André Robert Breton

What did André Breton create?
André Breton was a French writer and poet who helped start a new kind of art called **Surrealism**. Surrealist art is full of **dreams, imagination, and strange, surprising ideas**. Instead of painting or writing about real life, Breton wanted artists to explore the world of dreams, thoughts, and feelings.

🧒 Childhood

- Born in 1896 in a small town in France called Tinchebray.
- Grew up during a time of big changes and new ideas in the world.
- Loved books and nature as a child.
- He was interested in poetry and science from an early age.

🎓 Education

- André Breton studied **medicine** and later specialized in **psychiatry** in **Paris** during World War I.
- He began his studies at the **University of Paris (Sorbonne)**, though he did not complete a full medical degree.
- Learned about the human mind and mental health, which later inspired his surrealist ideas.
- During this time, he also read the works of **Sigmund Freud**, whose theories about dreams and the unconscious had a huge impact on Breton's artistic ideas.
- Read a lot of poetry and was especially interested in strange and mysterious writing.
- Met other young artists and thinkers who also liked unusual ideas.

🎨 Career

- Wrote **The Surrealist Manifesto** in 1924, explaining what Surrealism was all about.
- Helped start the **Surrealist Movement**, which included painters, writers, and filmmakers.
- Worked with famous artists like **Salvador Dalí**, **Max Ernst**, and **Joan Miró**.
- Published poems and books filled with dreamlike images and automatic writing (writing whatever came to mind without thinking).
- Supported art that was free, imaginative, and full of mystery.
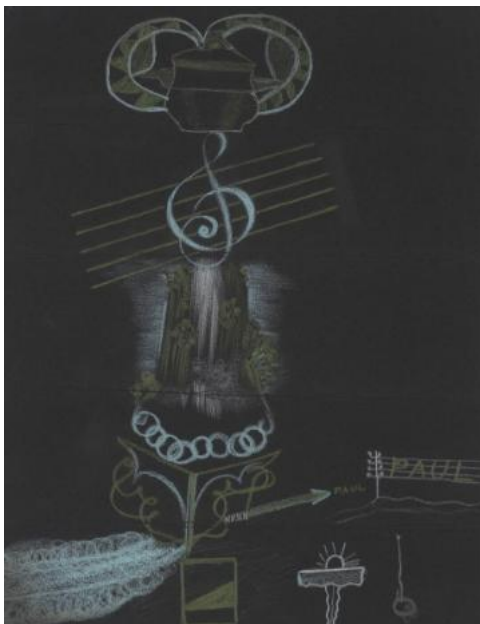- Travelled to Mexico and the U.S., bringing Surrealism to new places.

🗣 Quotes from André Breton

- **"Surrealism is not a style, it's a way of thinking."**
- **"The imagination is perhaps on the point of reasserting itself, of reclaiming its rights."**
- **"Let us not mince words... the marvelous is always beautiful, anything marvelous is beautiful, in fact only the marvelous is beautiful."**

🎨 Art

Cadavre Exquis

Collage is a form of art which is often used by surrealists, and Breton like to work with friends. In this collaborative collage, seven Surrealist artists and poets assembled an anthropomorphic form by stacking found printed images of household objects. The participants were Max Morise, Jeannette Ducrocq Tanguy, Pierre Naville, Benjamin Peret, Yves Tanguy and Jacques Prevert

Exquisite corpse

Pour Elise