



dalí fact file

People & Places



Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí was born on May 11, 1904.
He died on January 23, 1989.

Dalí was known for his contributions to painting,
drawing, sculpture, writing, and film.

Dalí was involved the Surrealist Movement based
in Paris, France for 10 years.

Dalí had many interests
including religion and science

Gala

Gala was Dalí's wife, muse, business partner, and manager.

She was born in Russia and was 10 years older than Dalí.

Gala appears in many of Dalí's paintings, including *Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea*.



Spain

Spain is located on the Iberian Peninsula in southwest Europe.

Dalí was born in **Figueres**, Spain, in the region called Cataluña.

His family had a summer home in **Cadaqués** along the Costa Brava.



Diego Velazquez

Spanish Baroque artist that inspired Dalí's mustache.

Dalí admired his most famous painting '*Las Meninas*' and even painting himself in the same pose as Velazquez.



President Lincoln

16TH President of the United States

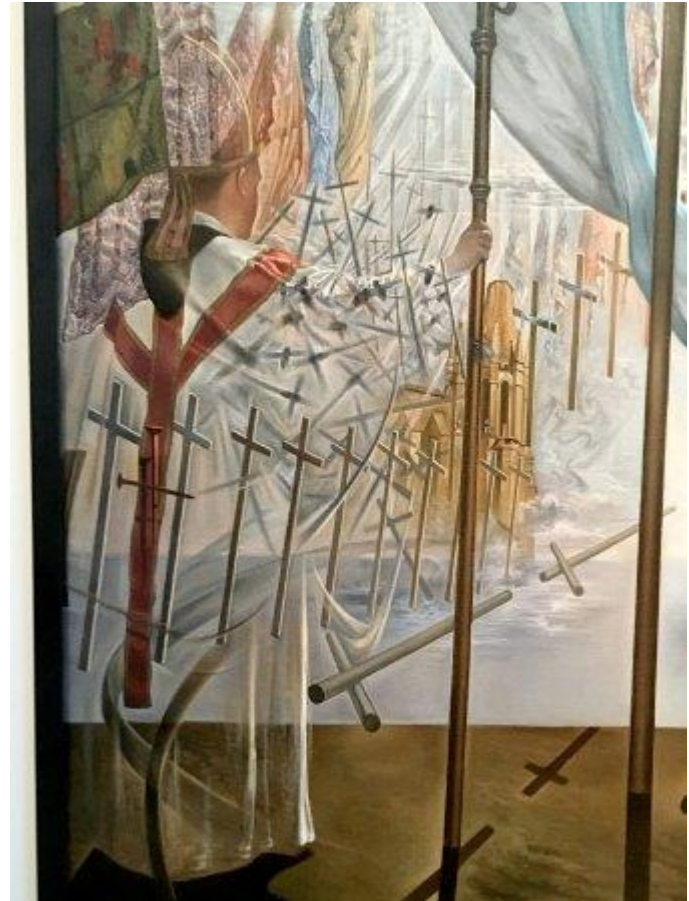
His pixelated image in *Scientific America* inspired Dali to create *Gala Comtemplating the Mediteranean Ocean* which at 20 Meter becomes a Portrait of Abraham Lincoln (Homage to Rothko) (1976).



St. Narcissus (San Narciso)

Priest and Bishop of Gerona, Catalonia,
Spain during the 4th century.

Legend says that gadflies flew from his tomb
to chase away French invaders.



Christopher Columbus

Famous Italian explorer who landed
in the Americas.

Dali believed he was actually Spanish
and was inspired by his voyage to
paint '*Discovery of America by
Christopher Columbus*'



World War II

A global war lasting from 1939-1945 between two opposing military alliances: the Allies led by the US and UK and the Axis led by Japan and Germany.

Dali was forced to flee his home in Spain and lived in the United States during the war. Much of the art he made during this period reflects the horrors of the time.





The Dali Museum

Opened 1/11/11 at 11:11

Collection began by Reynolds & Eleanor Morse

Museum has had 2 homes before opening in current location.
Originally located in Ohio and then moved to a repurposed
building in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Art Terms



Surrealism

Surrealism was a cultural movement during the 1920s – 1930s based in Paris, France. Salvador Dalí became one of its most important members.

The goal of surrealism was to create fantastical objects that disrupted the normal. Surrealists wanted to discover different ways of thinking and understanding through the arts.

Surreal Art

Surreal art features elements of surprise and juxtaposition, often combining objects that would not normally be found together.





Abstract Art

Abstract Art uses shape, form, color, and line to make art that does not necessarily represent real-life objects or scenes.

Dalí used elements of abstract art to create double images in his work.

