

# GCSE Controlled Test Themes 2026

1. Reflections
2. Connections
3. Woman
4. Layers
5. Twisting and Turning

You must pick one theme only and then base all topic work on this leading up to the controlled test on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

Your topic work MUST include the following:

1. Mind Map
2. Artist research/ links/ work in the style of...
3. Drawings and photography.
4. Colour and Media Samples
5. Design ideas/ Planning
6. Final piece ( in the ten hours controlled test)

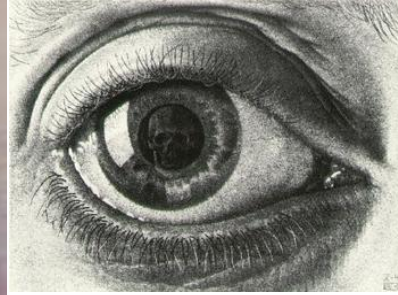
You may complete the artist research and drawings in any order or combined.

All work must be annotated and relevant to your chosen theme



# REFLECTIONS

M. C. Escher



Simon Hennessy



Pointers for  
your Mind  
Map:

Mirror, water,  
light, shadow,  
glass, puddles,  
raindrops,  
seascapes,  
metal,  
bubbles,  
prayer,  
projection,  
transparent,  
distortion,  
shine, glasses  
symmetry,  
pattern

More Information [here](#)





