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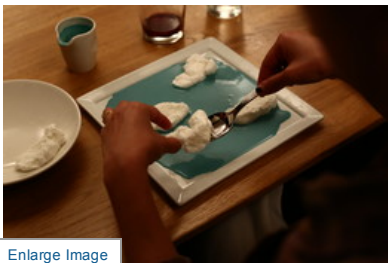
Dinner in the Clouds

"Edible Magritte" Offers Surrealist-Inspired Dishes at the MoMA
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By **ANDY BATTAGLIA**

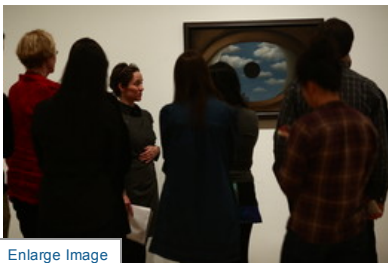
Nov. 4, 2013 10:34 p.m. ET

The Surrealist painter René Magritte did his best to subvert and confuse, setting his sights on everything from the meaninglessness of painting pipes to the strangeness of wearing shoes. But dinner too?

Sort of. At "Edible Magritte," a dinner-party event coinciding with the Museum of Modern Art's Magritte exhibition, the conventions of mealtime commingling are thrown into high relief. At the first one last week, patrons were treated to a private tour with a MoMA curator and food that prized flights of fancy, plus a dessert made to mimic a bloodied bird.


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A take on the traditional French floating island dessert, with white meringue. *Harald Gottschalk/Artists Rights*


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René Magritte's "The False Mirror." *Paula Court*

The same stands to happen Nov. 14, when "Edible Magritte" returns to take reservations once more.

"I have an interest in food and meat and mortality," said Elaine Tin Nyo, the artist who conceived the event, with help from Lynn Bound of MoMA's Cafe 2. In this case, all three of her interests prevailed.

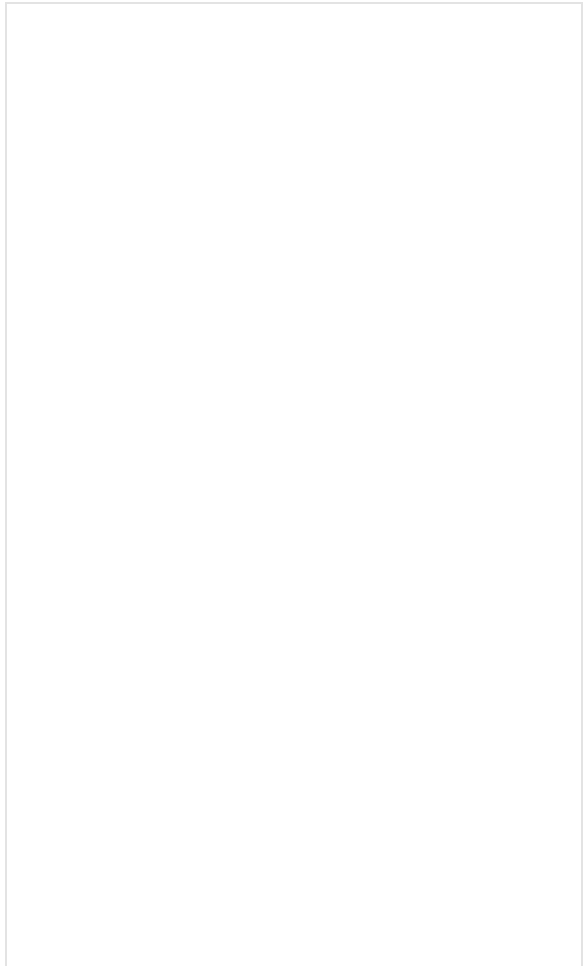
Upon arrival, guests were served blue cocktails and pink cheese puffs, concocted to echo the painting "Pink Bells, Tattered Skies" upstairs in the show. The tour paid special attention to a painting of a piece of ham with an eye inside ("The Portrait") and another of a girl dementedly eating a bird out of a tree ("Girl Eating a Bird [Pleasure]").

"She's lost in the reverie of this delicious moment," Ms. Tin Nyo said.

Back downstairs in the restaurant, the 20 or so guests took their places around a communal table, with Andy Warhol's Mao portraits peering down from the walls. The first course was prosciutto with a eyelike black olive in the center. A pasta dish followed, with an egg to be cracked over the top (eggs are big with Magritte).

The meal ended with a variation on the traditional French floating island dessert, with blue dye to make the cream base sky-colored and dollops of white meringue floating around like clouds.

It was over—but then, for an encore, came a second dessert: a large chocolate bird with raspberries and syrup inside. Diners dug in with their hands, the birds split open and



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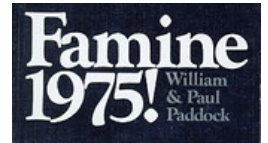
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