



Dream Collectors

Greetings Oakhill Prison Humanities Project Dreamers!

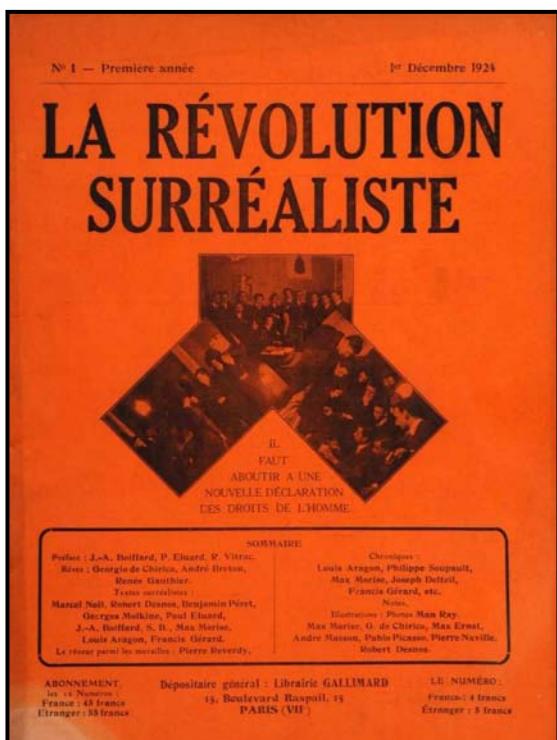
Thanks for sharing your dreams with the Dream Collectors, an artist-in-residency project at Madison Public Library, which is curated by Megan Marsh-McGlone, Andrew Salyer, and Katie Schaag.

Our UW School of Library & Information Studies class [Topics in Community Engagement](#) was inspired by your dreams. We posted your dreams together with ours at Madison Public Library and documented the experience to share with you.

Persimmon Dream Exit, 2015

The Dream Collectors project was inspired by the **Surrealists**, a group of artists who hoped to liberate the human mind. They opened a 1924 Bureau of Surrealist Research in Paris and invited the public to visit and share dreams they had while sleeping, to create an "archive of the unconscious."

Bureau of Surrealist Research, Paris 1924



The Surrealist archive of dreams was an attempt to discover a revolutionary new order in chaos, in "the din of unconscious cacophony," rather than to impose an organizational scheme.

Members of the Bureau of Surrealist Research, Man Ray 1924

Surrealism was intended as an instrument for human liberation as well as an artistic movement. Building on the ideas of Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, the Surrealists hoped to inspire revolutionary political struggle, destabilizing bourgeois culture and consciousness.

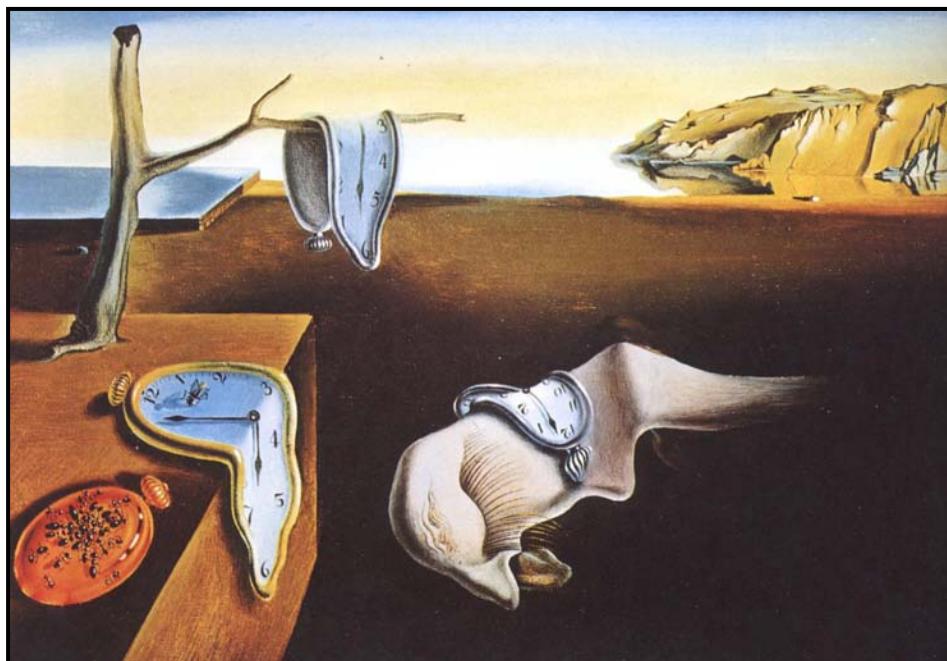
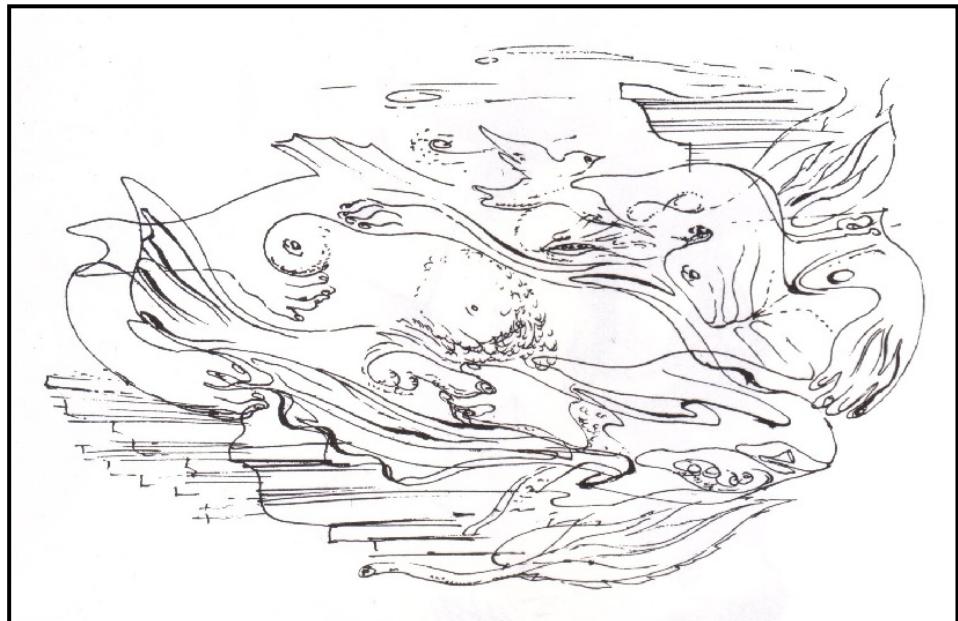
The Surrealist Revolution, 1925



Here are some images from the Surrealist archive of the unconscious.

