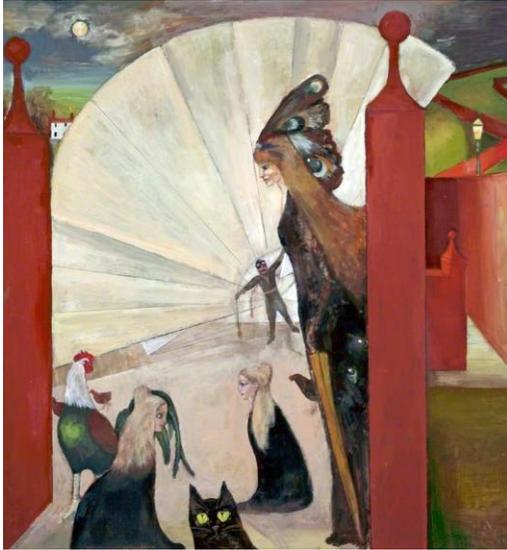


# George Jardine

## *Night Moths*



George Jardine was an important artist involved in the Bluecoat after the Second World War and had a studio there until the 1980s. Living in Wallasey all his life, his art was inspired by the landscape of the North West, the Lake District and his own garden.

As an artist, he was greatly influenced by the Surrealist art movement. Surrealism began in the 1920s and experimented with imagination and different ways of thinking. It was inspired by psychiatrist Sigmund Freud who studied people's behaviour and how they think he was interested in people's dreams and their subconscious thoughts (ones we don't even know that we are having!). There are two main types of Surrealist artworks. The first was inspired by dreams, and the second, called Automatism, involved artists creating work *without thinking* – a bit like doodling.

Jardine visited an exhibition of Surrealist work at Liverpool's Walker Art Gallery in 1936 and was greatly influenced by it. He began painting in a very different way to other artists in Liverpool at the time. Painting natural and mythical creatures in dream-like landscapes, he created his own vision of the world around him.

### THINK ABOUT

- Do you like George Jardine's artwork?
- How is it different to other art you have seen?

## **TALK ABOUT**

- Do you like George Jardine's artwork?
- How is it different to other art you have seen?
- Have you had any dreams recently that you think would make good art?
- Why do you think Jardine's work was different to the work of other artists in Liverpool at the time?
- What do you think about Automatism?

## **FIND OUT ABOUT**

- Can you find out about any other Surrealist artists?

## **Activities**

1 George Jardine's artwork was very dreamlike and used a lot of different mythical animals and landscapes. Create your own Surrealist Bluecoat using different colours, pictures and your imagination. Surrealist artists liked to put things in their paintings that you would not expect to see together, like a pack of playing cards and some birds. You will be given two words at random to try and incorporate into your artwork to make it more Surrealist.

2 The second type of Surrealism was called Automatism, in which artists created work without thinking, like doodling or when one word makes you think of something else, for example water – sea.

Some Surrealist artists would draw doodles and then try and find different animals and characters in them.

Spend 30 seconds doodling with a black pen and then try and find the most creative and dreamlike pictures within it.

Play a quick word association game in groups. See how far you can get from the original word you started with. You are creating Surrealist work as you speak!

## **Learning aims and outcomes**

The children will:

- learn more about different artistic movements
- learn more about different types of thinking
- learn more about the lives of people in the past
- use their own thoughts, feelings and ideas
- be able to discuss their ideas in a group
- be able to develop their art and craft skills