

## **\*One Man Town**

**(marina)**

First of all, could there be a more perfect poem for me to consider? The allusion to Magritte makes the title of the poem make more sense, I think. Actually, the title fits within the content as well as with respect to the Magritte reference - his probably most famous painting is "Son of Man", the word "man" then echoing the "man" in Carson's poem, plus a few of Magritte's paintings have just one male figure in the middle of surreal surroundings.

After just mentioning Magritte there's a name "Max" separated from "Ernst" by a period, which I found rather delightful. Max Ernst - the Dadist turned founder of surrealism, who in his last few years retreated to Arizona (ha!) and took up sculpting... hence the boulder, I think. And him knocking his head on a boulder - frustration? Frustration that today it's Magritte weather? That there's only place for one of them in the one man town, and Magritte's got it... If the period is somewhat ignored than the poem is one sentence, and it can be interpreted this way. There's also a way to separate Max from Ernst, that is some Max said the first line, and the second line is a metonymy with an allusion to Ernst, whose name happens to be Max, so there is an allusion and there's sort of another reading. Or perhaps the desire to connect the two parts of one name transcends the hurdles of punctuation.

### *Amendments*

One Man Town (tom)

I have nothing to add to nor do I disagree with anything Marina wrote about this poem. I can see the read of this poem being a short question or excerpt of a conversation. Whether or not this is about the painter I have no clue as I am not familiar with him at all.

One Man Town (tiffany)

When first reading this poem, I thought it odd that it was a "one man town" dealing with two characters, Magritte and Max Ernst. However, Magritte works as an adjective here because it's "Magritte weather", not a physical embodiment of Magritte. Rather, there's a suggestion of a presence of Magritte. I like Marina's tie between Magritte's "one male figure in the middle of surreal surroundings". It really does make the title tie into the poem itself... "It's Magritte weather today" is an interesting statement. Magritte dealt very much with the surreal so I wonder what kind of weather this would be. Personally, I think that Magritte weather would trip me out and make me a little kooky, which would half explain Max Ernst knocking his head on the boulder. There's something about Magritte that must really irk Ernst, make him act irrationally. So, Max Ernst is the Dadist founder of surrealism. Perhaps Magritte's work frustrates Ernst because it's called "surrealist", but doesn't fit the original parameters Ernst set perhaps? Of course, there's the idea, as Marina stated, that "this town isn't big enough for the both of us". Since the weather is ubiquitous, it's as if Ernst can't get away from Magritte even if he wanted to.

One Man Town (monte)

Yeah, I agree with your interpretation and I see nothing to add. Its nice and short and sweet. Hooray.

One Man Town (mike)

Marina does a good job covering the poem, however I think Carson's invocation of Magritte and Max Ernst that she is commenting on her deep thinking about relativity of thought and perspective. Each of the painters mentioned are famous for their exploration of different perspectives. Is Carson sending a message that her poetry is such an attempt? Her entire basis for her town poems are in the nature of similar exploration. The poem also notes the frustrating nature of taking on such challenges, playfully relating the toughness of trying to achieve that different perspective.

\*One Man Town Amendment: (matt)

There are a few things you didn't bring up or may have mistaken. Magritte never actually appears in the poem, Max Ernst only alludes to him, so the "One Man Town" is still apt. And it's strange that you don't bring up the surreality of "It's Magritte weather today" and how that is something of a pun with regards to the surrealist Magritte. You also don't look at the boulder close enough, in my opinion. Besides being a sign of frustration, it is also a classic symbol of stubbornness in the face of impossible odds and can be viewed either positively (determination) or negatively (lost cause). Additionally, it might be a small joke on the eccentricity of the Dadaists.

One Man Town (martin)

Ernst sounds like earnest, which would help the read where the period is actually noticed after that first line. Earnestly knocking his head on a boulder – that's pretty crazy. Your analysis never clearly tells us what "Magritte weather" actually is. We get who Magritte is, but we're lacking a connection. Maybe it's always Magritte weather for Max but he's just saying so today. The boulder gives some kind of setting, maybe a desert-like area with cliffs, sounds a bit like Arizona. So the Magritte weather could be dry and still, a very lonely type of weather for one man to live in. I don't know why, but there's a reason for Max Ernst being the man who Carson specifically placed in this lonely poem. The first line suggests the loneliness by Max talking to himself.

One-Man Town (craig)

So both of these references are to artists of the 20th century, both surrealist painters. Magritte appears to enjoy painting scenes in which the weather is fairly clear with some clouds. This may be the reference to the weather, in the clouds obscure light and thus may 'cloud' judgement. Anyway, I think it suggests a lack of clarity. I am not sure, but judging by the poem itself, I would have to assume that the two artists were rivals, especially considering they had similar styles and worked in the same era. They would also have been in competition with Dali, though he is not mentioned in this poem. I am afraid that I do not know enough about either of these artists to draw any legitimate conclusions about the poem aside from the idea that there is never room for two people to be the best; that is to say, greatness is a one-man town.

One Man Town: (courtney)

Good job with the knowledge of Magritte and Max Ernst. The relationship of the two in their field of work is probably the most crucial thing to understanding this poem. "One Man" suggests that there is only room for one of them, not both—good job finding that. I don't really have any suggestions, you seem to have brought all to light.

One Man Town (casey)

Marina does a good job covering the poem, however I think Carson's invocation of Magritte and Max Ernst that she is commenting on her deep thinking about relativity of thought and perspective. Each of the painters mentioned are famous for their exploration of different perspectives. Is Carson sending a message that her poetry is such an attempt? Her entire basis for her town poems are in the nature of similar exploration. The poem also notes the frustrating nature of taking on such challenges, playfully relating the toughness of trying to achieve that different perspective.

One-Man Town (Allison)

I don't know much about Magritte, surrealism, or Max Ernst, so from what I read in the analysis, it sounds like a very good interpretation of the poem. To me, Magritte does hold more fame than Ernst, simply because I had heard of Magritte prior to this poem and not Ernst, which is kind of sad, especially if he's the father of surrealism. The fact that it's Magritte weather is kind of surreal in itself, which is interesting. Magritte also has a painting called "Threatening Weather," which is basically a female torso, a brass instrument and a chair in the clouds over what looks like the sea. This could tie in with Magritte threatening to take Ernst's fame from him.

One-Man Town (abby)

Marina's good at ignoring the obvious—Magritte. Max Ernst. ONE-MAN town. Think country westerns- "this town ain't big enough for the two of us." Rivalry perhaps? But not in real life... only in Carson land in this town. And Ernst LOST... at least that day. Sorry but I like that big picture stuff. She's right on with the subtleties that the rivalry includes, but the fact that there is some kind of rivalry going on needed to be addressed.