Rhian Symes



S.French



Brianne Williams



Michelle Poirier Mozzone

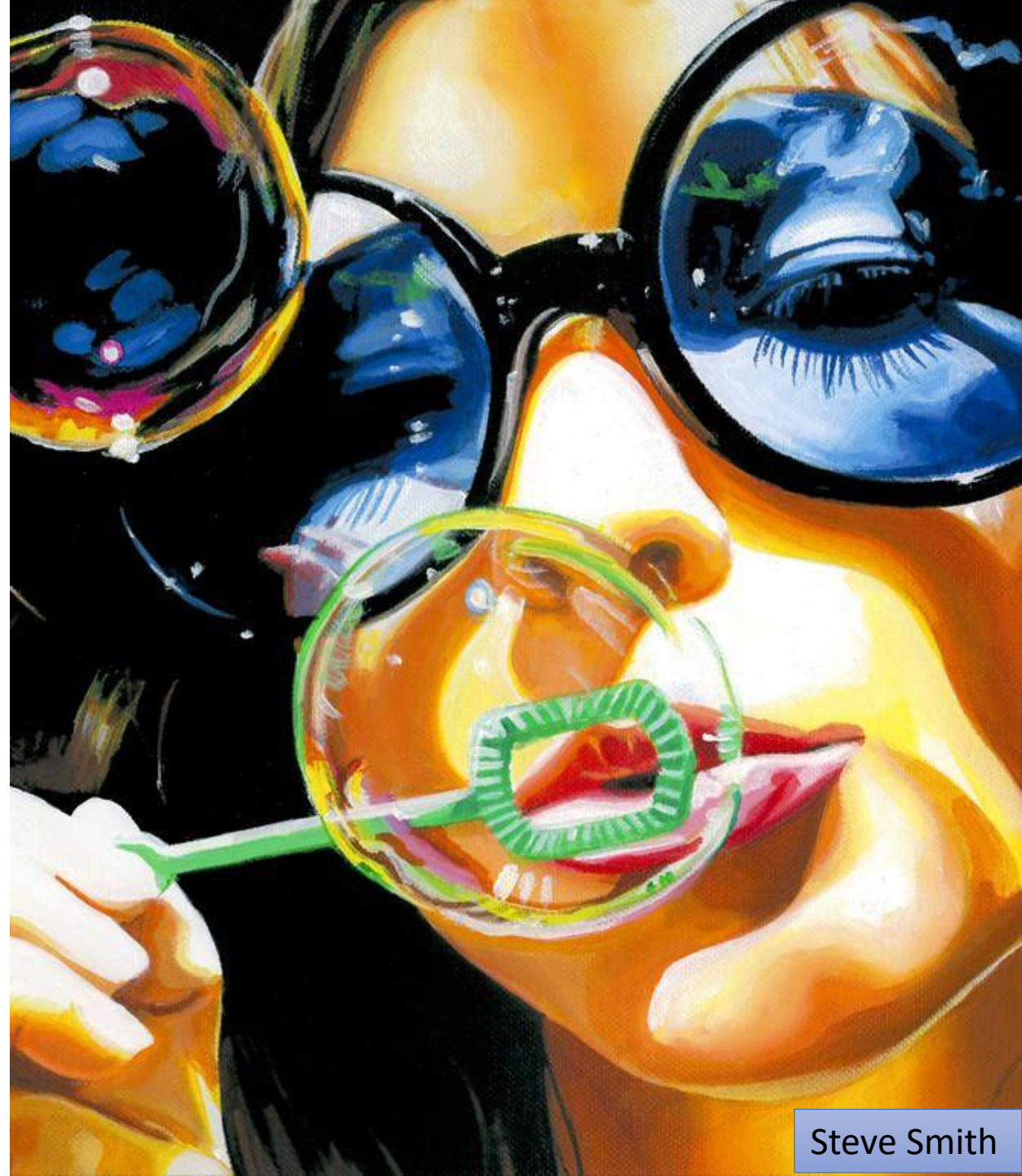




Lianne Strids



Life's like a Bubble  
by DaveLopes  
Traditional Art / Drawings / Port



Steve Smith



Sarah Graham



Kate Brinkworth

Still life arrangements that use  
reflective surfaces / mirrors



Audrey Flack







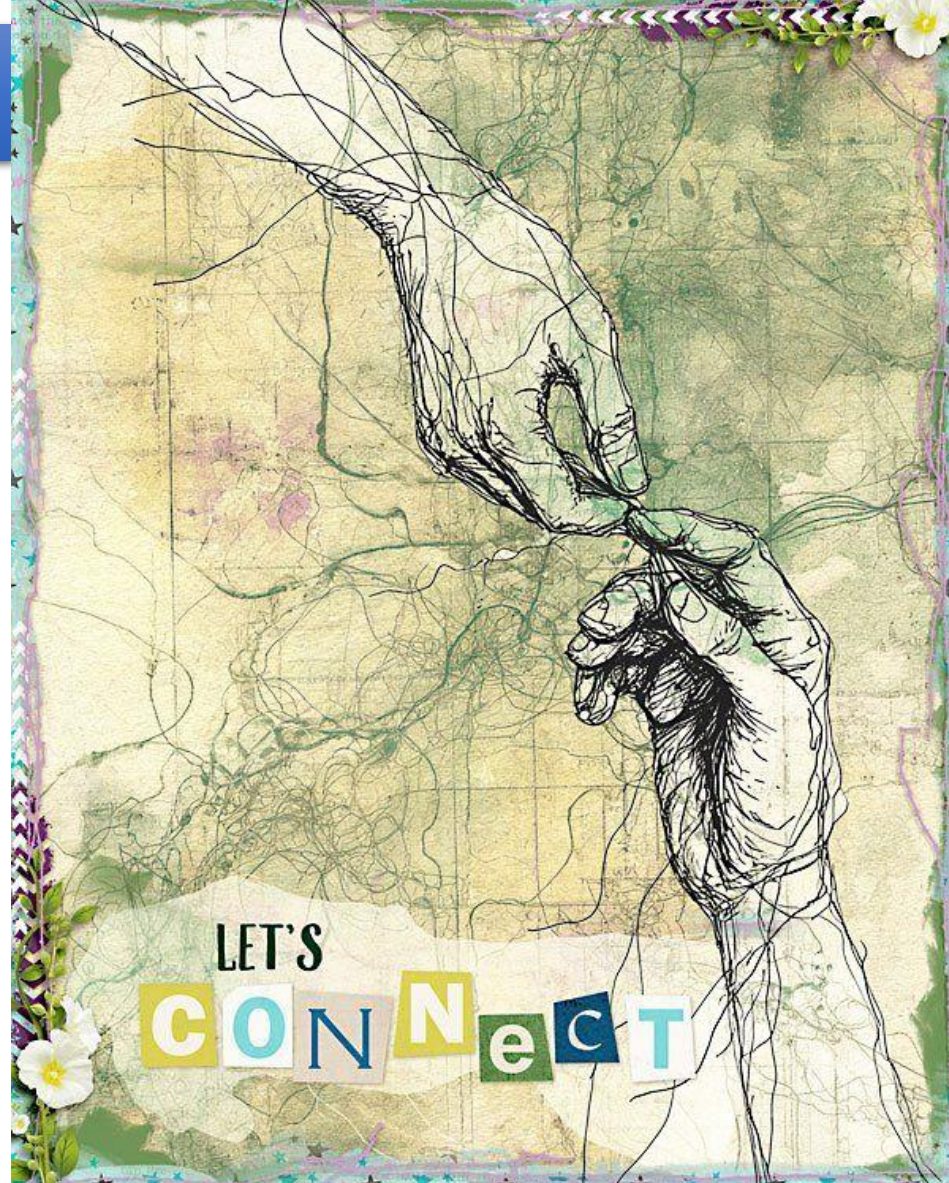
Scott Jacobs



Use Pinterest to find artist whose work inspires you and is relevant to the topic



# CONNECTIONS



Pointers for your mind map : Link, interlock, assemblage, construction, relations, fitting together, joining, piecing, correlations, ties, unions, fixtures, influences...





