

The Dalí Museum Student Surrealist Art Exhibit “Obsession, Disintegration and Reinvention”

Statewide
May 10 – August 3, 2025

Initiated in 1985, this annual juried art exhibition presents work by middle and high school students that explores ideas and visions similar to those of Salvador Dalí and the surrealists. This year’s theme is “Obsession, Disintegration, and Reinvention.”

Salvador Dalí underwent key transformative stages throughout his life, encompassing periods of obsession, disintegration and reinvention, all reflected in his artistic style, techniques and self-expression. With these broad themes, The Dali Museum invites students to explore one or more of these concepts in their own artwork.

Dalí was renowned for his obsessions, ranging from his Catalan landscapes to Millet’s painting *The Angelus* to his wife, Gala. These obsessions pervade his art and writings, with some persisting throughout his life. Dalí’s obsessions fueled his creative genius. Obsession invites students to reflect on and visually explore their key fixations.

Following the dropping of the atomic bomb, Dalí became fascinated with the concept of disintegration. Disintegration implies the fragmentation of a subject, which Dalí represented visually through dissolution and pixelation. *The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory* (1954) is a reinterpretation of his celebrated 1931 work *The Persistence of Memory*. He literally shatters his original composition, indicating how the world had changed. Disintegration challenges students to explore how an object or concept can be decomposed visually.

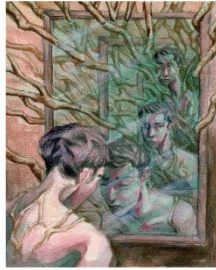
Reinvention is at the core of Dalí’s persona and art. Fleeing Europe during World War II, Dalí reinvented himself to appeal to the American public. Turning his back on modern art, he drew inspiration from the Renaissance and Catholicism, and he rebranded himself through his iconic symbols like his mustache and melting clocks. Reinvention invites students to reflect on how change can be expressed visually, whether relating to their personal identity or the essence of their subject.

The Student Surrealist Art Exhibitions, Competition and Receptions are funded by a generous gift from an anonymous donor and in part from a program endowment fund established by the Craig and Jan Sher Philanthropic Fund. Additional support for this educational program comes from our Museum corporate partner Bloomin’ Brands.

Examples of winning art from 2024 SSAE exhibits



Joanna Schechter
I'm All Ears



Marcus Rideout
Recede, Further Dream



Jalyn Cronkrite
Feeling Feisty



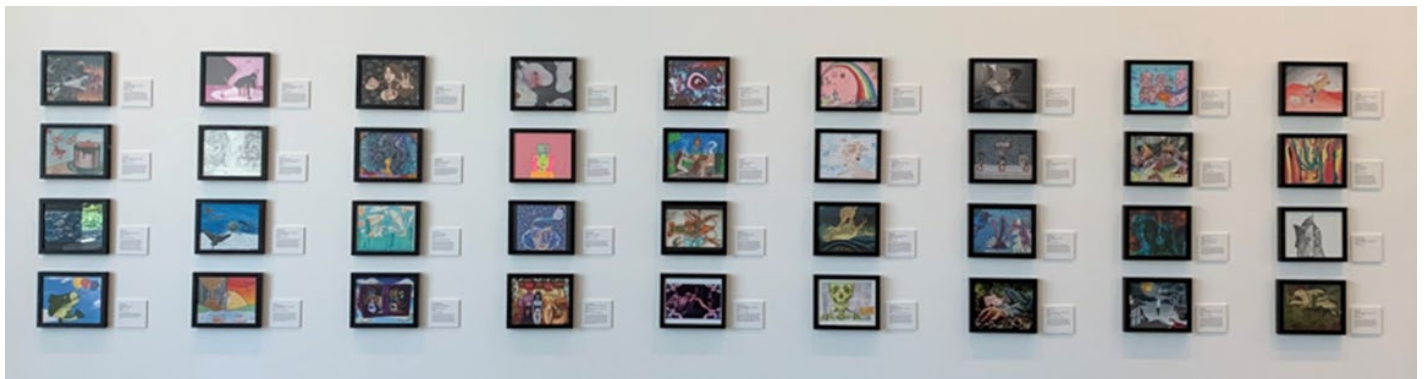
Daniella Costa
Across the Universe



Brooke Taken
My Precious



Sarah Brunner
Manifestation of Creation



Artwork **must be exactly 8x10** because of the grid layout and frame sizes

*Note the piece in the center that is not 8x10, showing white on top and bottom;
artwork that is not exactly 8x10 will be disqualified upon receipt

Artist Statements

To encourage students to reflect upon their creative processes and to articulate their artistic decisions, we ask students to consider the questions below as they reflect upon their artwork. Students should limit their responses to 50-75 words addressing some of the following:

- What inspired you?
- How did you respond to the exhibit's theme?
- How did you respond to Salvador Dalí's work?
- What element/s of your work connect with obsession, disintegration and or reinvention?
- What Surrealist techniques did you use?

