"The two most fortunate things that could happen to a person are, first, to be Spanish, and second, to be named Salvador Dalí. These two things have happened to me."

- Salvador Dalí

One Dalí Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 823-3767
Our education pages are a great starting point to find resources for your classroom. Our Education Resources pages contain images to key works as well as scripts to our new audio guides, current lesson plans and student works from past exhibitions. Be sure to check out our YouTube site for the 9-minute Get Surreal with Salvador Dalí as well as additional student projects and videos of interest.

**Lesson Plans**
Multidisciplinary lesson plans are available on the Museum’s website: www.salvadorDalimuseum.org/education/lessons.html
The plans address the Sunshine State Standard, FCAT, and Florida Writes Goals. Topics include Spanish and Catalan culture, Surrealism, collage, painting activities and Spanish language projects.

**Introductory DVD (Elementary & Middle School)**
*Get Surreal with Salvador Dalí* is the Museum’s award-winning introduction to Dalí and Surrealism. It is a fast-paced surreal adventure, combining live action with vintage footage. Designed as a classroom aid for elementary and middle school students, the 30 minute video also demonstrates creative activities. It is free to teachers upon request. A 30 minute & 9 minute version is available here: youtube.com/Dalimuseum.

**Dalí Teen Docent Council: The Podcast Project**
A collaboration with local arts organization Youth Arts Corps of Wildwood and Teen Docent alumni of the Dalí Museum, the members of the Dalí Teen Docent Council compiled and recorded responses to their favorites of the Museum collection with the aim of providing a different, fresh and teen-specific perspective. These podcasts were recorded and edited by the group, documenting their exploration into the collection while learning digital publishing skills. These podcasts are intended to aid fellow teens as they explore the world of Dalí. They can be found on our website on the Student Work page.

**Dalí Vision Outreach Program**
Upon request, the Dalí Museum can provide a trained docent to visit your classroom with a poster or PowerPoint presentation. Please contact the Education department at: bmead@thedali.org

**Teacher Discount & Educator Membership**
Teachers always receive a 10% Museum store discount with ID. An educator membership is available at a discounted price that includes unlimited free admission, invitations to members-only events and exhibition previews, discounted admission to special events and more.
The Dalí Museum contains about 2100 works, including 96 oil paintings and a vast archival library devoted to the work of Salvador Dalí. The museum’s collection is founded upon the acquisitions of the artist’s work made by Reynolds and Eleanor R. Morse over a period of four decades. Their unique and superlative collection was enabled by a close friendship with Salvador and Gala Dalí from the 1940s through the 1970s.

Their collection, consisting of works acquired from every period of the artist’s long career, is now recognized as one of the most significant collections of the twentieth century.

The Morses first displayed the Dalí paintings in their home. By the mid-1970s, the Morses decided to donate their entire collection. A nationwide search began for a home for this priceless collection. The Wall Street Journal reported on the fact that no museum had met the terms of their offer. The article, titled “Art World Dillydallies Over Dalís,” caught the attention of St. Petersburg attorney James W. Martin, who rallied community leaders to approach the Morses. St. Petersburg’s offer to build a museum and care for the collection ended the search, and the Dalí Museum opened in 1982.

On January 11, 2011, a new building opened to the public. Designed by architect Yann Weymouth of HOK, this building is now the home of the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. In this building the collection continues to grow as new works are added to what is already the most important collection of Spanish art in the Western World.
The New Dalí Museum

The Building
The design of the new building combines the rational with the fantastical: a simple rectangle with 18-inch thick hurricane-proof walls out of which erupts a large free-form geodesic glass bubble known as the “enigma.” The “enigma,” which is made up of more than 900 triangular pieces of glass, stands 75 feet at its tallest point, a twenty-first century homage to the dome that adorns Dalí’s museum in Spain. Inside, the Dalí houses another unique architectural feature – a helical staircase – recalling Dalí’s obsession with spirals and the double helical shape of the DNA molecule.

The Garden
Outside on the waterfront, the Dalí garden creates a unique environment of learning and tranquility. The Mathematical Garden allows students to experience the relationship between math and nature, and a labyrinth in the southeast corner invites exploration and well-being.

