

# **dalínian symbols**

# symbols

Dalí uses a lot of symbols in his drawings, paintings, and sculptures.

He made up his own symbols, but he also used symbols from the Catholic Church and Sigmund Freud's idea of interpreting dreams.

These symbols are important in understanding Dalí's work.

## ants

Ants symbolize death, decay, and the potential for destruction.

Dalí repeatedly used ants in his work after seeing them eat the remains of small animals when he was young.



## bread

Bread is an important, universal symbol of nourishment and the necessity of food to sustain life.

Bread is also a religious symbol (represents the body of Christ) and can tell us about cultures and traditions.



## crutch

The crutch represents death, snobbery, and comfort in old age.

Dalí used the crutch to symbolize the need for emotional and physical support at various parts of one's life.



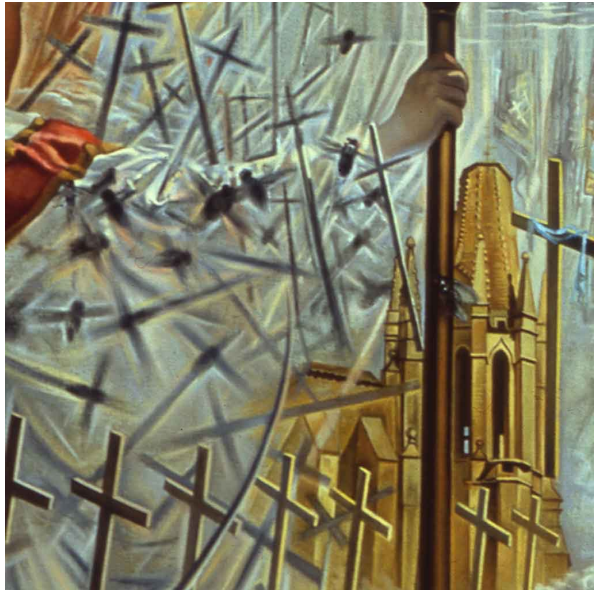
## eggs

The egg symbolizes birth,  
love, and hope.

This symbol is very  
important because it also  
represents his wife Gala's  
gaze and the resurrection of  
Christ.



# the fly



The fly symbolizes disgust and in some cases, the Catalan people.



Flies appear in two of Dalí's most famous paintings: *The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus* (1958-59) and *The Hallucinogenic Toreador* (1968-70).

# grasshoppers

Grasshoppers represent fear and horror because Dalí was afraid of grasshoppers.

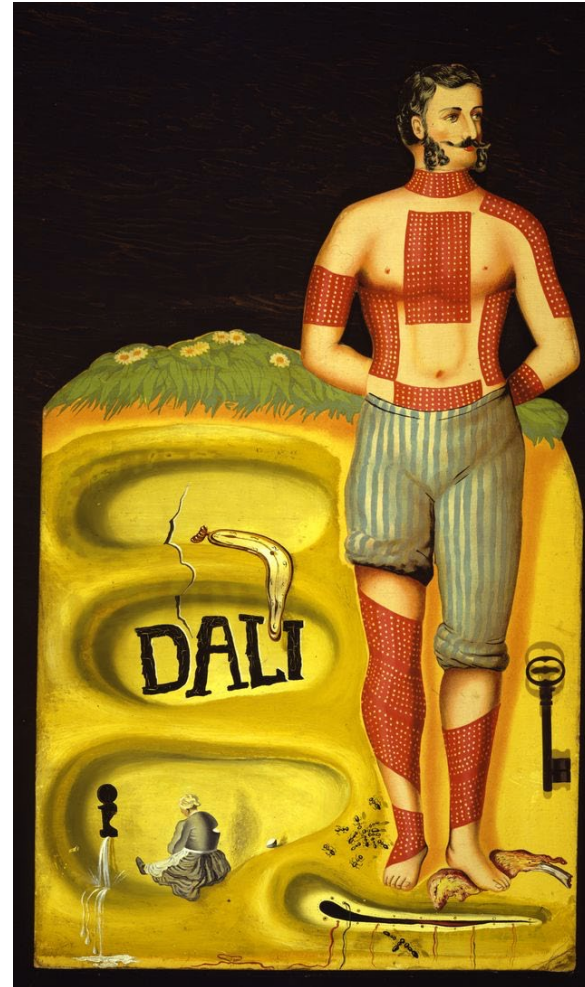




## keys

The key represents unlocking the the mind and the hidden ideas in the subconscious.

The key symbol comes from Sigmund Freud and his work on the interpretation of dreams through “free association.”



# melting clocks

The melting clocks are symbols for the lack of meaning and fluidity of time in the dream world.

These “soft,” non-functioning clocks are seen in one of Dalí’s most famous works, *The Persistence of Memory* (1931).



## nanny

Dalí's childhood nursemaid, Lucia, appears in one of his most famous paintings.

Nursemaids took care of children, and these children would often form very close, motherly bonds with their nursemaids.



# daddy longlegs

The French believe if you see this spider in the evening it is an image of hope.

Dalí painted it in *Daddy Longlegs of the Evening - Hope!* while he was in the United States after leaving Europe during World War II.