Details:

- Artist statements are not required for the initial jurying process, but if the artwork is selected, **the statement must be submitted using the online form emailed to all teachers of students with accepted work.**
- Artist statements are **due by Sunday, April 20.**
- Artist statements which explain inspiration and technique may be considered in the awards judging process, but scoring remains based on the merit of the artwork in accordance with the scoring rubric.
- Artist statements may not exceed 100 words.
- Artist statements will be printed **exactly as they are typed.**
- Students are encouraged to input their text at [Grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com), a free proof-reading resource, to ensure their writing is free of spelling and grammar errors.

Please advise students that artist statements will appear on display to the public alongside their artwork – please do not include private information

Resources

The Dalí Museum created three videos to support students and teachers as they prepare for the Student Surrealist Art Exhibit.

Surrealism: The Big Ideas

11-minute introduction to Surrealism. The video reviews the history and goals of the movement, and explains Dalí's relationship to the broader group. Consider it Surrealism 101.

How to Make Surrealist Art

9-minute film featuring nine exhibit-winning Pinellas art teachers who provide inspiration and ideas for students to create their own surrealist art. The video introduces surrealist techniques including dislocation, transformation and symbolism, and presents prompts to try in the classroom.

Why Teach Surrealist Art?

6-minute film featuring exhibit-winning Pinellas County teachers who explain to their teacher colleagues why the Student Surrealist Art Exhibit is an essential part of their curriculum.

These videos as well as online galleries of previous Student Surrealist Art Exhibits can be found at TheDali.org/ssae.

Statewide Exhibit Dates (May 10 – August 3, 2025)

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Fr. Mar 7 | Digital submissions due via EntryThingy (link available on the Dalí Museum website beginning February 21). |
| Fr. Mar 14 | Accepted artwork announced (all artwork MUST be exactly 8"x10") |
| Fr. Apr 18 | Selected work due to The Dalí Museum 1 Dali Blvd. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Entry Form and Student Permission Form must be taped/mounted/matted on back of artwork |
| Su. Apr 20 | Student artist statements (50-75 words) and label information must be submitted using the form emailed to all teachers with accepted work |
| Sa. May 10 | Exhibit opens |
| Fr. May 16 | Award-winning works announced |
| Sat. Jun 7 | The Dalí Museum Reception for students, family, teachers and administrators - 6:30-8:30 PM. |
| Su. Aug 3 | Last day of exhibit |
| Week of Aug 4-10 | Artworks returned to the address provided in online form |

Entry Requirements

- Up to **6 entries per teacher** & one work per student. If two teachers submit the same student, only one will be chosen for consideration.
- Finished **work must be 8"x10"** to fit frames and cannot be thicker than ½." If work does not fit into frame, the work **will be disqualified**.
- While we cannot accept **3D objects** nor clay reliefs due to fragility, photographs of 3-D pieces are encouraged. They will be judged on the merit of the photograph first and on the merit of the object second (see photo of a winning 3D object page 2).
- **Artwork must be original** - no digital reproductions (unless documenting a 3D piece). Digital reproductions of oil paintings or drawings will not be accepted.
- Any work found to be **plagiarized** will be disqualified and removed from the exhibition.
- **AI-generated images are not allowed** (e.g., DALL-E, Midjourney) for this exhibition due to possible ethical issues with copyright, plagiarism, or fair use; however, students may use AI-powered tools within an art teacher-approved application (e.g., Adobe Photoshop, Procreate) to assist during the ideation and editing process of creating original digital art, photography, mixed-media work, etc. If AI-powered tools are used, the application(s) must be listed using the online artist statement form.
Check your students' sources and observe their work processes.

