August 1, 1914 – World War I begins

November 7, 1917 – October Revolution leads to creation of socialist state in Russia

November 11, 1918 – World War I ends

October 28, 1922 – Fascists march on Rome, leading to Benito Mussolini’s rise to power in Italy

1922 – First French edition of Sigmund Freud’s *Introduction to Psychoanalysis* is published in Paris

1924 – André Breton founds Surrealism by publishing its first manifesto

January 1927 – André Breton joins Communist Party


January 30, 1933 – Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of the Reich, his first step to full dictatorship in Germany

June 1933 – André Breton, Pierre Mabille, and Albert Skira launch *Minotaure* magazine in Paris

February 1934 – Right-wing riots and demonstrations take place in Paris

October 1934 – Left-wing strikes and uprisings take place in Spain

July 17, 1936 – Spanish Civil War begins


December 7, 1936 – *Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism* exhibition, organized by Alfred H. Barr Jr., opens at The Museum of Modern Art, New York

April 26, 1937 – German and Italian warplanes bomb Guernica, Spain, in support of Francisco Franco’s Nationalist forces


July 19, 1937 – *Degenerate Art* exhibition opens in Munich

March 12, 1938 – Nazi Germany annexes Austria.

September 30, 1938 – Munich Agreement allows Germany to incorporate parts of Czechoslovakia.

November 9-10, 1938 (Kristallnacht) – Nazis instigate pogroms against Jews across Germany

April 1, 1939 – Spanish Civil War ends and General Francisco Franco assumes dictatorial power.

September 1, 1939 – World War II begins with Germany’s invasion of Poland.

September 1939 – Max Ernst is interned in France as an “enemy alien”

May 10, 1940 – Germany invades Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and France
1940 – View magazine is launched in New York.

May 1940 – Joan Miró and his family flee from Varengeville-sur-Mer, in the Normandy region of France, back to Spain where they remain throughout World War II.

August 17, 1940 – Salvador Dalí arrives in New York.

November 1940 – Varian Fry’s staff rents Villa Air-Bel in Marseille, a refuge for many Surrealist artists awaiting visas.

May 29, 1941 – André Masson arrives in New York, followed by André Breton.

June 22, 1941 – Germany begins invasion of the Soviet Union.

July 14, 1941 – Max Ernst and Peggy Guggenheim arrive in the United States.

October 31, 1941 – André Masson delivers lecture at The Baltimore Museum of Art in conjunction with retrospective exhibition of his work.


December 7, 1941 – Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and the United States enters World War II.

1942 – VVV magazine is founded in New York.


October 14, 1942 – First Papers of Surrealism exhibition opens at the Whitelaw Reid mansion in Midtown Manhattan.

October 20, 1942 – Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of This Century gallery opens at 30 West 57th Street in New York.

December 10, 1942 – André Breton speaks at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.


November 9, 1943 – Jackson Pollock’s first solo exhibition opens at Peggy Guggenheim’s Art of This Century gallery.

May 8, 1945 (V-E Day) – World War II ends in Europe.

July 1945 – André Masson prepares to return to France.

August 6, 1945 – United States bombs Hiroshima, Japan.

September 2, 1945 – Japan surrenders, ending World War II in all theaters.

1946 – Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning move full-time to Sedona, Arizona.

July 1948 – Salvador Dalí returns to Spain.

1953 – Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning depart the United States for France.