The Galleries
On the third floor, visitors arrive at a landing with a view of the gardens and the waterfront through the “enigma.” On either side of the landing are two wings of gallery space. All 96 paintings are on display along with a selection of Dalí’s work of other media, including surrealist objects and a selection of Dalí’s prints and drawings. Work inspired by Dalí is on view in the education gallery.
Today, as in the past, the Museum’s mission is to enhance the recognition of Salvador Dalí as one of the great artists of the 20th Century, to exhibit other artists whose work relates to Dalí’s world, and to preserve the priceless collection of his works. No other place in the world, including Dalí’s own museum in Figueres, Spain, has a more comprehensive presentation of the artist’s varied projects than the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg.

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush wrote that the Dalí Museum has “the distinction of being the largest attended museum in the state, and it has enlightened not only St. Petersburg and Florida, but the world.”
**Basket of Bread. 1926**

Oil on panel, 12½ x 12½ inches

The Basket of Bread was created when Dalí was 22, during his last months at art school in Madrid. He created this work as a test for himself – to prove his technical skill as a painter by demonstrating his ability to create the intense realism achieved by his artistic role models, particularly Jan Vermeer.

The painstaking realism of The Basket of Bread was a major achievement and marked a turning point in his career. It boosted Dalí’s ego and gave him a sense of mastery with traditional painting, freeing him to explore more difficult subject matter and imagery. This simple composition of bread in a straw basket on cloth is set dramatically against a dark background. Dalí followed in the Spanish still-life tradition, where a domestic scene represents spiritual reflection. By saturating the objects in such a mysterious light, he transforms the composition into an object of deep contemplation.

At this early stage in his career, the artist associated bread with traditional Spanish culture; it was a staple in every kitchen. Bread would remain an important and often repeated image in his work, evolving as a symbol over time as Dalí’s interests changed.

Bread took on sexual connotations in the work of his surrealist period and spiritual connotations in the 1940s and 50s. Yet for all of the variations in the representations of bread, Dalí remarked in 1945 that “this typically realistic picture is the one which has satisfied my imagination the most.”

**Weaning of Furniture-Nutrition. 1934**

Oil on panel, 7 x 9½ inches

This is one of Dalí’s most subtle but successful Surrealist works. With precise realism, inspired by one of his greatest influences, the Dutch artist Jan Vermeer, Dalí creates a painting that looks like a hand-tinted photograph of something impossible. This small panel portrays a woman sitting on the beach in front of Dalí’s house. However, the woman has a hole in her body, eliminating any possibility of reality.

The title is the key to understanding this painting, which illustrates the concept of the word “weaning.” “To wean” means to take a person away from his attachments, like a nanny weaning a child away from his mother. The woman is Dalí’s childhood nanny, Llucia. Here she sits in a pose assumed for centuries by fishermen’s wives, mending nets while their husbands are out at sea. Llucia has been “weaned” out of Dalí’s memories and placed in his present.

As a child, Dali associated his bedroom furniture and surroundings with his nanny. Like jigsaw puzzle pieces, he “weans” his childhood night table and a smaller table out of her body, suggesting that his nanny and these objects were two parts of the same memory. Their removal creates a void requiring a crutch for Dalí’s absent nanny’s support. Dalí offered the following description of this work: “The absence of a beloved person leaves a sentimental void in us.”
This work successfully combines Dalí’s painterly skills of creating double images with his interest in mythology. This visual puzzle illustrates the answer to the Riddle of the Sphinx from the Greek tragedy, Oedipus Rex. “What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs in the evening?” The hero of the story, Oedipus, answers that man crawls on all fours in infancy, walks upright on two legs in adolescence, and uses a cane as a third leg in old age.