Cubism

Cubism breaks up objects and reassembles them in abstract form, depicting the subject from many different viewpoints.



As a young artist, Dalí experimented with Cubism and other styles of art.

Collage

A collage is the technique of cutting out pieces of paper and gluing them together on a canvas to create a new piece of art.

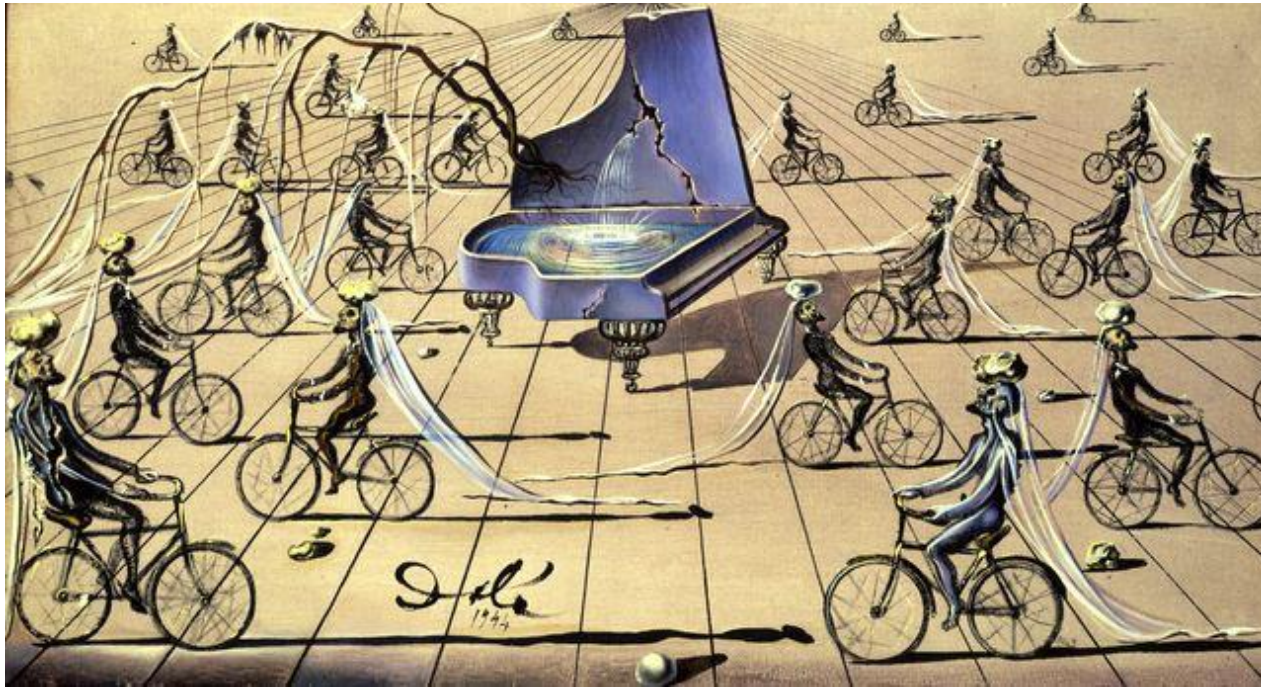
Collages may include pieces of magazines, newspapers, photographs, or other found objects.



Self-Portrait

A self-portrait is a representation of an artist, drawn, painted, or photographed by that artist.





Juxtaposition

Juxtaposition is the act of combining two objects that would not normally be found together to create a sense of shock or surprise.

The surrealists loved to use juxtaposition.

Anthropomorphic

Anthropomorphic means to give human characteristics to inanimate objects or animals.

Dalí loved combining different things to make something new.



Op (Optical) Art & Optical Illusions

Op Art is a style of art that uses optical illusions.

Typically, Op Art creates the illusion of movement, hidden images, flashing, vibrating, swelling, or other tricks of the eye.

Optical Illusions are images that our eyes perceive as different from reality.



Double Image

A double image is a type of optical illusion that displays more than one image at once.

Dalí put many double images in his paintings.

Disappearing Bust of Voltaire (1941) is one of his most well-known double images.





Symmetry

Symmetry is an arrangement or composition where everything within a piece is proportional or equally balanced.