André Masson experimented with automatic drawing. The hand was allowed to travel across the page, without conscious input from the artist.

Automatic Drawing,
André Masson, 1925



Salvador Dalí preferred dream imagery. Drawing on a more classical artistic style, Dalí created detailed scenes of fantasy and "delirious phenomena."

The Persistence of Memory,
Salvador Dalí, 1931

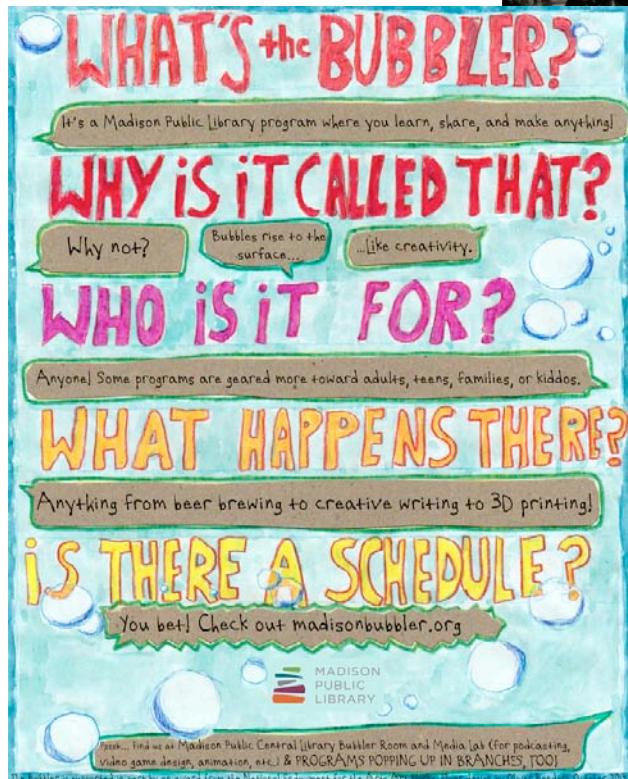
René Magritte hoped to liberate the imagination with playful visions. *False Mirror* challenges what we think we see and know. Is the sky a reflection of what the eye is seeing? Is the eye in fact an opening into another reality?

False Mirror,
René Magritte, 1928



Madison's 2015 Dream Collectors have invited the public to visit the library's Bubbler makerspace and share their dreams during the month of March.

Madison Public Library, 2014



Like the Surrealist dream archive, the Bubbler is a revolutionary concept: a library space that aims to liberate human creativity, rather than impose an organizational scheme. Named for Wisconsin's iconic drinking fountain, the Bubbler taps community resources to encourage hands-on, peer supported learning and digital literacy.

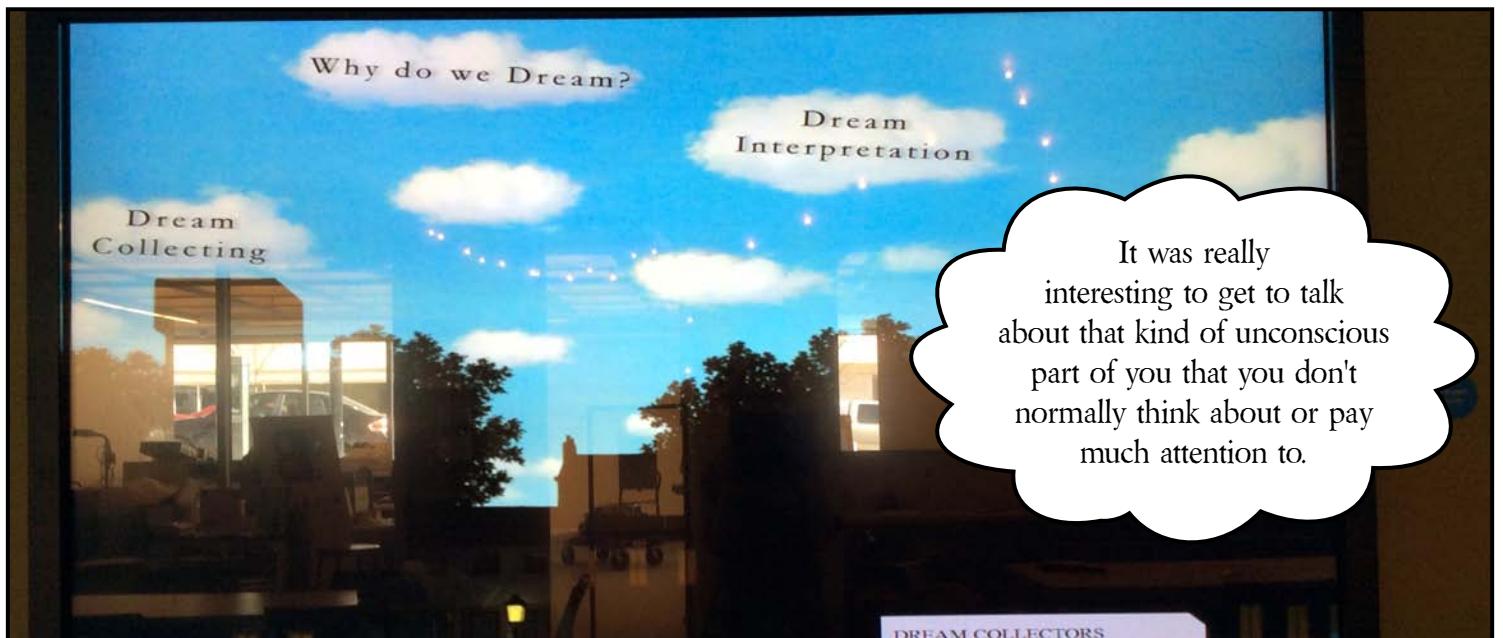


Euclidean Promenades,
René Magritte, 1955

Liberating the imagination by challenging our vision: does the image frame the sky or an opening to an alternative reality?

