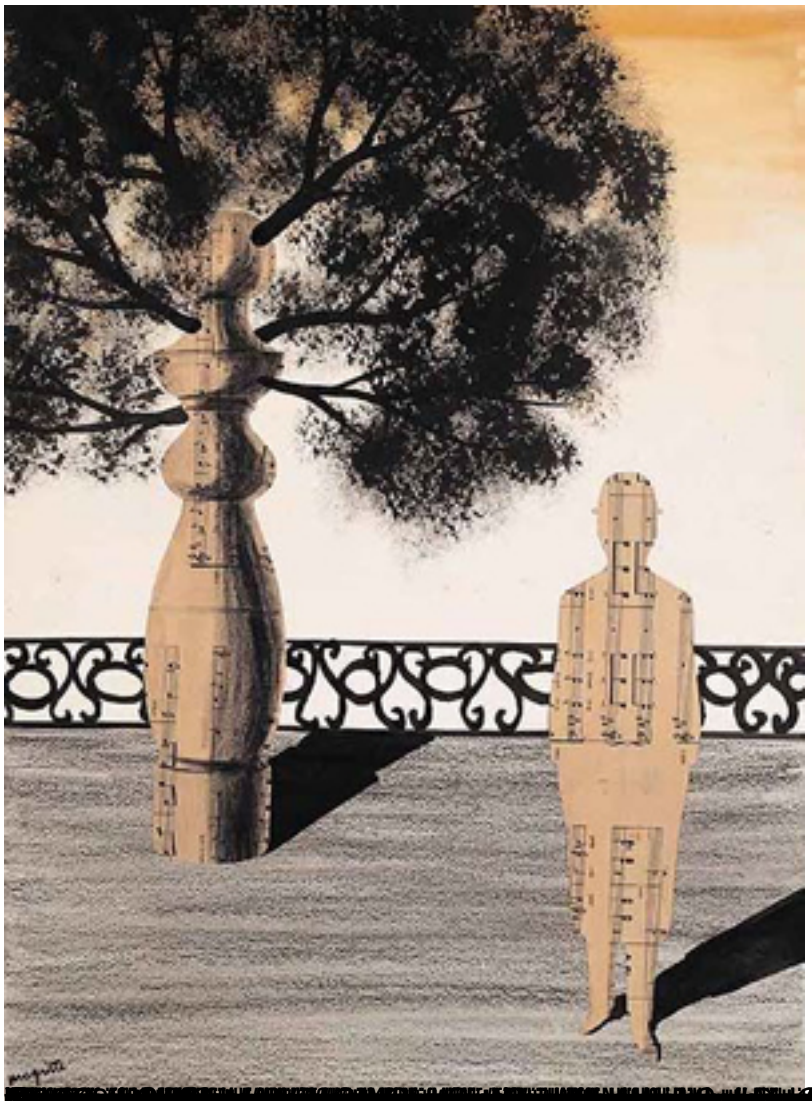
René Magritte: The Pleasure Principle

Exhibition at Tate Liverpool

Reviewed by Denis Joe September 2011

There is something about Belgium that exudes anonymity. Mention Jacques Brel and most people will scratch their heads. Mention some of his songs like 'If You Go Away' or 'Amsterdam' and people will know what, rather than who, you are talking about. Even Belgium's most popular export, Stella Artois lager, is usually thought of as being French. Identifying Rene Magritte has the same problem: many people are familiar with his work, but few can put a name to the artist.

What one must paint is the image of resemblance—if thought is to become visible in the world.
(Rene Magritte)

the chance meeting on a dissecting-table of a sewing-machine and an umbrella!
(Comte de Lautrémont *Les Chants de Maldoror)*