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THE SCHIZOPHRENIC PROCESS AND LOUIS WAIN'S CATS

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INTRODUCTION

Several authors have studied and tried to describe the disturbing schizophrenic internal world: Jaspers, Conrad or Sobral-Cid, a portuguese psychiatrist from early 20th century.

The existence of a previous schizoid personality, delusional atmosphere and self-reference are examples of different steps that will lead to the emergence of delusion.

Louis Wain was an English artist best known for his drawings, which consistently featured anthropomorphized cats, and that suffered from schizophrenia. His work deeply changed as the disease evolved and his mental state deteriorated.

AIMS

To analyse Wain's mental state by his biography and drawings evolution.

METHODS

Review of the literature

CONCLUSION

Wain's drawings reflect his inner experiences and his mental state, so the progression of his artistic work translates his disease development: fragmentation and disorganization of the real. The psychotic deterioration that Wain's work reflects gave him a reputation and particular interest that persisted to the present day.