

The Life and Times of Salvador Dali

Biography - Early Life

- Salvador Dali was born in Figueres, Spain on May 11, 2004
- He had an older brother named Salvador who died 9 months earlier. His family named him Salvador also because they believed he was his brother's reincarnation
- He attended drawing school at a young age
- His first public exhibition was in 1919 (at age 15)

Biography - Madrid & Paris (1)

- In 1922, Dali moved to Madrid and studied at the Academia de San Fernando (School of Fine Arts)
- He became known as eccentric - long hair, side burns, coat, stockings, knee breeches in a late 19th century fashion.
- He began experimenting with Cubist style paintings; however, he didn't really know what he was doing.

Biography - Madrid & Paris (2)

- Experimented with Dada (a cultural movement in Switzerland during WWI), which influenced his work throughout his life
- He was kicked out of the academy when he told his professors that no one was qualified enough to grade him
- He grew a flamboyant moustache that later became iconic of Dali.

Biography - 1929 to WWII (1)

- 1929 - Dali worked on a short surrealistic film called *An Andalusian Dog*
- 1929 - He met his future wife Gala
- Began to emphasize surrealism - a common theme in Dali's paintings
- Dali's most famous painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, was painted in 1931. Click [here](#) to view.

Biography - 1929 to WWII (2)

- In 1934, Salvador and Gala were married.
- World War II was beginning in Europe in 1940, so the Dalis moved to the United States
- He began to get a reputation for being very eccentric and outrageous
- In 1942, he published his autobiography, "The Secret Life of Salvador Dali"

Biography - Later Years (1)

- In 1949, Dali went back to Spain and stayed there, even throughout the dictatorship of Franco
- He began to explore other artistic realms, such as using optical illusions, incorporating math/science into his paintings, using DNA as a subject, etc.
- His Catholic faith began to grow; religion began to influence much of his post WWII work.

Biography - Later Years (2)

- In 1968, he filmed a commercial for chocolates.
- In 1969, he designed the Chupa Chups logo
- In 1980, his senile wife Gala was dosing him with non-prescribed medications, and damaged his nervous system. This was the end to his artistic ability.
- Gala died in 1982, causing Dali to lose the will to live

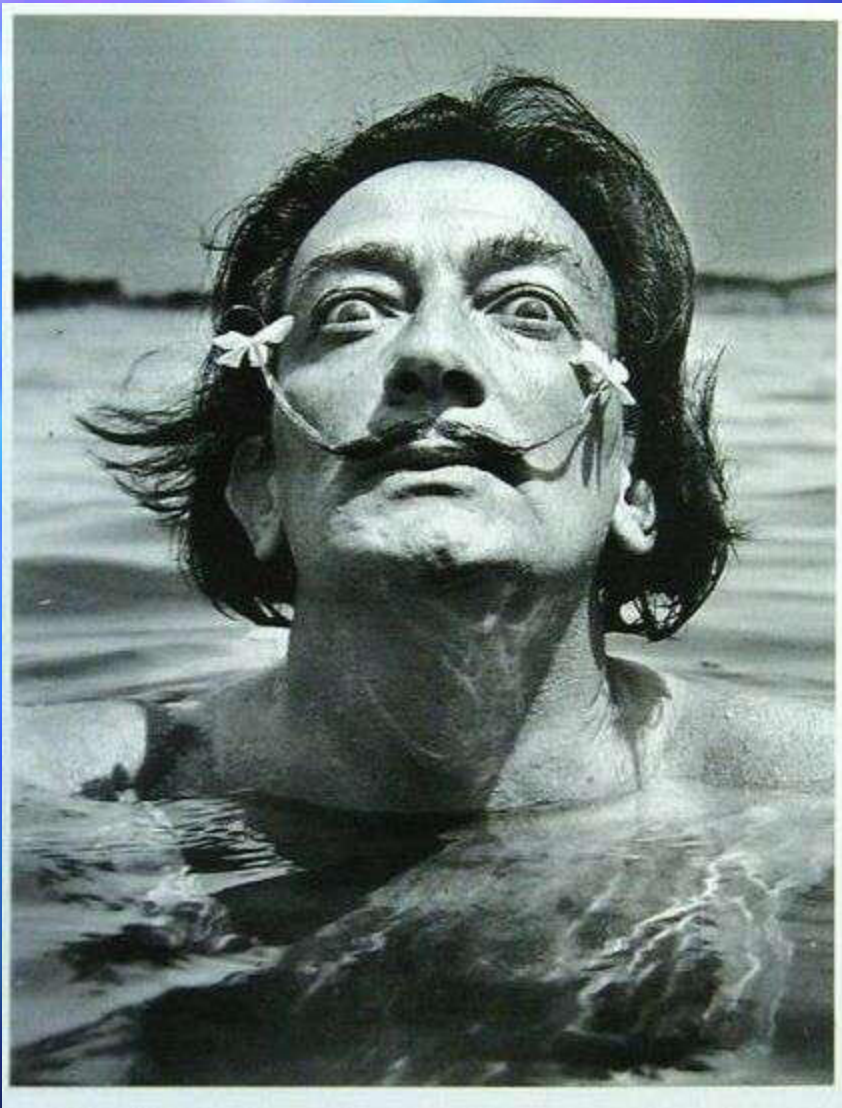
Biography - Later Years (3)