Viewed up close, this is a landscape painting of figures, ruins and mountains, but when viewed from a distance, the scene transforms into a still-life painting of three heads on pedestals, the heads defined by openings in the ruined brick wall. On the left, a woman stands in an opening; her shadowed face forms Old Age’s eye; her body forms Old Age’s nose and mouth; and a cluster of trees forms his hair. In the center opening, a young Dalí and his nanny appear on a beach looking at white buildings across the bay. These buildings become Adolescence’s eyes, while the nanny’s scarf and shawl form his nose and lips. On the right, a woman mends a fishing net on the beach. Her head is Infancy’s eye, and her beaded belt is his teeth.

Dalí described his reason for using double images, saying they are “an attempt to achieve the most rigorous systemization possible of the most delicious phenomena and materials, with the intention of making tangibly creative my most obsessively dangerous ideas.” In other words, Dalí finds that double images challenge our sense of reality, creating feelings of danger and delight.

The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory, 1952-54
Oil on canvas, 10 x 13 inches

This painting features one of Dalí’s most popular images, the melting watch. In 1931, Dalí painted his first melting watch. He said he was inspired one hot day while working in his studio when he noticed some runny Camembert cheese. To Dalí, the oozing cheese resembled a melting watch, so immediately he painted three melting watches on his canvas, capturing the public’s imagination for succeeding generations.

It is not clear why these melting watches are so startling and memorable, but they do suggest several powerful associations. They illustrate how time can be fluid, as in a dream. But a more essential and threatening association concerns our dependence upon clocks. The world runs by the clock – scheduling events is essential for life to function normally. If clocks melt, time becomes meaningless, and there is no way to control activities, leading to chaos.

Looking across the painting, what do you see? There are several images suggesting chaos, including the ocean fragmenting into atomic bits, its skin-like edge lifted to reveal a fish fluorescing. Yet there are other images that suggest continuity as well, particularly in the details of Dalí’s beloved Port Lligat landscape. Other questions arise – is the image disintegrating, or is it an expression of continuity? Is time interrupted, or is it fluid and elastic? Looking beneath the ocean’s surface, do you discover disintegration or order? Dalí leaves the answers to the viewer.
A toreador is a bullfighter, one of the great heroes of Spanish culture. This work is arguably Dalí’s most ambitious double image painting, but surprisingly, this monumental canvas has humble origins. When shopping for art supplies, Dalí purchased a box of Venus-brand pencils. Staring at the Venus de Milo on the box, he glimpsed a face within the shadows. This simple experience led to one of Dalí’s most complex paintings. Created over 16 months, this work overflows with flies, Venus statues, and other Dalínian images gathered inside a large bullring. Yet in the center of the canvas these images transform into the face Dalí had glimpsed earlier one of the great Dalí experiences.

At the center of the canvas, the Venus’ green skirt becomes the bullfighter’s tie. Above the tie is the white collar button of the bullfighter’s shirt. Directly above that, the shadows crossing the Venus’ stomach form the bullfighter’s chin and lips. Her left breast forms the bullfighter’s nose, and her face forms his eye. The contours of the bullfighter’s face are defined by the shadow of the Venus in the red skirt. The same red skirt is also the bullfighter’s cape hung over his shoulder. A cluster of dots and flies to the left of his tie becomes his sequined jacket.

As the toreador does battle with the bull, here Dalí does battle with this complex visual illusion to help others see the world as he sees it. Dalí leaves the viewer with several questions: Ultimately is this a celebratory or tragic picture? Is it a story of battle between man and beast, or a fated love story between Venus and the bullfighter? Is it an affirmation of the beauty in struggle or is it a heartrending tragedy?
Dalí Milestones

