

Slippy Map titled “Chicago Network of Art in a Surreal Era of Covid-19”



Surrealism

Surrealist movement emerged in the 1930s featuring the use of daily objects to create surprise through juxtaposing contrasting colors and objects. It arouses a realistic yet absurd feeling, evoking reflections on the way people perceive the world. Do we really know the world that we live in everyday? We might be confident that we know the world through our perception of the visually realistic scenes. However, if we take a closer look at the new way of organizing and representing the objects, we might doubt our eyes. Surrealism creates “distant realities” and this activates our unconsciousness through the imagery. The motive of surrealism is to “resolve the previously contradictory conditions of dream and reality into an absolute reality, a super-reality”, or surreality. The three paintings that I selected share the tone and mood and convey a similar sense of surrealism. On the other hand, they differ in the degrees of contrast: the bright-darkness contrast increases from the left to the right. I plan to create crescendo of color contrast and absurdity whilst progressing to zoom in. The artistic effect of my map design will resemble the transition across the three paintings while zooming in.

This slippy map project narrates a virtual journal and the sense of place in art venues in downtown Chicago during Covid-19 lockdown. Such experience and feeling are represented through four stages of scenes across zoom levels.

Phase 1

This stage provides an overview of the entire globe using satellite map images, conveying a strong sense of realism. With the zoom-in process, the ocean color turns lighter, indicating a transition from night into daytime.

Phase 2

Imaginary objects of daily lives in 3D realistic style emerge and proliferate when zooming in. These objects portray our mundane lives during Covid-19 lockdown. Confined within the domestic setting, we spend most of the time eating and drinking. Teapot and cup symbolize bored-ness and a simple lifestyle. Despite this, we are keeping eyes open to gather information and long for the end of the pandemic. A big eyeball expresses this feeling. Moreover, while staying at home, we have lost the sense of time. A melted and distorted clock symbolizes the distorted scale of time.

Phase 3

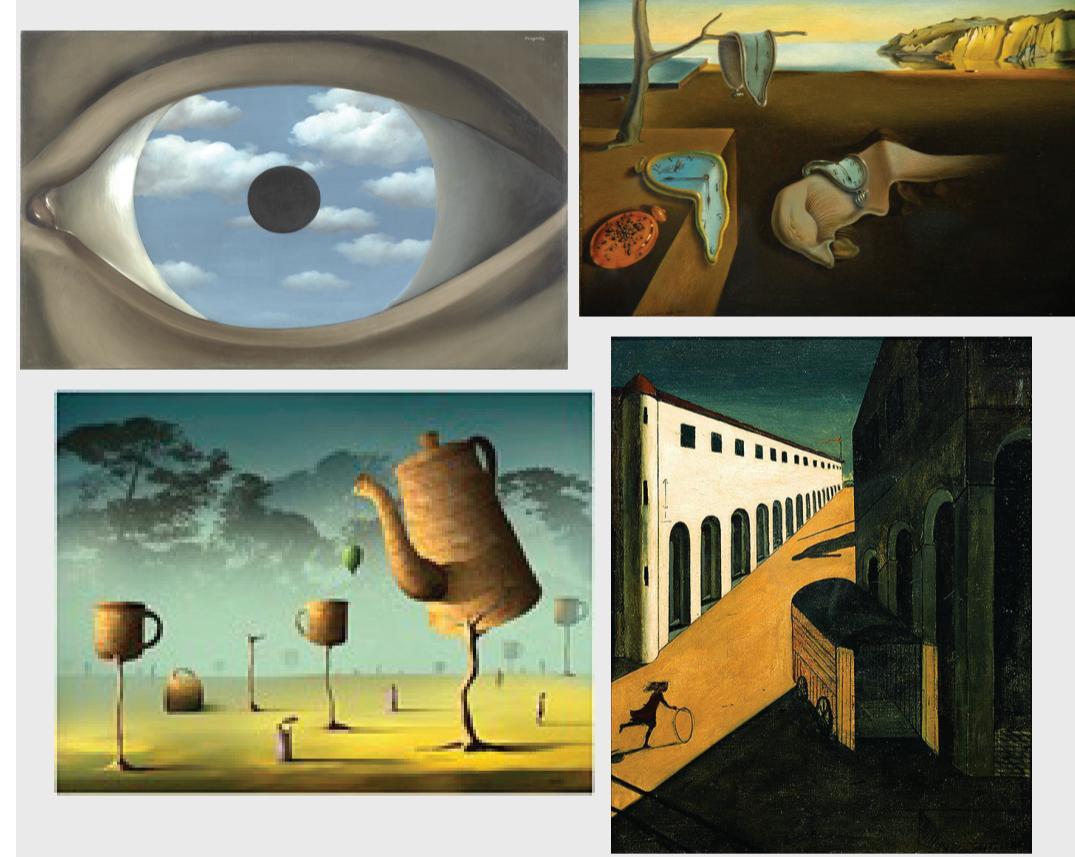
During the covid, we access most places through networks, internet and inter-personal networks in particular. This map design flags a strong black-white contrast between the landcover and road networks. The latter symbolizes a general idea of all kinds of networks to art venues, which addresses one key component in the title of this project: “network of art.”

Phase 4

From zoom level 10.7, the slippy map transitions from black landcover into bright yellow applying the artistic style of Giorgio de Chirico's My Surrealist Room in 1930. Bright yellow streets, white buildings, black shadows and deep blue surrounding constitute the primary color schemes. This also creates a unique sense of place – being isolating, absurd and surreal – inspiring the audience to think about how covid has changed our urban surrounding.

Inspiration Board

The imagery of objects in Phase 2 comes from signature paintings in the surreal movement in the 1930s, including Rene Magritte's The Eye in 1935, Marcel Caram, Campo de Café, and Salvador Dalí's Persistence of Memory.



The design idea for Phase 4, including form and color, comes from the artistic style of Giorgio de Chirico's My Surrealist Room in 1930.

My inspiration of icon design comes from a contemporary Chinese artist, Xu Bing. To me, his work is also surreal yet in a different way from Western artists in Surrealism in the 1930s.

The square characters that he created appear to be Chinese characters that apply traditional calligraphy at the first glace. However, a closer look will reveal the fact that they are actually combinations of English letters of English words. When “reading” his artwork, are you reading Chinese or English? Will you believe your eye or your mind?

Icon	Name	Address (Chicago, IL 60611)	Lat	Lon	Category
	Richard Gray Gallery	875 N Michigan Ave #3800	41.89892	-87.6228	gallery
	Addington Gallery	704 N Wells St	41.89502	-87.6344	gallery
	Gallery 1871	1871 N Clybourn Ave	41.91525	-87.655	gallery
	AMC Dine-In Block 37	108 N State St, Chicago	41.8835	-87.6281	theatre
	CIBC Theatre	18 W Monroe St	41.88084	-87.6286	theatre
	James M. Nederlander Theatre	24 W Randolph St	41.8847	-87.6287	theatre
	League of Chicago Theatres	17 N Wabash Ave #520	41.88272	-87.6257	theatre
	Sculpture Garden Gallery	1200 W 35th St	41.83085	-87.6562	garden
	Grant Park	337 E Randolph St	41.87209	-87.6188	garden
	Henry Plimisano Nature Park	2700 S Halsted St,	41.84296	-87.6491	garden
	Sawada Coffee	112 N Green St	41.88358	-87.6487	coffee shop
	Dollop Coffee Co	343 S Dearborn St.	41.83085	-87.6562	coffee shop
	HERO Coffee Bar	439 S Dearborn St.	41.87589	-87.6288	coffee shop
	Arts Club Caf,	1300 N Dearborn St	41.90599	-87.6304	art restaurant
	Arts Drive In	1333 W North Ave	41.9105	-87.6616	art restaurant
	Fisk Co	225 N Wabash Ave	41.88668	-87.7127	art restaurant
	The Art Institute of Chicago	111 S Michigan Ave	41.87957	-87.6237	museum
	Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago	220 E Chicago Ave	41.89715	-87.621	museum
	Smart Museum of Art	5550 S Greenwood Ave	41.79341	-87.6001	museum
	DePaul Art Museum	935 W Fullerton Ave	41.92525	-87.6525	museum
	Art Space Chicago Art Studio	3418 W Armitage Ave	41.91755	-87.7127	art exhibition hall
	Zhou B Art Centre	1029 W 35th St,	41.83034	-87.6522	art exhibition hall
	Art Space 8	900 N Michigan Ave	41.89959	-87.6252	art exhibition hall
	Landmark's Century Centre Cinema	2828 N Clark St,	41.93346	-87.6455	cinema
	Regal Webster Place	1471 W Webster Ave	41.92133	-87.665	cinema
	Nightingale Cinema	1084 N Milwaukee Ave	41.90148	-87.6635	cinema