Ed Fairburn



Alexandra Gallagher



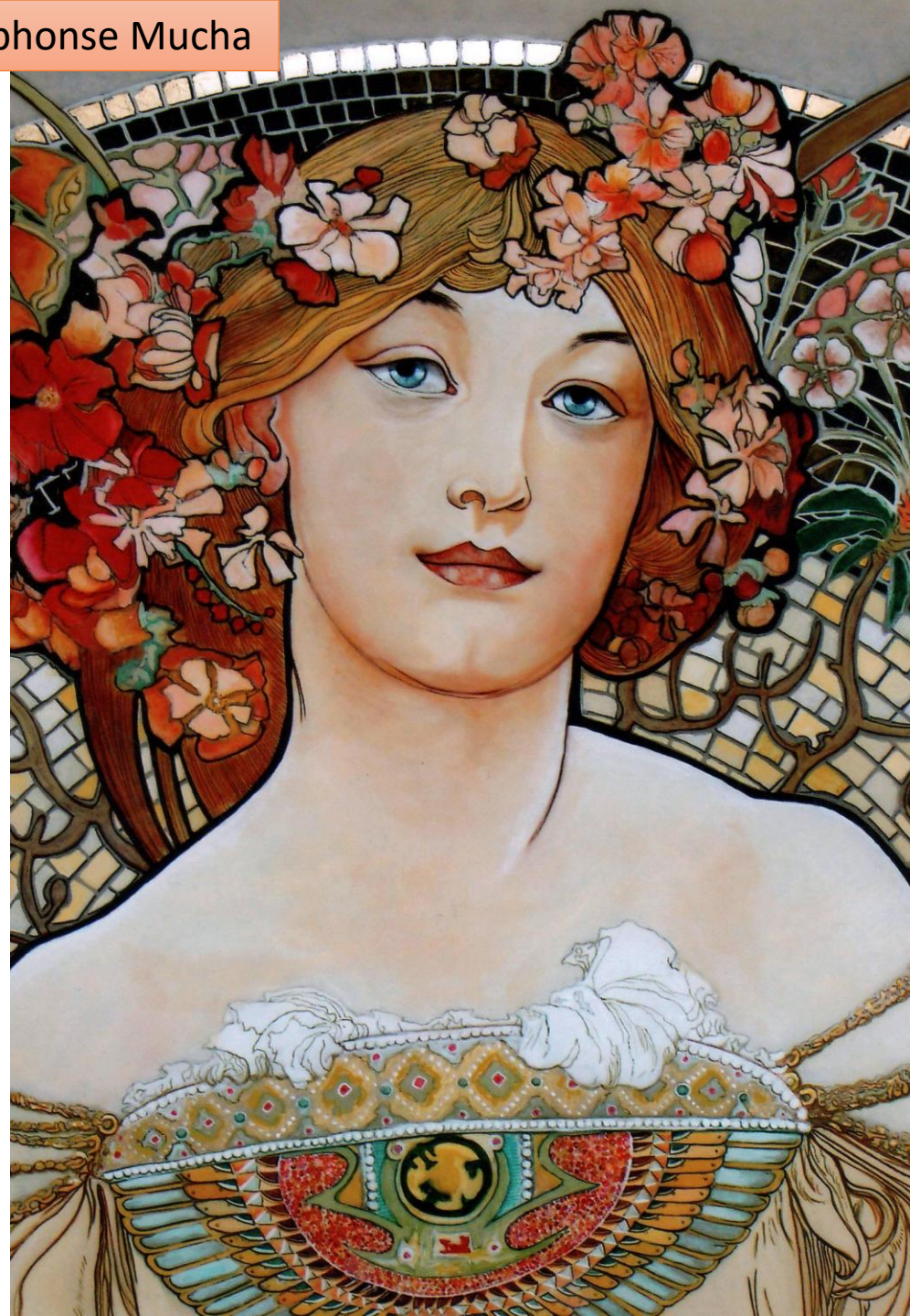
# WOMAN



Renoir



Alphonse Mucha



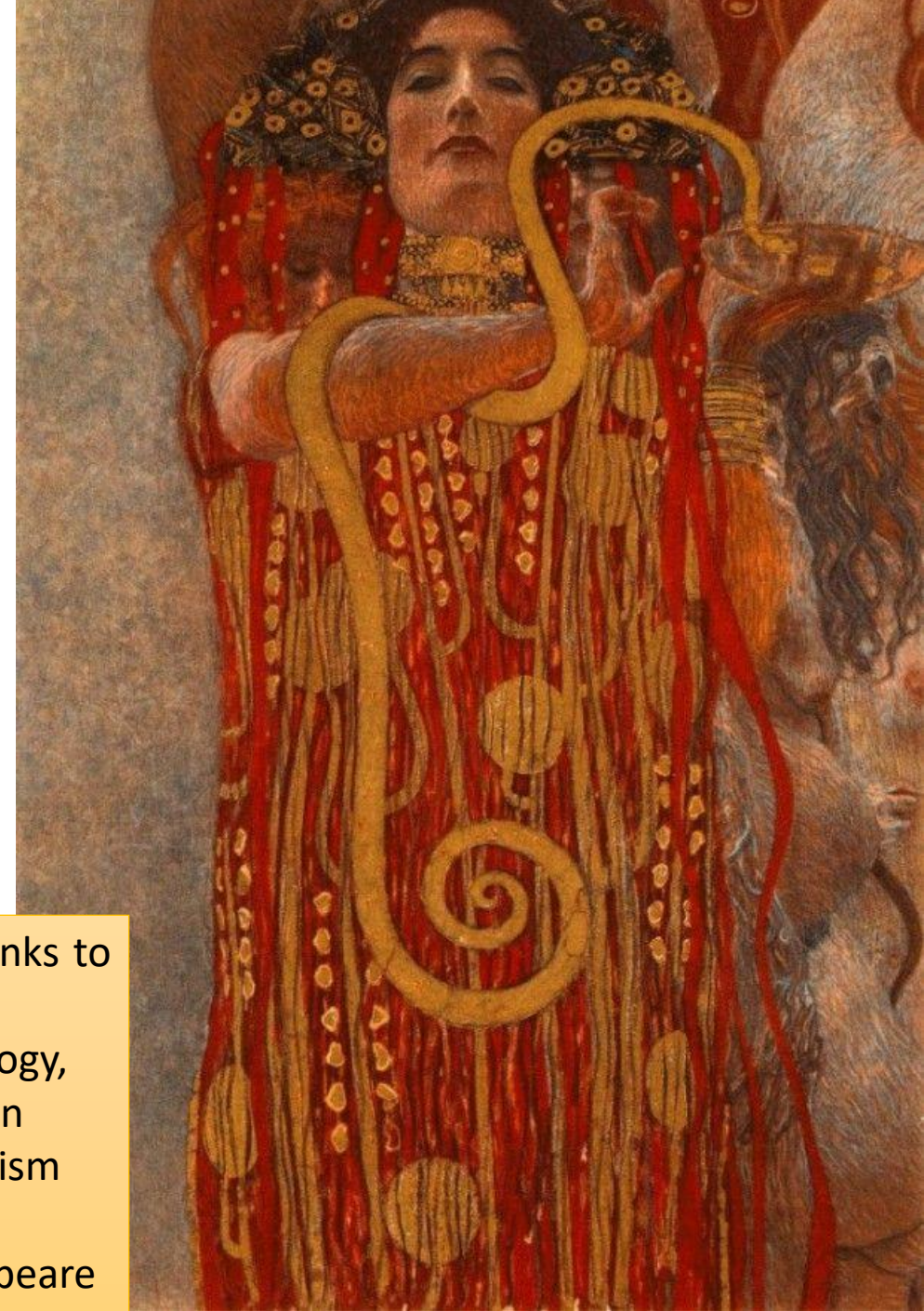
Pointers for  
your Mind  
Map:  
Mother,  
relatives,  
Childhood  
memories,  
Royal  
family, Icons  
Literature and  
Poems,  
nurture,  
gender,  
identity,  
symbol, equal,  
bride,  
empowered,  
matriarch,