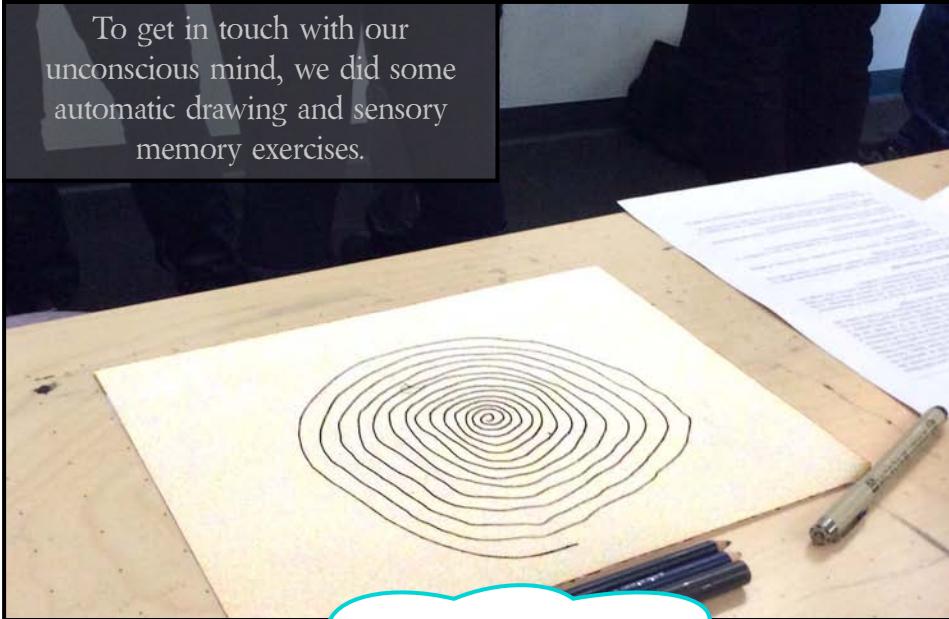
Bubbler Dream Collectors, 2015







To get in touch with our unconscious mind, we did some automatic drawing and sensory memory exercises.

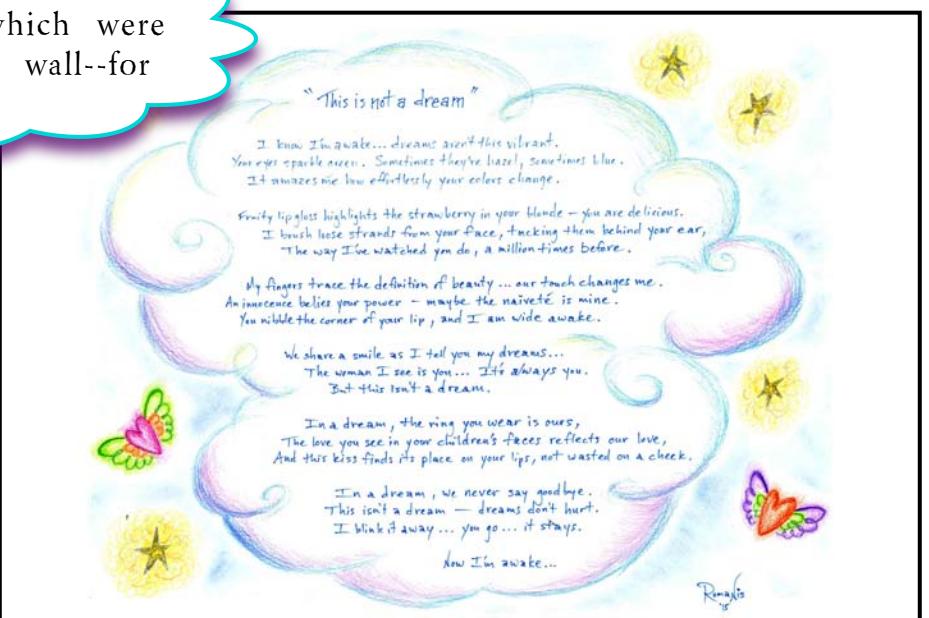


And we read
your dreams--which were
posted on the wall--for
inspiration



Use these art supplies to share a dream you had when sleeping. Use words or pictures, share in any way you like.

1. What **time** of day or night is it in your dream?
2. What's the **temperature** like?
3. What does the air **smell** like?
4. What are some of the **sounds** you can hear?



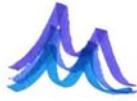
I feel really privileged to read these dreams, people are so creative. Many don't want to come out of the dream, because it's so good.

"NE ME QUILLE PAS"

Yesterday I drifted off and lost sense of reality. The images in my mind were so painful that tears obstructed my vision. As I struggled to retrain focus, I noticed her lying next to me in a comfortable sleep. I began to rub my hands over the smooth texture of her skin, attempting to wake her. Her body feels like silk under my finger tips, but she won't move. It starts to concern me, I observe the continuous rhythm of her heart beating to its own jazz melody. Feeling relieved I start to allow my body to ease. But, then her skin reminds me of how much I am afraid to lose her. Her entire body smells like beer-ice and watermelon which causes a mental orgasmic eruption creating an unbelievable sensation I have never experienced. Tears return, because my heart has lost its capacity to breathe and my hands shake. I don't want her to leave her eyes open from the repeated touch of my wonderful body. She turns and haze into my eyes, seeing



I submerge under the water,



falling deeper and deeper.



I try swimming up to the surface,



kicking, kicking as fast as I can.



I'm just waiting to reach the top,

forever forever forever

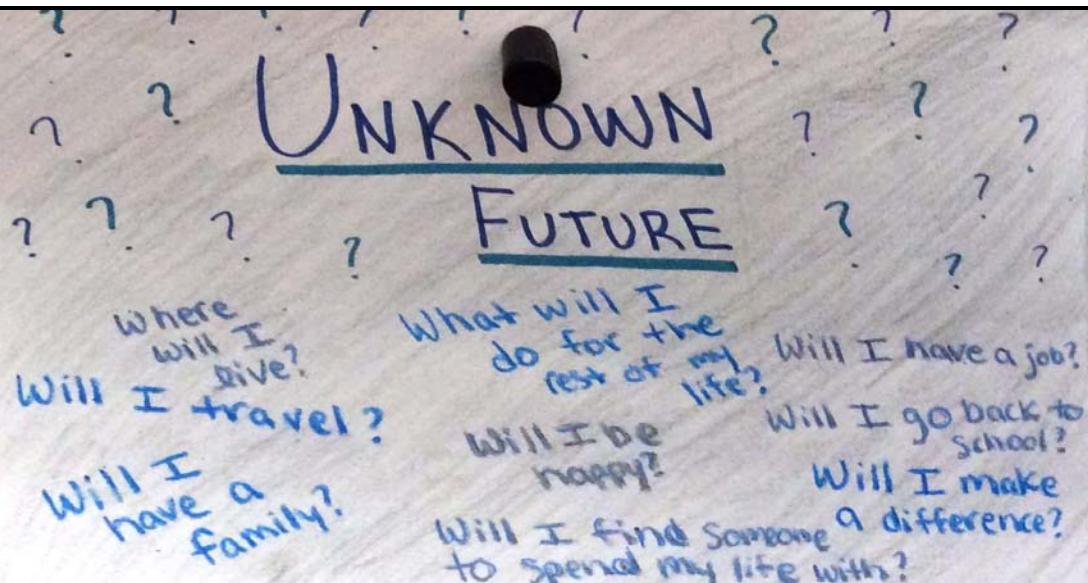
but it feels like **FOREVER.**

And the trouble is, I'm a bad swimmer.

