

ART OF DISSENT



Morceau

Themes

- Incompleteness
- Powerlessness
- Mechanization

Before the Viewing

- Industrialization started in the 19th century. What changes were occurring in the industrialization process at the beginning of the 20th century?
- List the expressions/stories you know with 'shadows' in them. Describe the usual way the image of the shadow is used.
- Being a part of something might be either good or bad. What are some good features of being part of something?

Discussion

- Morceau is French for a piece or bit. The plural would be morceaux. Why is this painting called piece instead of pieces?
- In what kind of environment does the shadow/person find itself?
- Who is stronger, the shadow or the person? Why?
- How does the chimney with its missing piece relate to the painting?
- The human shapes are chiefly curved; the environmental shapes are mainly linear. Why does the shadow seem to combine the two?

Activities

- Create an art work of something pleasant. Cut it into puzzle pieces and mount/glue the pieces in a disjointed manner. What effect does the disruption of the pieces create?
- Fick has used sand in the paint to create texture. Paint four versions of a fruit. Experiment with a different texture for each version. (i.e. use sand, small beads, paper mosaic cut outs ...). How does texture affect the work?
- Using a white sheet and a strong lamp, place objects/persons behind it so that you might create a shadow painting.

Extensions

- The Depression overlaps with the rise of the Nazis. To what extent may "Morceau", or any other of Fick's works, be about the economic Depression?
- "Between the idea and the reality, between the conception and the creation, Falls the shadow." These lines are from T.S. Eliot's poem "The Hollow Men". Read the whole poem and explain what Eliot is signifying by the shadow.
- "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" This signature statement from a radio show began with a comic strip of the 1930s. Research the comic strip and radio show to discuss why the shadow was a powerful image in the 1930s.