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## 10 of the best places to learn about Surrealism

Surrealism turns 100 this year. To celebrate, many galleries are putting on special exhibitions to celebrate this dreamy, whimsical movement that inspired artists including Picasso and Dali



Frida Kahlo's workspace at Museo Frida Kahlo in Mexico City

ALAMY

Collette Lyons

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**T**his year marks a century since the poet and thinker André Breton published his first Surrealist Manifesto, in which he set out his principles for pursuing creativity unshackled from realism. Many of the titans of modern art embraced his singular vision, harnessing the power of dreams and the uncanny, to produce some of the best-known 20th-century imagery, from Dalí's melting clocks to

Méret Oppenheim's furry teacup and Magritte's bowler-hatted men.

Breton conceived much of his manifesto while sitting with his circle of artists and writers in the cafés of the Latin Quarter in Paris. In two of these — Café de Flore and Les Deux Magots — you can still order a croque monsieur today. Some of the artists' homes and studios in Paris, and beyond, welcome visitors too.

I loved delving into their world while researching my new novel *The Final Act of Juliette Willoughby*; it's a mystery, spanning decades and continents, with a lost masterpiece by a fictional female surrealist artist at its heart. In researching 1930s Paris and the other artists Juliette would have interacted with, I also gathered a long list of exhibitions and galleries to visit this centenary year. Here are my top ten surrealist must-sees.

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## **1. IMAGINE! 100 Years of International Surrealism, Brussels, Paris, Hamburg and Madrid**

The touring show, has been curated by the Paris Pompidou Centre, which holds a large collection of work from the original Paris surrealist circle. This encompasses an entire wall of paintings and objects — acquired from André Breton's former home in 2003 after his widow died — including work by Miró and Picabia, and masks and pottery amassed on his travels. For this exhibition focusing on the period until Breton's death in 1966, each museum will add pieces from its own collection to a core of 30 artworks as it tours — it's in Brussels until July 21, with René Magritte as a focal point; in Paris, André Breton and surrealist literature take centre stage, and then it's on to Hamburg and Madrid (£15; [100yearsofsurrealism.be](http://100yearsofsurrealism.be)). Stay near the Grand Place at Hotel Amigo and have a drink in its newly opened Bar Magritte.

**Details** [Room-only doubles](http://roccofortehotels.com) from £220 ([roccofortehotels.com](http://roccofortehotels.com)). Fly or take the Eurostar to Brussels

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## 6. Plateforme 10, Lausanne, Switzerland



Lausanne's Plateforme 10 arts district brings together works from surrealist women

ETIENNE MALAPERT / MUDAC

Plateforme 10, the arts district at the heart of Lausanne, has gone big on surrealism's centenary, programming three major exhibitions (£22 for access to all three; [plateforme10.ch](http://plateforme10.ch)).

*Surrealism Le Grand Jeu*, at the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts until August 25, brings together works from historic surrealists (including many women — Claude Cahun, Nusch Éluard, Dorothea Tanning and Méret Oppenheim) and those working now. At Mudac, *Objects of Desire: Surrealism and Design* combines furniture (Dalí's Mae West Lips sofa, for instance) with fashion and photography; while Man Ray fans can explore his innovative techniques and dreamlike photographs in *Dialogue between an Octopus and a Juicer* at Photo Elysée (both until August 4). Stay centrally at the Moxy Lausanne City, about ten minutes' walk from Plateforme 10.

**Details** [Room-only doubles](#) from £157 ([marriott.com](http://marriott.com)). Fly to Geneva or take the train to Lausanne

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## 7. Maison Dora Maar, Ménerbes, France



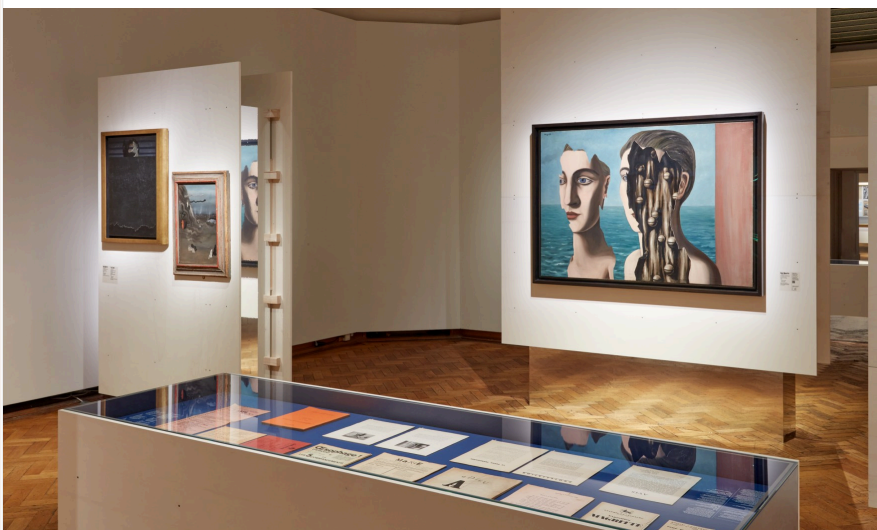
Picasso bought this house for his lover Dora Maar

ALAMY

The women in the surrealist circle are finally receiving the recognition many never enjoyed during their lifetimes — a painting by Leonora Carrington recently sold at auction for £22.5 million (a record for a UK-born female artist). Her house in Mexico City has been purchased with the intention that it should be turned into a living museum. It's not open to the public yet, but Maison Dora Maar is. The artist known for her surrealist photography and collage moved to her Ménerbes home in 1944 after her split from Picasso. This summer an exhibition entitled *Le Temps de la Mue* will explore her artistic friendship with Léonor Fini (tours £9pp; [maisondoramaar.org](http://maisondoramaar.org)). Stay at Le Domaine Du Fortin, below the ridge of Ménerbes town.

Details [B&B doubles](#) from £303 ([ledomainedufortin.com](http://ledomainedufortin.com)). Take the train or fly to Avignon

## 8. Bozar, Brussels



Histoire de ne pas rire has drawn work from more than 50 museums and private collections