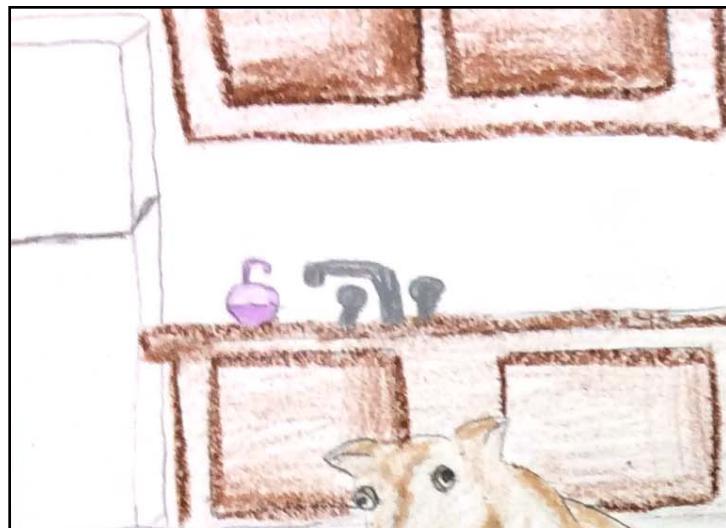
I was struggling at first, and then looking at everyone else's dreams, it reminded me of ones that I actually had before.

"It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else."

--Erma Bombeck



I had a pretty vivid dream the other night, so it was fun to actually draw it out



(in real life)

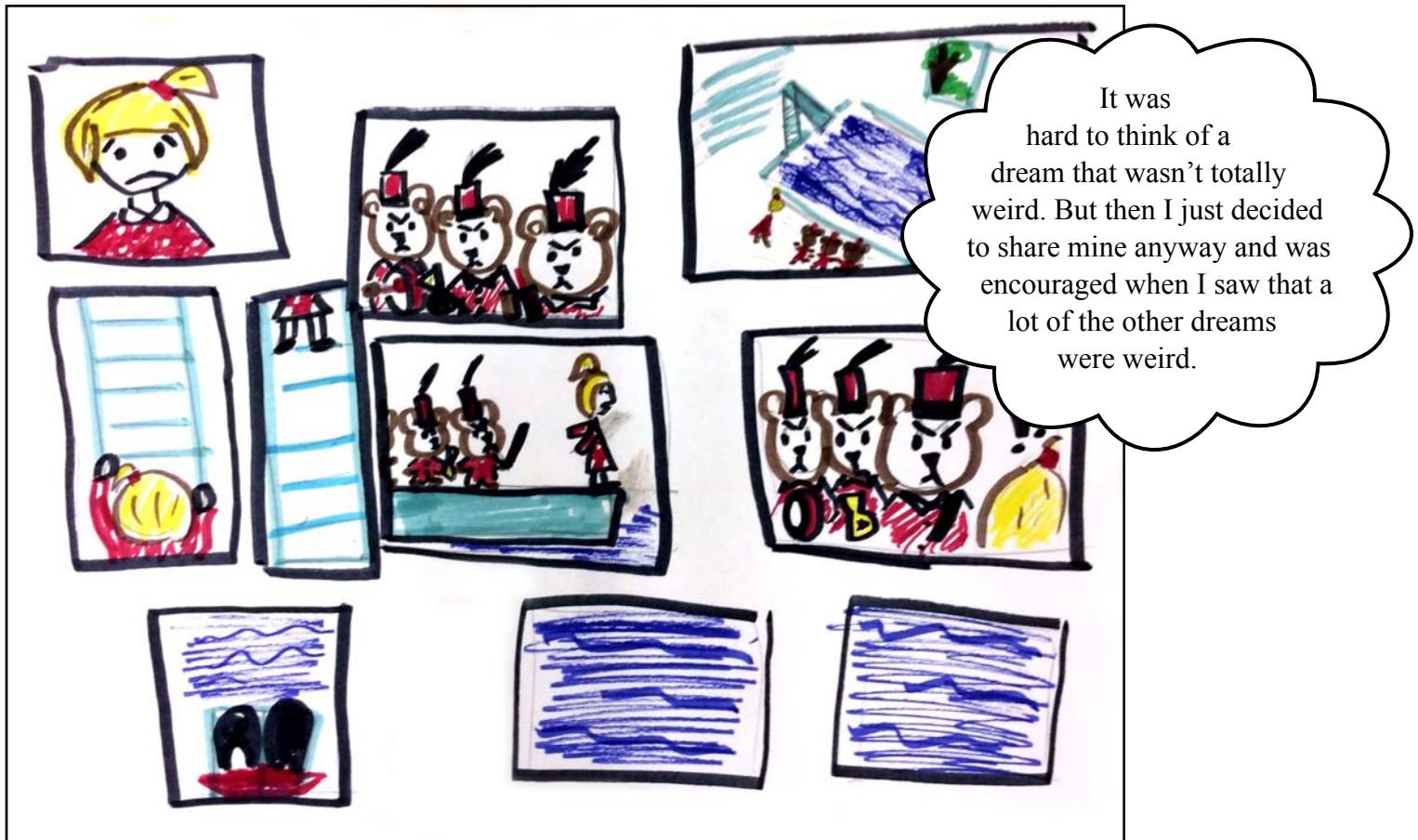
I woke up at 1:00 AM to my roommates freaking out about a raccoon that got into the house. I was too scared to leave my room but I heard Uncle Ruckus (the raccoon) knocking things over & scratching at my door. He eventually disappeared and I got to bed around 3:30 AM, having to wake up for work in 1 hour.