1904 Salvador Dalí born May 11, in Figueres, Catalonia, Spain
1921 Dalí's mother dies
1922 Exhibits paintings in Barcelona, Spain
Attends art school in Madrid, Spain
1925 First single artist exhibition in Barcelona
1926 First trip to Paris, where he meets Pablo Picasso
1928 Basket of Bread exhibited at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh
1929 Second trip to Paris, where he meets André Breton, founder of Surrealism
Makes film Un Chien Andalou with Luis Bunuel
Meets future wife, Gala Eluard
Officially joins the Surrealist Movement
1930 Settles in Port Lligat, Spain
1931 Paints Persistence of Memory
1934 Dalí and Gala marry in civil ceremony
Dali and Gala’s first trip to New York City
1936 Appears on cover of Time Magazine
1938 Visits Sigmund Freud in London
1939 Designs exhibit for New York World’s Fair
1940 Dalí and Gala escape from Europe during German occupation, seek refuge in United States lasting eight years
Paints first work in exile, Daddy Longlegs of the Evening – Hope!
1941 First retrospective at Museum of Modern Art, New York
1942 Publishes creative autobiography The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí
1943 Meets Eleanor and Reynolds Morse, lifelong friends and major collectors
1945 Works with Alfred Hitchcock on film Spellbound
1946 Works with Walt Disney on animated film Destino
1949 Paints first large-sized religious canvas, Madonna of Port Lligat
1950 Declares his art “Nuclear Mysticism”
1958 Dali and Gala remarry in a religious ceremony
1964 Awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic, one of Spain’s highest decorations
1969 Starts painting The Hallucinogenic Toreador, completed the following year
1971 The Morses open their Dalí collection in Beachwood, Ohio
1974 Dalí opens his own museum, the Teatro-Museo Dalí, in Figueres, Spain
1982 Dalí Museum opens in St. Petersburg, Florida
1983 Gala dies in her castle in Pubol, Spain on June 10
1989 Dali dies of heart failure in Figueres, Spain on January 23
Additional Resources

Suggested Books


Suggested DVDs


*Dali Dimension: Decoding the Mind of a Genius.* Joan Ubeda, Susi Marques, and Eli Pons, Music Video Dist., 2005. (75 min.)


*Disney's Donald in Mathmagic Land.* Hamilton Luske, Disney Studios, 1959. (26 min.)

*Destino (Disney's Fantasia 2000).* Dalí, Disney Studios, 1945, 2003. (6 min. Available on Blu-ray version only)


*Salvador Dalí the 4th Dimension.* Paul Pissanos. Paul Pissanos Productions, 2010. (40 min.)


Suggested Links

Dalí Museum: www.thedali.org
Dalí Museum Education Department on YouTube: YouTube.com/dalieducation
Dalí Museum on Facebook: Facebook.com/thedalimuseum
Dalí Foundation, Spain: www.salvador-dali.org
Quotes by Dalí: Artquotes.net/masters/dali_quotes.htm
About the Fibonacci Sequence: Blockheadbook.com
Watch Donald in Mathmagicland on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACtjN4CSN50
Fun with 3.14: teachpi.org
JUNIOR DOCENT SUMMER CAMP
Ages 9-12
www.theDali.org/summercamp
A summer program offered to students ages 9 to 12 years of age. Junior Docents are trained in a one-week mini docent class where they receive personal attention as they learn about the collection. This program concludes with a public reception where the children conduct tours, sharing their knowledge of Dalí and his paintings with the public. Junior Docents participate in fun, surreal-inspired activities, and make new friends. 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Friday tour and reception, 3:30 p.m.

BREAKFAST WITH DALÍ FOR FAMILIES
Recommended ages 5-12
First Saturday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am
Explore the Dalí Museum in a tour expressly designed for children ages 5 - 12. This interactive tour is led by a Dalí docent who has chosen Dalí paintings and other works which specially appeal to children. The tour at 9:30 is followed by a scrumptious breakfast buffet. Following the tour, each child receives a souvenir of the day’s experience. Dalí hands-on activities follow at 11:00.
Cost: $21/adult, $10 child. Members - $10 adult, $5 child
See www.thedali.org/events for more information

STUDENT SURREALIST ART EXHIBITIONS
Middle + High School
Three annual student art exhibitions featuring the work of local Hillsborough & Pinellas County and an all new statewide show. A theme is given each year which students are encouraged to explore in their work. Visit our website for details.

DALÍWOOD STUDENT SURREALIST VIDEO COMPETITION
Middle + High School
An annual collaboration with the Sunscreen Film Festival of Tampa Bay, Hillsborough and Pinellas County students are invited to submit their imaginative Surreal films to compete for prizes. The selected entries and winners are shown on the big screen during the April film festival. Check the website for more information.