René Magritte

Voice of Space, 1931 Oil on canvas, 72 x 54 cm

The clear sky of a spring landscape occupies most of the canvas. A meadow with bushes, interrupted by a path on the left, is painted at the bottom. Three large, overlapping spheres take up most of the sky. They seem to be made in metal, each crossed by a horizontal slit that divides them in two: they look like rattles and evoke their tinkling. The title of the painting is eloquent. Magritte intended to paint the sound of the air passing through the rattles and making them vibrate, and he did so with three spheres immersed in a country landscape. The work embodies the surrealist principle of free association of ideas and of everyday objects, that are decontextualized and altered.