- There are many rumors of suicide attempts, but it is unknown whether these were true.
- There are also rumors that the staff in Dali's nursing home forced him to sign blank canvases to later be painted as fake Dali art. Therefore, many critics are hesitant to accept late Dali paintings as true.
- In 1989, Dali passed away due to heart failure



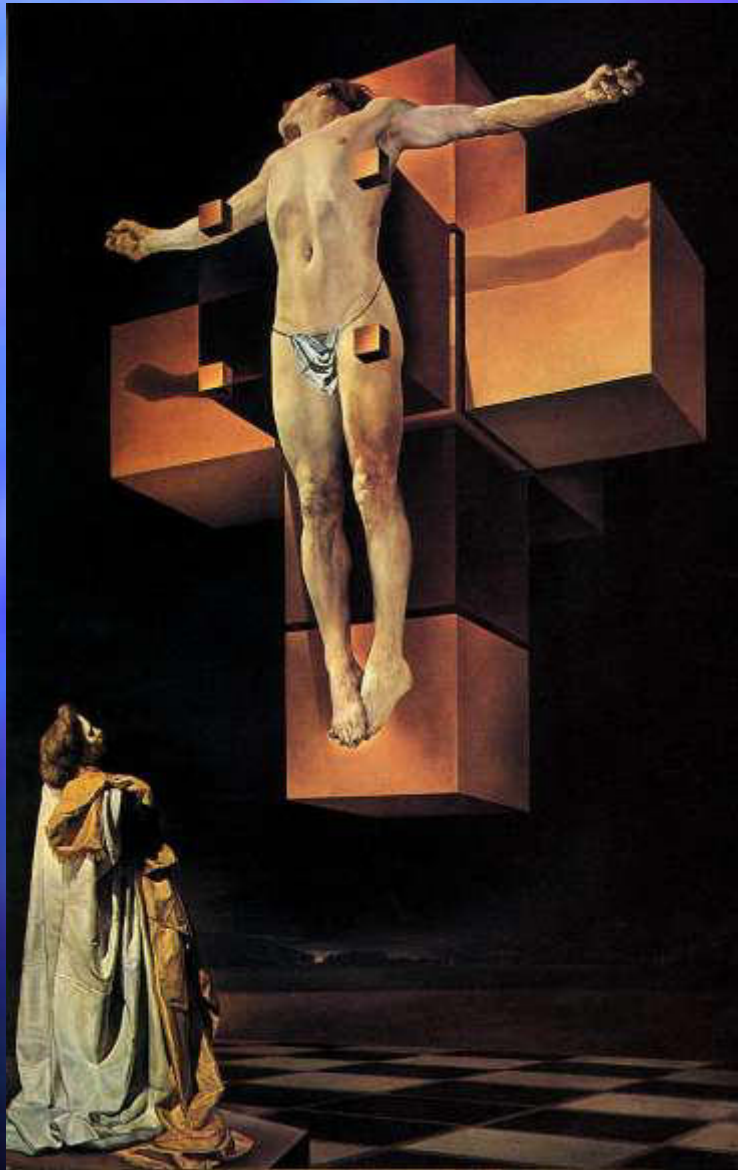


Woman Playing Mandolin (1909)





This piece, *The Persistence of Memory*, includes symbolism, suggesting that Einstein's theory that time is relative and not fixed.



Example of religion
influencing Dali's
paintings:

*Crucifixion (Corpus
Hypercubus)*

DALINIAN SYMBOLS

■ ANGELS

They have the power to penetrate the heavens, to communicate with God and accomplish a mystical union concerning the painter. The figures of angels painted by Dalí often borrow traits from Gala, incarnation, for Dalí, purity and nobility.

■ PROPS

It may be the sole support of a figure or the necessary support of an unable to stand alone form. Dalí discovered it as a child in the attic of his father's house. He takes it and will never part with it. This object gave him a confidence and arrogance that he had never been able to. In the short Dictionary of Surrealism (1938), Dalí gives the following definition: "Wooden support derived from Cartesian philosophy Generally used to serve as support for the tenderness of soft structures.."

■ ELEPHANTS

The Dalí elephants are usually represented with the long legs of desire invisible, multi-link, on their backs the obelisk symbol of power and domination. The weight supported by the frail legs of the animal evokes weightlessness.

■ SNAILS

The snail is linked to a landmark event in the life of Dalí: his meeting with Sigmund Freud. Dalí believed that nothing just happens by accident, he was captivated by the vision of a snail on a bicycle outside Freud's house. The link is then made by him between a human head and the snail, he associated especially at the head of Freud. As for the egg, the outer part of the shell (hard) and the body (soft) inside the snail fascinated him and the geometry of the curves enchanted.

■ ANTS

symbol of decay and decomposition. Dalí met ants the first time as a child, watching the decomposed remains of small animals eaten by them. He watched with fascination and repulsion, and continued to use them in his work, as a symbol of decadence and ephemeral.

■ SOFT WATCHES

Dalí often said, "the materialization of time flexibility and indivisibility of space ... This is a fluid." The unexpected softness of the watch also represents the psychological aspect by which the speed of time, although accurate in its scientific definition, can greatly vary in human perception. The idea came to him after a meal while gazing at the remains of a runny Camembert. He decided to paint the landscape that served as his backdrop two soft watches, one of which miserably hanging from the branch of an olive tree.

DALINIAN SYMBOLS

- EGG

Christian symbol of the resurrection of Christ and the emblem of purity and perfection. The egg recalls in appearance and minerality symbolic dear to Dalí, that of the previous life, intrauterine and rebirth.

- BREAD

Is it for fear of running out, Dalí represents in his paintings and also began to make surreal objects with bread. In his paintings, breads are most often an aspect of "hard" and phallic, as opposed to "soft" watches. Dali has always been a great admirer of bread. It tapissera round loaves Catalan walls of his museum in Figueras.

- LANDSCAPES

Traditional Area (based on the perspective and Renaissance painting). Realistic landscape full of strange and unreal objects in a natural environment. The background and how to use the landscape is one of the strengths of the art of Dalí. They help to create the atmosphere of unreality of his paintings (landscape of his native Catalonia and vast plain that surrounds Emporda Figueres).

DALINIAN SYMBOLS

- DRAWER

Human bodies that open with drawers are found repeatedly in paintings and objects from Dalí. They symbolize the memory and the unconscious and refer to the "idea drawer", a legacy of reading Freud's concept. They express the mystery of the hidden secrets. Most children explore every drawer, cabinet and closet of their home.

- VENUS DE MILO

It has long been part of the personal mythology of the painter. She is the first woman he child clay from a reproduction that adorned the family dining room model. It is also that he discovered a box of crayons in New York. It is the stupid look on his face that he still considered safe for women but inadequate perfect beauty in an elegant woman whose look or appear to be intelligent. Dalí has made several changes in the Venus Space Venus, Venus with drawers ...