Exhibit Details

- Exhibit website: TheDali.org/ssae
- Open to middle and high school students in the state of Florida
- Teachers must submit student artwork; **students may not submit their own artwork**
- 117 works will be selected for exhibit (based on wall space)
- The Dalí Museum **will provide 8x10" frames** for the selected work

- PLEASE NOTE: The exhibit is held in The Dalí Museum Raymond James Community Room and is always free to visit. Please call before visiting the student exhibit as the Community Room occasionally closes for private events.

Suggested Surreal Techniques to Consider:

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|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Juxtaposition | Metamorphosis | Collage |
| Displacement | Dreamlike settings | Levitation |
| Double images | Dislocation | Transparency |
| Transformation | Symbolism | Scale distortion |

Artwork submission checklist:

- ✓ Exactly 8x10"
- ✓ Entry form (page 9)
- ✓ Signed release form (page 10)
- ✓ Artist statements submitted online (online form)

Judication Guidelines:

- **Theme:** Artwork appropriately addresses the exhibition themes
- **Originality:** Artwork exhibits an original approach to process, concept and subject matter
- **Expression:** Artwork communicates an aesthetic vision or style and visual expression of critical thinking
- **Skill/Technique:** Artwork exhibits technical competency
- **Completeness:** Artwork exhibits thoughtful use of space and equal treatment to all elements of artwork

Judication Scoring Rubric

| | |
|---------|---|
| Level 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows strong evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. • Shows strong use of innovation and creativity. • Communicates a strong personal and/or original message. • Shows strong application of the design principles and excellent technical use of media to express ideas. • Shows strong use of space and is fully finished. |
| Level 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows good evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. • Shows good use of innovation and creativity. • Communicates a good personal and/or original message. • Shows good application of the design principles and good technical use of media to express ideas. • Shows good use of space and/or is predominantly finished |
| Level 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows little evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. • Shows little use of innovation or creativity. • Communicates limited personal vision or original message. • Shows limited and/or inconsistent application of the design principles. • Novice in use of space and/or is partially unfinished |
| Level 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows no evidence of integration between the theme and the visual work. • Shows trite and/or simplistic approaches. • Communicates no personal or original message, and/or is direct copy of copyrighted photographic resources. • Shows no understanding of the design principles and/or very little or no technical competence or control of media. • Shows poor use of space and/or elements appear to be rushed or unfinished |

The Dalí Museum Education Department thanks you for your participation.

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Sumaya Ayad, School Programs & Education Manager, sayad@thedali.org

Joy Garrett-Douglas, Community Programs & Education Manager, jgarrett@thedali.org

Entry Form (required)

| | |
|---|--|
| ACCEPTED ENTRY FORM: STUDENT SURREALIST ART EXHIBIT | |
| On this sheet, indicate the orientation of the work by drawing arrows pointing to the top of the work or with a description such as “the clouds go on the bottom” | |
| Attach to back of artwork | |
| Student Name | |
| Title of Work | |
| Teacher Name (First & Last) | |
| Teacher Email | |

Student Artwork Permission Form (required)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's artwork has been selected to be exhibited at The Dalí Museum in the Statewide Student Surrealist Art Exhibit. This annual art exhibit presents work by middle and high school students whom we invite to explore ideas similar to those explored by Salvador Dalí and the surrealists. Your child's artwork will be exhibited in The Dalí Museum's Raymond James Community Room from May 10 - August 3, 2025. There will be a reception on Saturday, June 7. An invitation will be provided by the art teacher. If you plan to visit at a different time, we recommend calling beforehand to confirm that the gallery is open (it is used for limited private events).

Please read and sign the release form below and **attach it to the back of the student's artwork**.

Sincerely,
The Dalí Museum Education Team

The student and parent/guardian give their permission to The Dalí Museum for uses and displays of the student's artwork and artist statement to include, without limitation, display and exhibition on the Internet, on television, in publications, and at Museum events. Permission is also given to the Museum to reproduce the artwork and artist statement for use in Museum publications including, without limitation, brochures, pamphlets, and flyers. The Museum shall not be liable for any third-party reproduction or redistribution of artwork so used, displayed, or reproduced by the Museum pursuant to this permission. While care will be taken to ensure that all artwork will be handled in such manner that no damage or loss is incurred, the Museum shall not be held responsible for any damage or loss that might occur.

Title/description of artwork: _____

Art teacher name: _____

School: _____

Print name of student artist:

Print name of parent/guardian:

Signature of student artist:

Signature of parent/guardian:

Date: