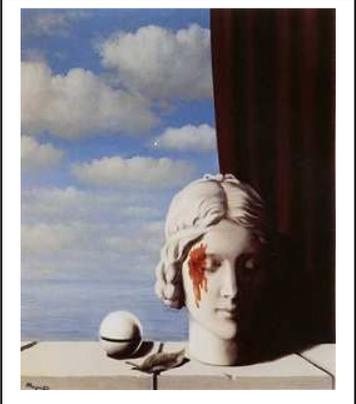


<p>René Magritte n° 11E</p>	<p>First publication : 7 mars 2014</p>	<p>Translate : 4 mai 2021</p>	<p>B .Spee</p>
<p>Titre : La Mémoire / The Memory 19 48 60 x 50 cm</p> 	<p>The problem arises from the confrontation between objects, a carved stone woman's head and a metal bell placed on a window sill, and fresh signs of life, a large bloodstain on the temple of the stone head and a green leaf placed beside it. To the right is a large dark hanging that seems to be a garment for the stone statue, to the left is a vast opening onto a sea horizon and a blue sky. A visual clash between the stone and bits of life.</p> <p>The title <i>La Mémoire</i> amplifies and redoubles the visual shock, except to reflect on what memory is. What does it mean? Memory is that cerebral process which records and preserves past events, these events can be brought back into the present: in the present resurfaces the past. That's what it's all about. What do we see? That a face inscribed in stone is bleeding and that a green leaf is lying beside it. Everything indicates that we have here the evocation of a past that cannot return without being accompanied by suffering, this red that flows, and that this suffering is still fresh, this green that is the size of a small leaf.</p> <p>We have here the perfect image of the idea of memory, of the past still living, which is green like spring and red like flowing blood.</p> <p>The other objects specify a context that is more intimate to the painter, that concerns René Magritte's past life. In this case, we move on to a more external reading, which presupposes knowledge of the life of René Magritte's family. What does this mean? His father was a salesman, he owned a sales cart pulled by horses with bells hanging from their necks. This bell next to the face of a bleeding stone woman can be a reference to the image of his father who drove his wife, an infinitely desperate mother, to suicide by drowning. Against the background of a blue sea and a serene sky, we have here the possible evocation of the recall of the painful memory in the foreground and its overcoming in the background, that of a reconciled exit of the dead mother towards the infinity of blue.</p> <p>Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)</p>		
<p><u>Catalogue raisonné:</u></p>	<p>References: > initial version: Vol.II, p.299, cat.505 (1942); p.353, cat.581 (1945): they seem to us to be less significantly completed.</p>		
<p><u>On the internet:</u> http://</p>	<p>Books with reproduction of the work : <u>Articles:</u></p>		