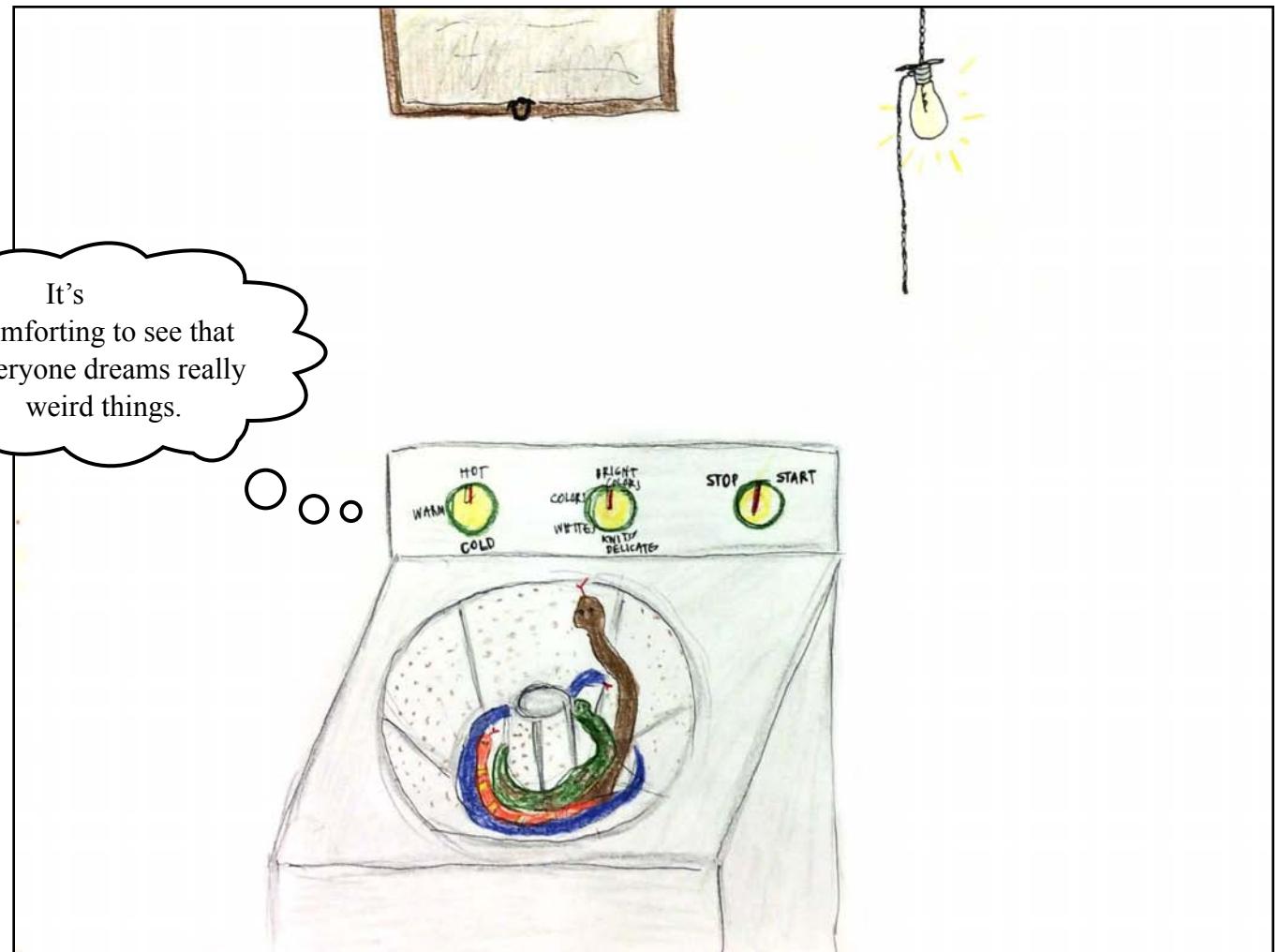
After that traumatic experience

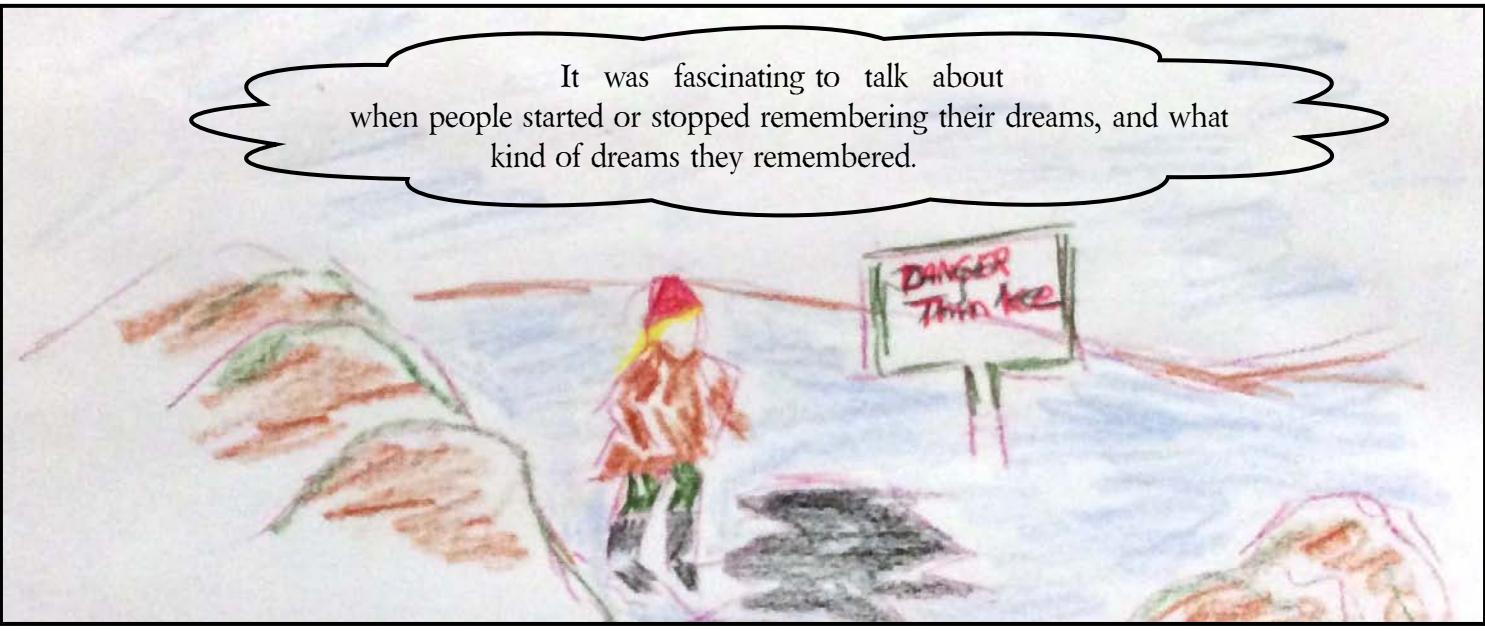
I had a dream that drooling, retarded or in-bred dogs got into my house through a giant hole in my kitchen that led into a garage, or lower level. They were really stupid and slow and I was trying to get the scary beasts out - I succeeded but got their thick drool all over me

(DISCLAIMER: I was not drooling in real life...)