Gustav Klimt

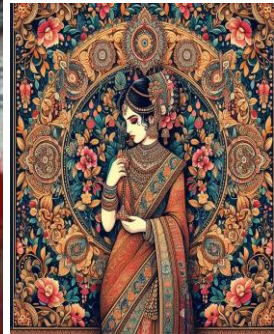


Work links to  
Greek  
mythology,  
Egyptian  
symbolism  
and  
Shakespeare





Family- Memories , Events and  
Love and human relationships.

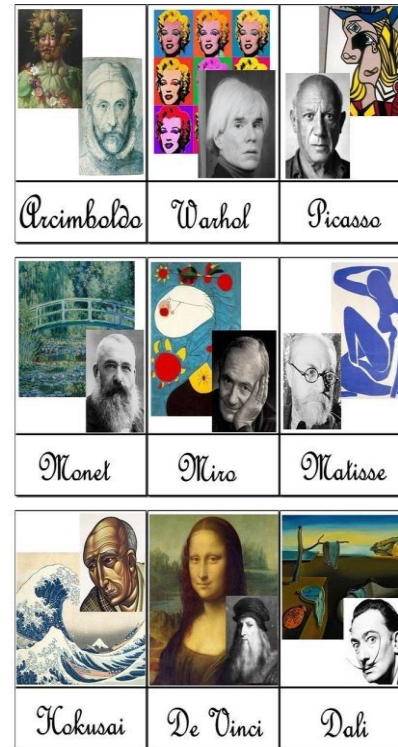
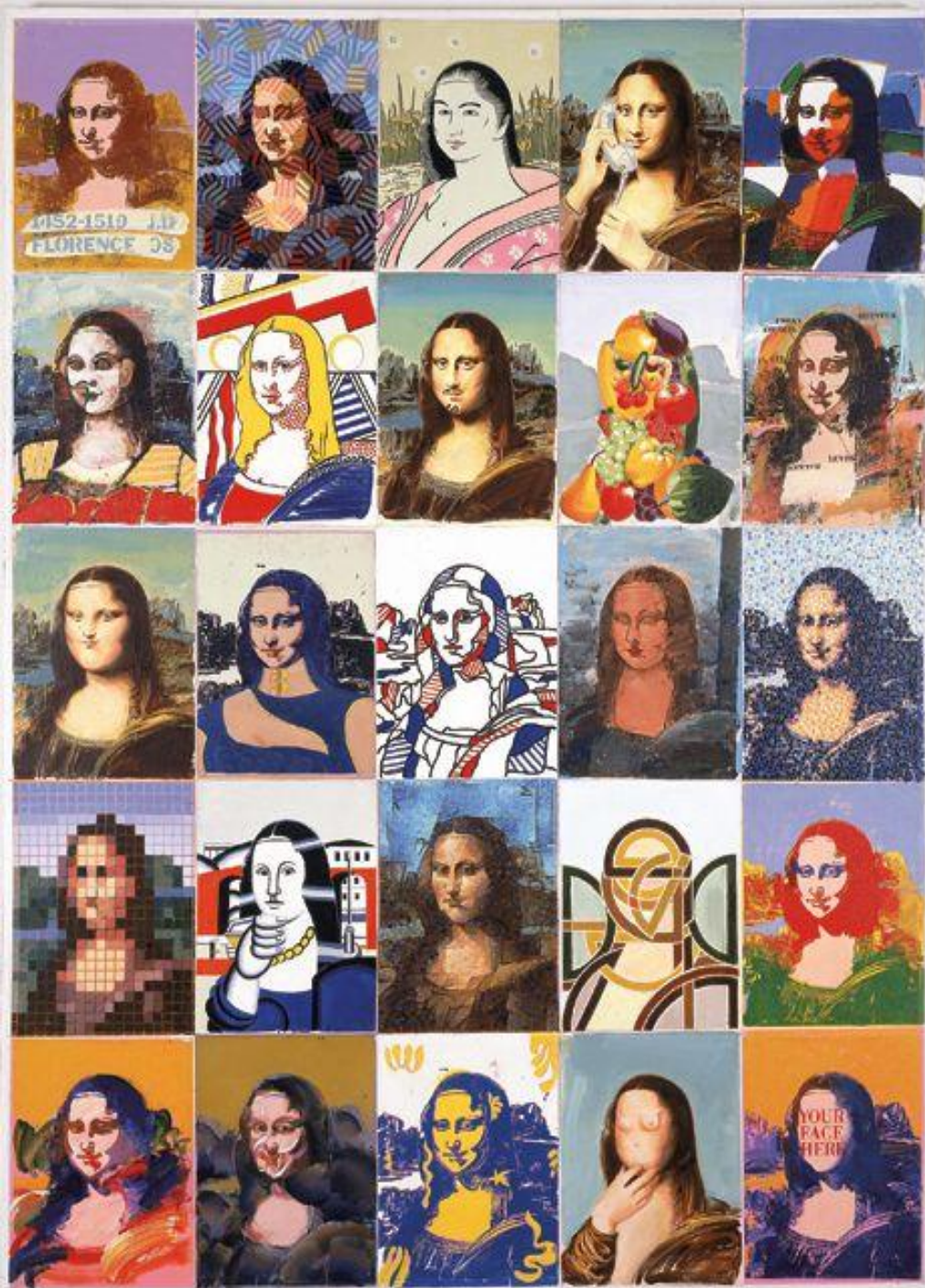




