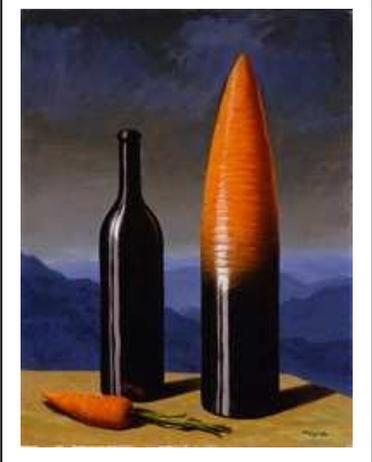


René Magritte n° 77	First publication: mars 2014	Last update : mars 2020	Author : Bernard Spee	Translator : deepI
<p><u>Title :</u> L'Explication</p> <p>1952 46 x 35 cm</p>  <p>Description : Against the backdrop of a landscape spread out on a table: a carrot in the foreground, a little off to the right, a black bottle, more to the right, the belly of the same bottle with a neck shaped like a carrot root.</p>	<p><u>The problem</u> comes from the appearance of a hybrid object consisting half of the root of a carrot and half of the belly of a bottle, next to a "real" carrot and a very ordinary bottle.</p> <p><u>The solution</u> would be to look for the alignment of the objects presented.</p> <p>In the order of a conventional reading from left to right, the carrot is presented first, then the bottle, and finally the carrot-bottle, a fusion of two previous objects. This reading leads us to the hybrid object as the final object. How to explain this combination, this fusion? The problem is reinforced by the title that Magritte has chosen: the Explanation. Would we have before our eyes the principle of explanation ?</p> <p>An explanation is not an explication. An explanation is in itself a magnification of an object: one must see or hear more clearly the initial object.</p> <p>An explanation is an approach to another, simpler object: it is a matter of understanding in the etymological sense, i.e. "taking with". It is a question of taking the target object with another simpler object. Here, the carrot is understood from a model which is the bottle. Thus, a carrot would have with the tip of its root a kind of neck that sucks elements from the soil to fill the upper part of the root as if it were a reservoir, the belly of a bottle. <u>In the end, the carrot is a "bottle" that sucks up and accumulates nutrients from the soil.</u></p> <p><u>In summary, the table Explanation shows us the principle of explanation: an explanation is in principle a reduction of a complex object, here the carrot, to a simpler object, a bottle.</u> It is a model of simplified representation of the functioning of the object. At the limit, this model may seem simplistic, even laughable and ironic: an explanation will always be below the object-in-itself, but some models are more operative and efficient than others.</p> <p><u>In short, the picture is the image of the pure idea of what an explanation is.</u></p> <p><u>As for our text, its status is that of an explanation.</u> What we offer to read is the explanation of a picture, a table and the words of its title. By this we mean that we convert images of objects that almost pass for reality into another and only register, that of words. To explain in the etymological sense is to unfold, to spread out with the least possible ambiguity and equivocation what constitutes an object, its image and the words relating to it, while keeping a self-referential reference to the initial object <i>via</i> metaphors and puns, which gives our interpretative approach a creative side. In the words of André Blavier, our "explanations" are discursive creations.</p>			
<p><u>Catalogue raisonné:</u> Vol.III, rating 784, p.203.</p>	<p>Cross-references : There are the variants (ratings 782, 783).</p>			
<p><u>Sur internet:</u> http://</p>	<p><u>Books with reproduction of the painting :</u> Magritte Les essentiels de l'art , Edition Ludion, p.310</p> <p><u>Articles:</u> Blavier A. Letter of 1992 about our five studies on Les Ecrits de Magritte (available at www.onehope.be)</p>			