It was hard to think of a dream that wasn't totally weird. But then I just decided to share mine anyway and was encouraged when I saw that a lot of the other dreams were weird.



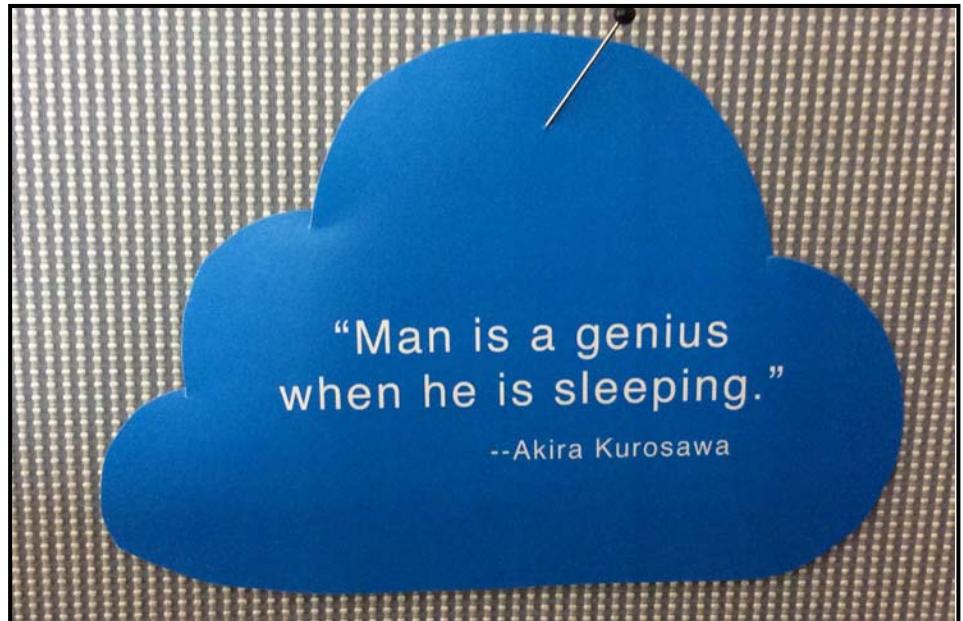
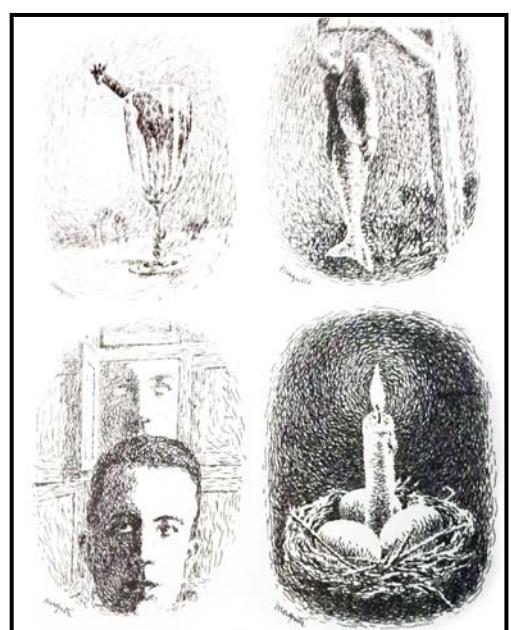
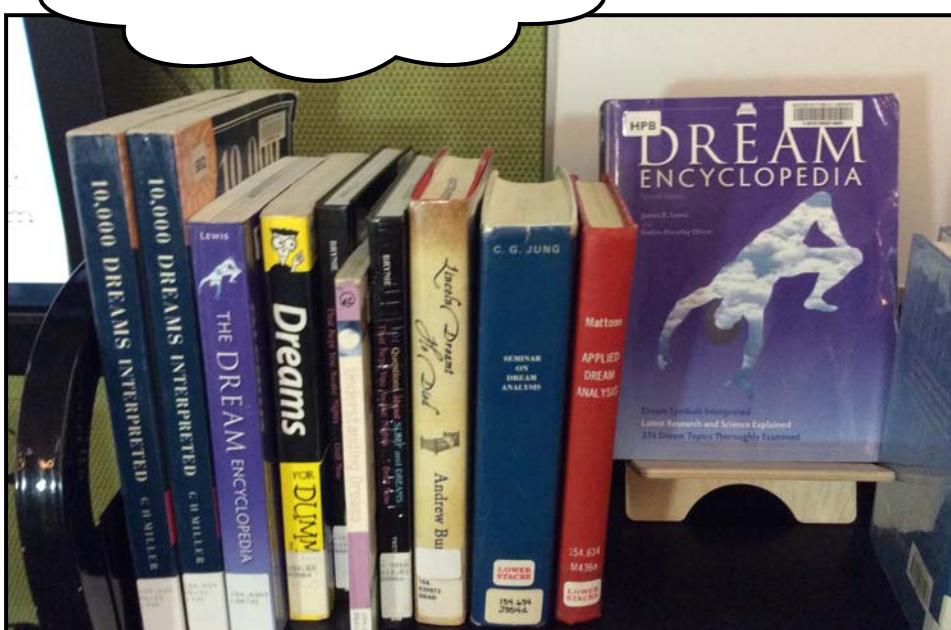
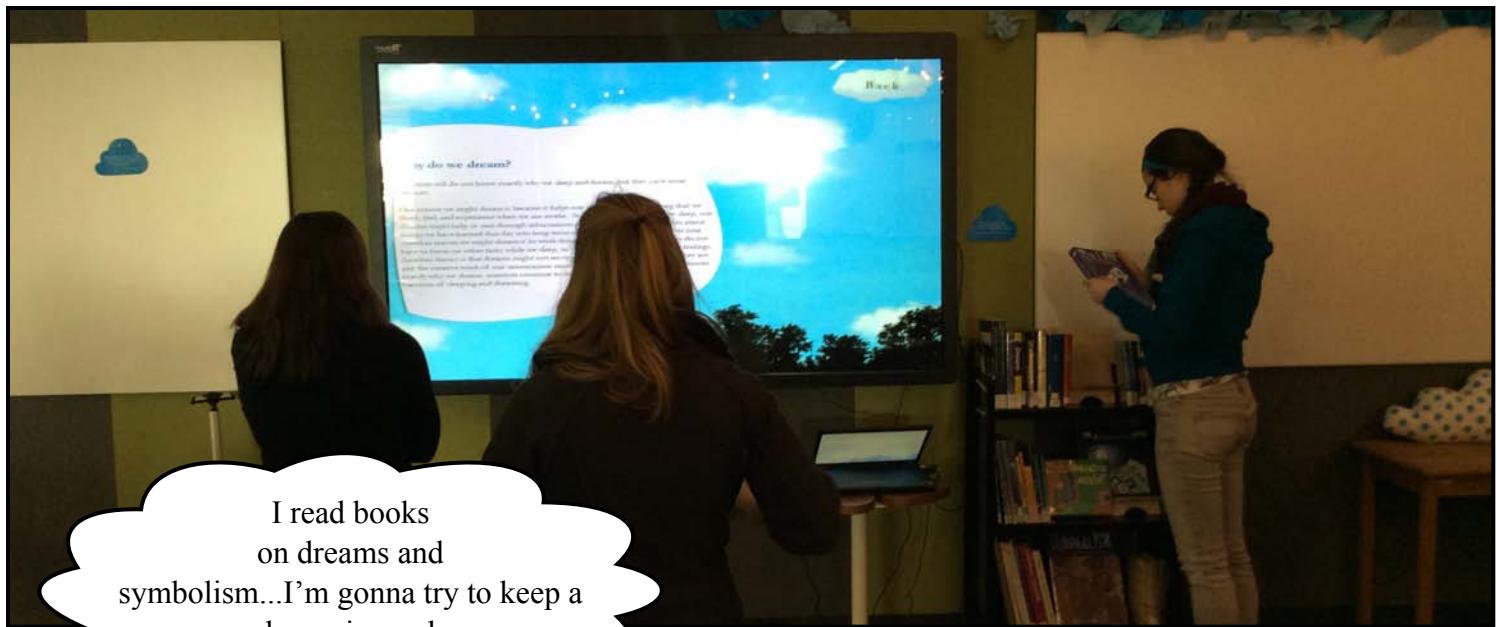