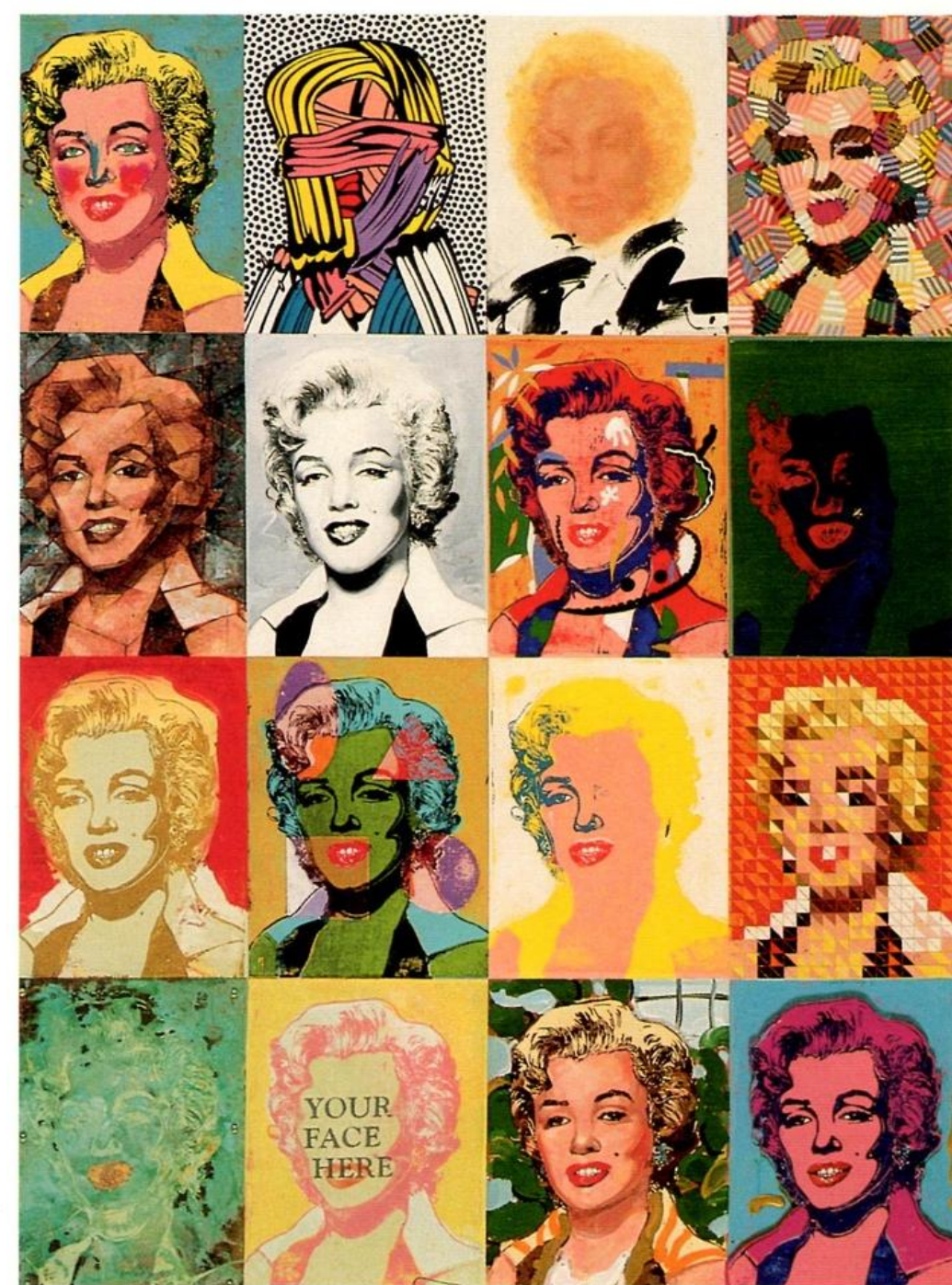


**Expressive Portraits  
found on Pinterest**





Exploring different painting styles may help you to explore different ideas











Mother Nature







Royal Women, Pop Art and symbolism. Celebrations and Festivals

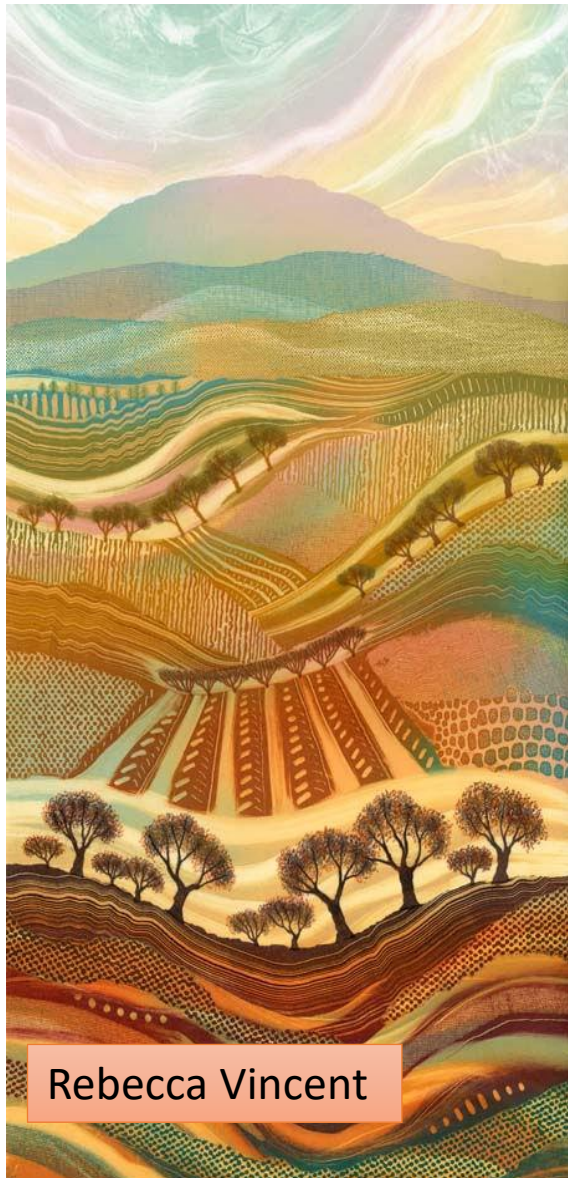




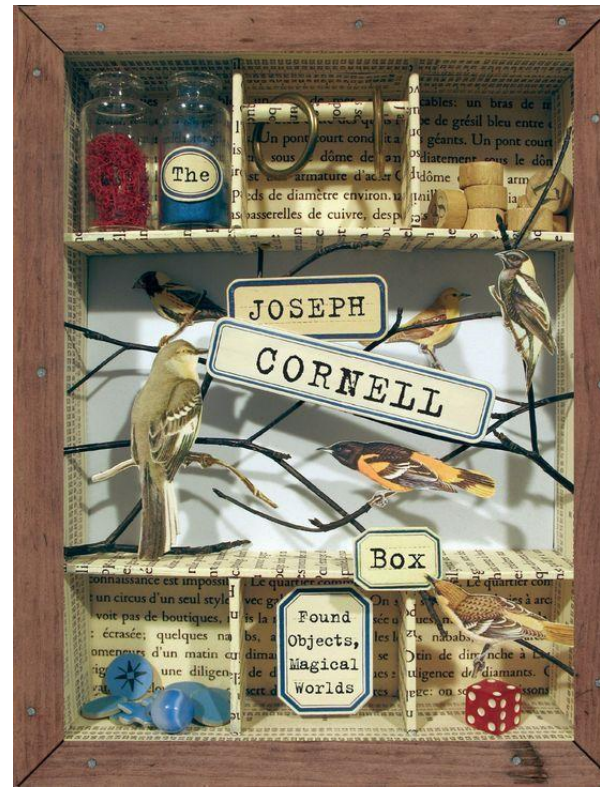
# Layers

Pointers for your mind map:

Overlap, tier, pile, position, weave, stack, surface, coating, peeling, juxtapose, collage, collate, hierarchic



Rebecca Vincent