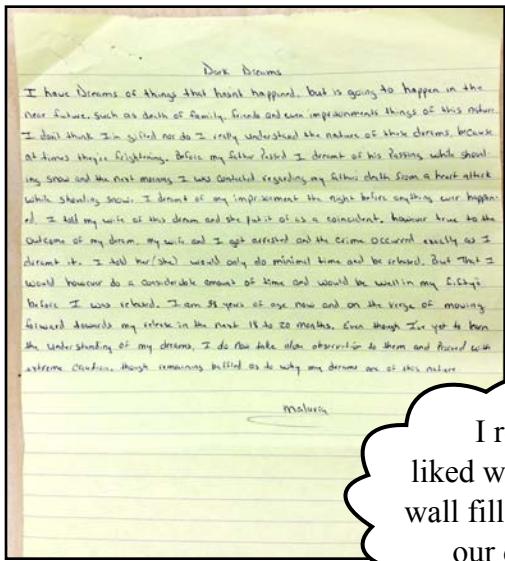
It was fascinating to talk about when people started or stopped remembering their dreams, and what kind of dreams they remembered.



We are not having the dream, the dream has us, carries us, and, at a given moment, it drops us.

--Hélène Cixous





Prison Dreams

So you want to know about my dreams. As you may have guessed, most of my dreams begin with my release from prison. To some this might seem a small thing, but to me it is everything. You see, I am serving a Life-Sentence and have been in prison for almost Thirty-Three years.

Over the years I've had many dreams, some of them have even come true. Growing up I dreamed of going to college and getting a degree. However, the opportunity to go to school was not an option for me. When I came to prison and learned that I could attend college and get a degree, I took advantage and my dream came true.

When I first came to prison I was estranged from my father. Over the years I dreamed of the day when I would be able to see him and reconnect with him on a father and son basis. About Fifteen years ago that dream came true. My father finally came to visit me in prison and continued to visit me on a regular basis until his death. I wish I could have seen him as a free man but I am grateful for the time we had together.

Currently I am at a crossroads in my life. I have been preparing for my release the entire time I have been in prison. My question is now that release in the near future is a possibility, what will I do with my life? and What are my dreams for the world beyond prison?

I have high hopes for the future. I plan to be a force for good. My dream, if you can call it that, is to help eliminate hunger and homelessness in my community. I don't have to be rich or highly skilled, all I need is a desire to help and be willing.

More dreams will be collected for the Bubbler at library events throughout March, such as Night Light (right). Next year, the Dream Collectors will commission several artists to elaborate their dreams in different media.

I'm really excited to see what the space looks like as it continues to fill up with people's dreams!

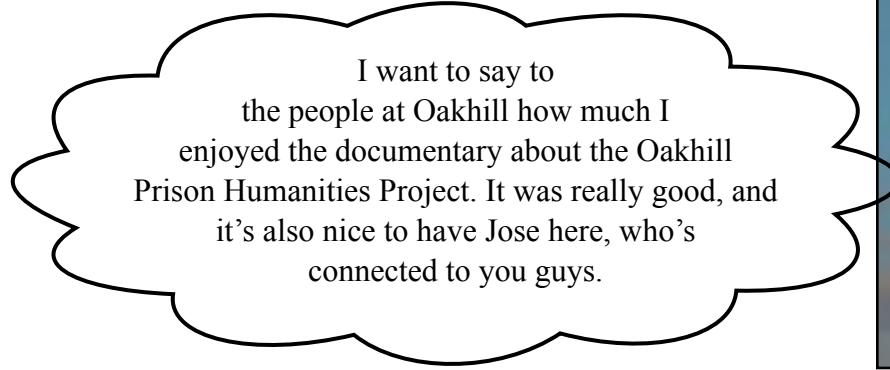




Some closing thoughts as we
EXIT the Bubbler:

I just want to thank all the folks for sharing their dreams. It was an honor to read them, and to reflect on my own dreams and try to understand the importance of them. So I just want to say miigwech, thank you.*

*From a visiting member of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community. *Miigwech* means thank you.