Michael Brennand Wood is a textile artist who produces mixed media collages





Johanna Goodman



Manel  
Villalonga



Stephen Gill



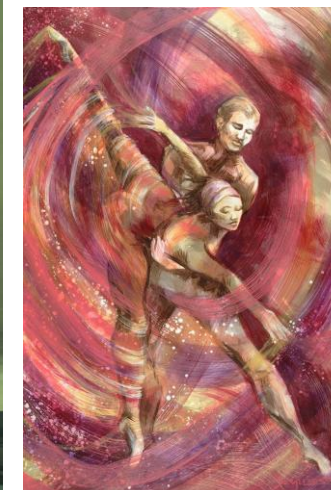
Jasper Johns

A lot of the artists suggestions for this theme use photomontage and collage as a means to creating artwork



## Twisting and Turning

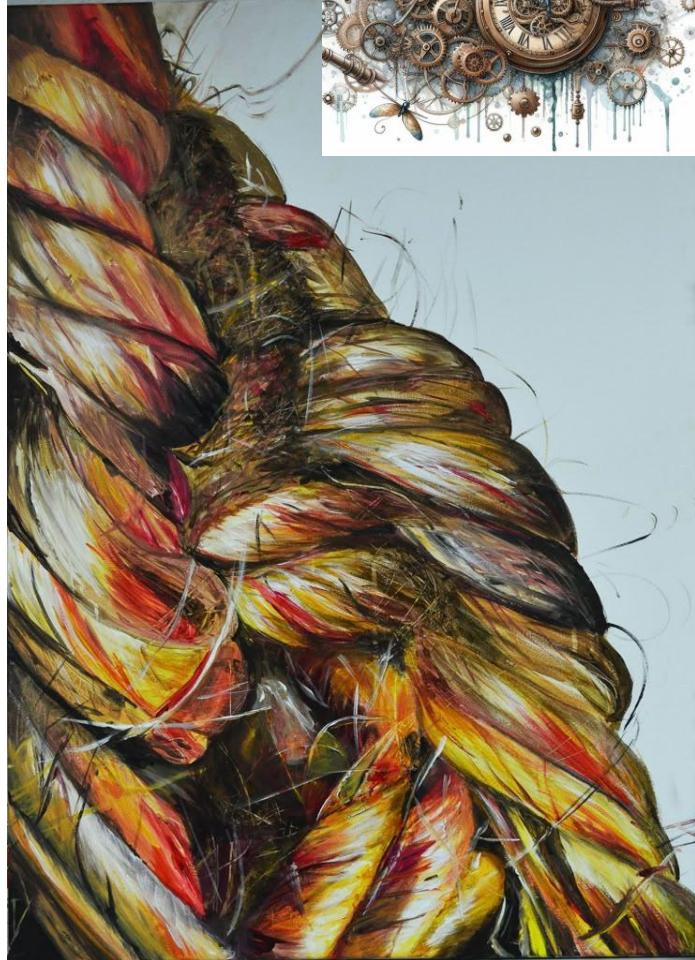
Pointers for your mind map:  
Spiral, maze, spin, criss-cross,  
interfold, knit, knot, entwined,  
merge, rotate, warp, exit, link...



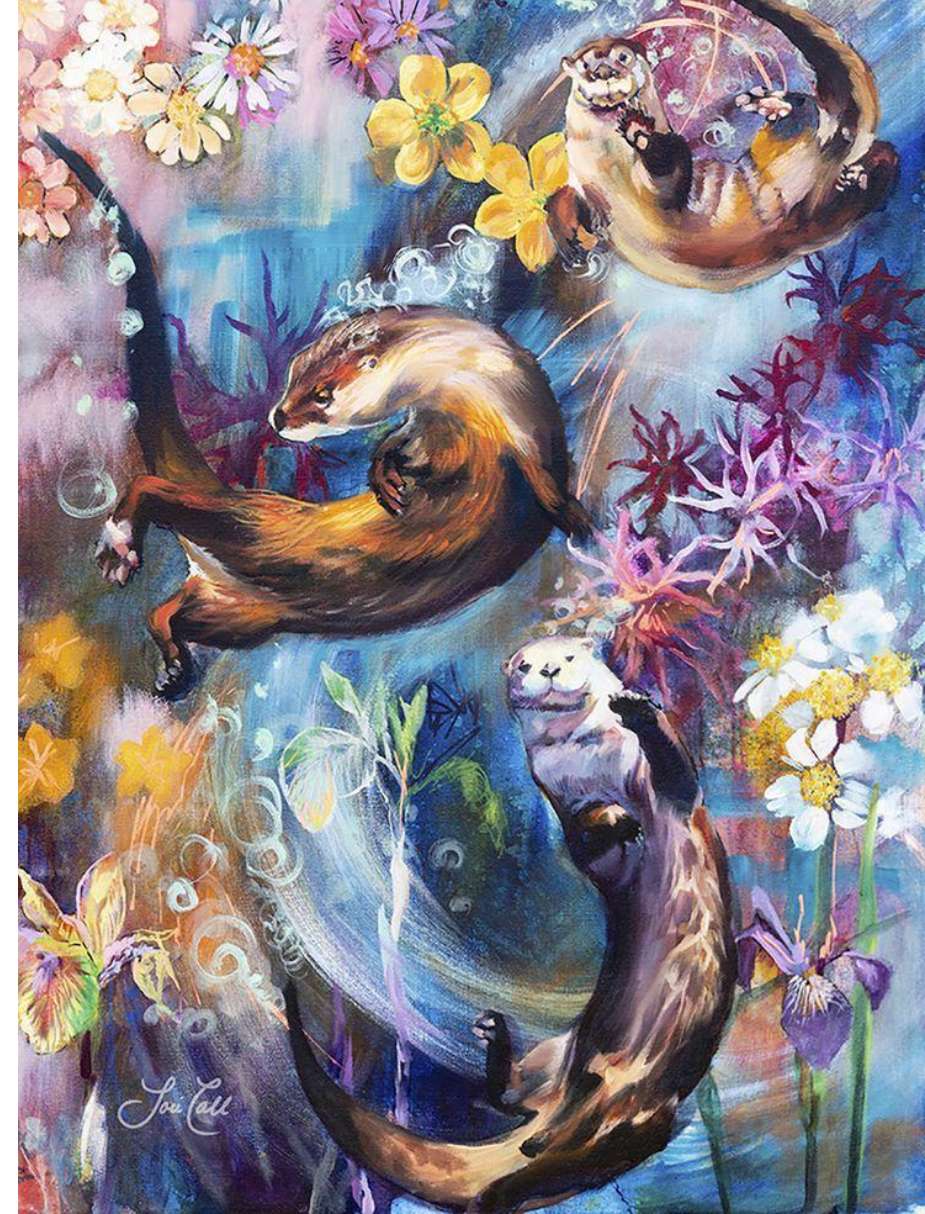
Images found on  
Pinterest –artists  
unknown other  
than the Degas  
above



Mechanical and natural form that links to the theme: Artists unknown – found on Pinterest.

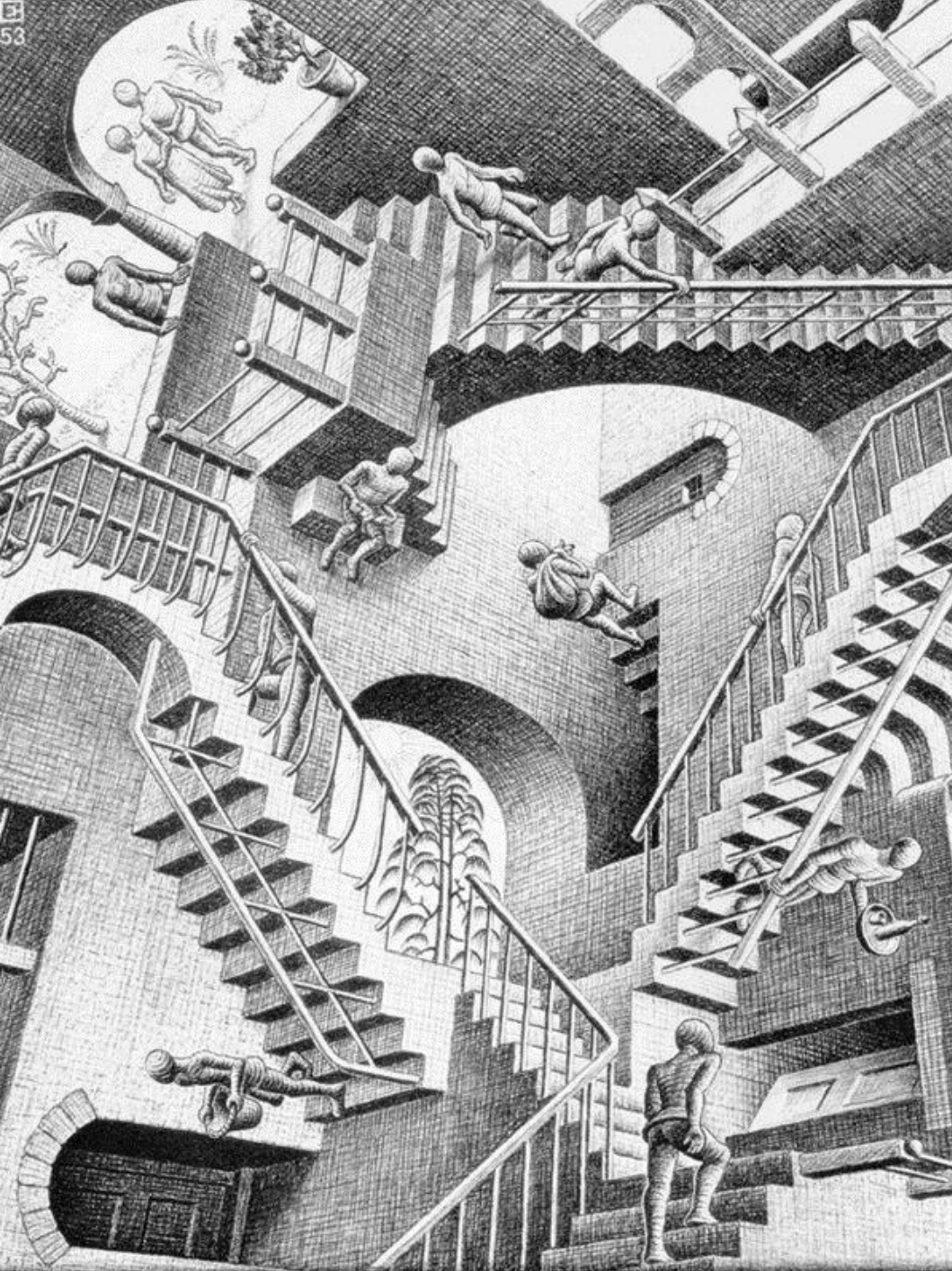




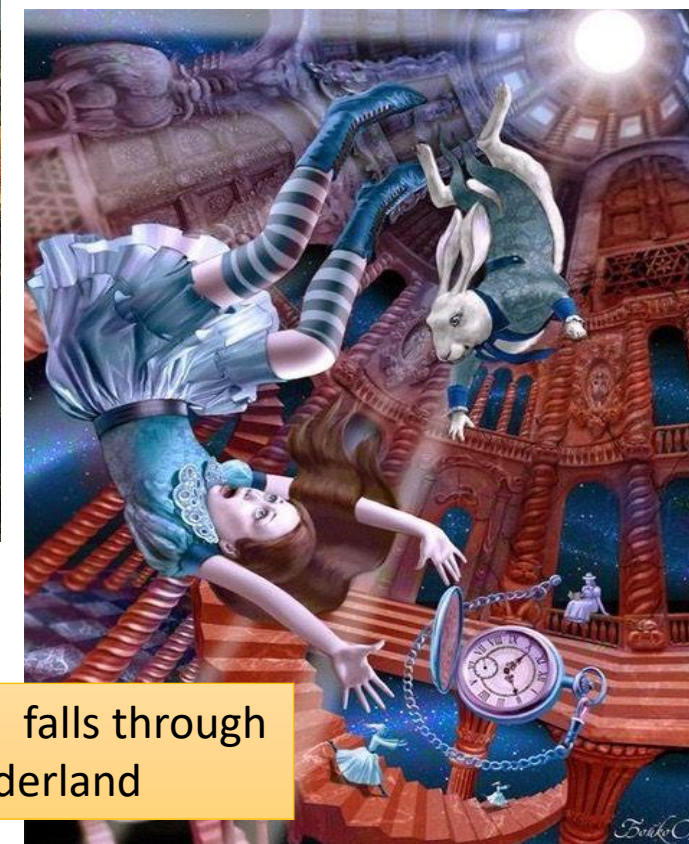


Images that show the movement of animals are great inspiration for this topic. Images found on PINTEREST





Escher produces endless stair cases and the Surrealist produce dreamlike landscapes



Alice falls through wonderland