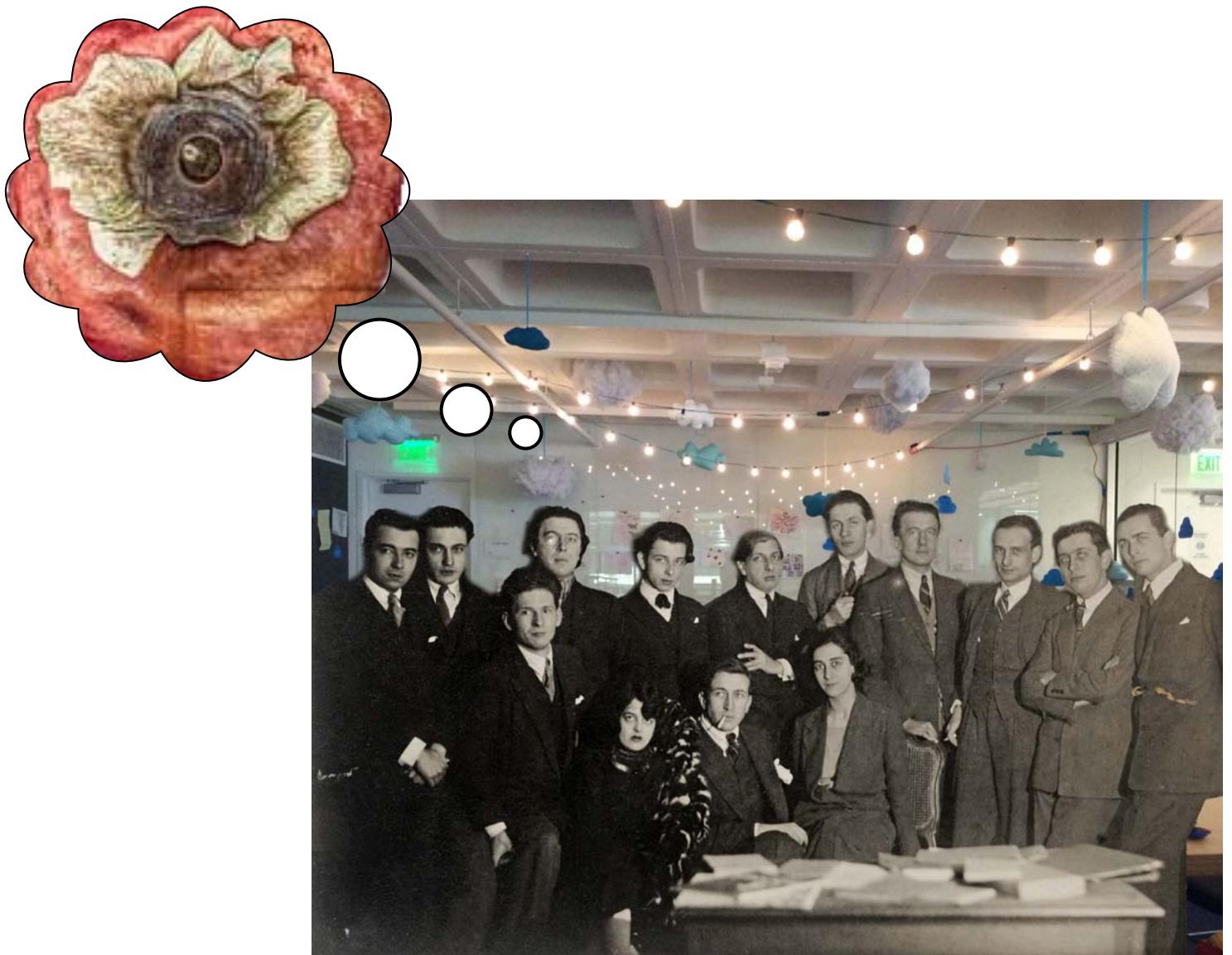
I want to say to the people at Oakhill how much I enjoyed the documentary about the Oakhill Prison Humanities Project. It was really good, and it's also nice to have Jose here, who's connected to you guys.



I just really like that we have this community web and this kind of inter-connectedness.



We like to think that members of the Bureau of Surrealist Research would have approved of the **Bubbler**, the **Dream Collectors** project, and our collaboration as a **revolutionary** approach to **liberating** the human mind.





Credits

Page 1

Persimmon Dream *Exit* (2015). Composite image created by Nancy Buenger from *Persimmon Dream* by OtherRealisms (2014) available at flickr.com/photos/otherrealisms/11850362056 and *Exit* (2014), available at flickr.com/photos/90041507.

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Bureau of Surrealist Research, Paris (1924), image and quote from dreamcollectorsbubbler.wordpress.com/

The Surrealist Revolution (1925)

Members of the Bureau of Surrealist Research, Man Ray (1924)

Material on Surrealism and Surrealist Bureau from Art and its Histories: A Reader, edited by Steve Edwards (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999), 210-11 and Sven Spieker, The Big Archive: Art from Bureaucracy (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2008).

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Automatic Drawing. André Masson (1925).

The Persistence of Memory, Salvador Dali (1931)

False Mirror, René Magritte (1928).

Material on Surrealists from *Drawing Surrealism* (2013), Morgan Library, available at hamptonsarthub.com/2013/01/24/surrealism-explored-through-its-drawings/ and *Art through Time*, available at learner.org/courses/globalart/work/l02/index.html.

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Madison Public Library, *What's The Bubbler?* and Bubbler logo (2014), available at madisonbubbler.org/

Euclidean Promenades, René Magritte, 1955

Bubbler Entrance, by LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

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Bubbler images and quotes, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

This is Not a Dream, Romanis (2015)

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Ne Me Quitte Pas, Anonymous (2015)

Bubbler images and quotes, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

Irma Bombeck quote available at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erma_Bombeck.

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Bubbler images and quotes, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

Hélène Cixous, *Three Steps on the Ladder of Writing* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), 98.

René Magritte drawings from Marcel Paquet, *Magritte* (Taschen 2012).

Akira Kurasawa quote available at goodreads.com/author/quotes/32507.Akira_Kurosawa.

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Dark Dreams, Malaria (2015)

Prison Dreams, Raskolnikov (2015)

Bubbler images and quotes, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

Bubbler Night Light (2015), available at madisonbubbler.org/

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Dostoevsky Behind Bars, Marc Kornblatt (2014)

Bubbler images and quotes, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015)

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Bubbler Bureau of Surrealist Research (2015). Composite image created by Nancy Buenger from Bureau of Surrealist Research, Paris (see page 2 cite) and Bubbler logo, Madison Public Library (page 4).

Surrealist Members of the Bubbler Dream Collectors Bureau (2015). Composite image created by Nancy Buenger from Bureau of Surrealist Research (page 2), *Persimmon Dream* (page 1), and Bubbler image, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015).

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Madison Mirror (2015). Composite image created by Nancy Buenger from René Magritte's *False Mirror* (page 3) and Dream Collectors image, LIS 820: Topics in Community Engagement (2015).