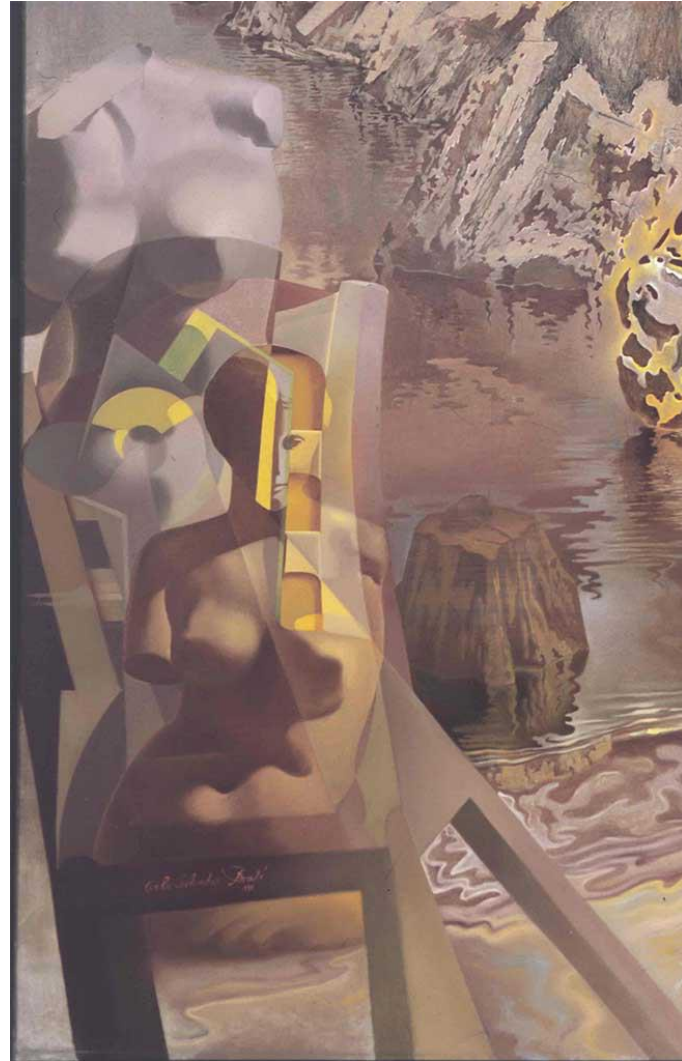
If you cut a symmetrical painting down the middle, both sides would look exactly the same.

Venus de Milo

Venus de Milo is a famous statue from ancient Greece.

Venus de Milo is meant to portray Aphrodite, the goddess of love in Greek mythology.

Venus de Milo appears in a number of Dalí's works, including *Hallucinogenic Toreador* (1970).





Toreador

A toreador is a Spanish bullfighter.

In Spanish culture, bullfighters are respected athletes.

The Hallucinogenic Toreador shows a famous toreador named **Manolete** who was gored to death by a near-sighted bull.

Dalí & Science

Atoms

Atoms are the smallest unit of matter,
and they make up every single
organism and object.

They are a source of nuclear energy.

Dalí incorporated atoms into many of
his paintings and sketches, like
Galacidalacidesoxiribunucleicacid
(*Homage to Watson and Crick*)
(1963).





The Golden Ratio

1.61803399

The Golden Ratio is a set of proportions that occur naturally in nature.



DNA

DNA, which stands for deoxyribonucleic acid, is a molecule that carries the genetic information that makes up and links all organisms on the planet.

Crick and Watson were the two scientists credited for the discovery of the DNA molecule.

Physics

Type of science that seeks to understand how the universe behaves.

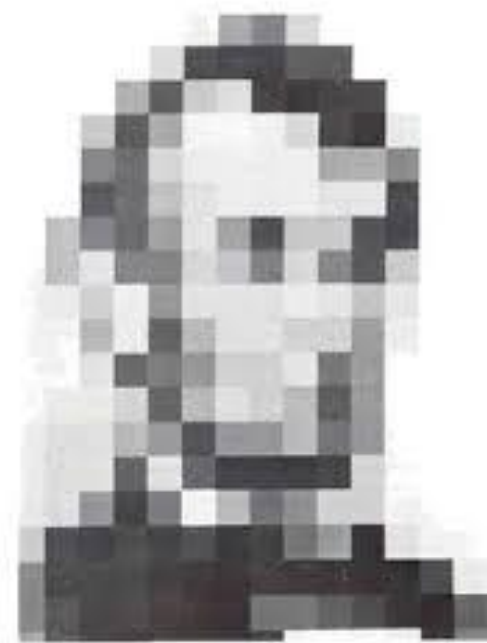
Dalí was inspired by principals of physics in many of his later paintings.



Pixels

One of many from which an image is composed.

We use pixels often in digital images we seen on screens.



Sputnik

The first satellite launched by the Russians into space in 1957 to orbit the Earth.

Also the name of a type of sea urchin Dalí painted in *Discovery of America*.





Conscious and Unconscious

We are in a conscious state when we are fully aware of the world around us.

We are in a unconscious state when we are not fully aware of the world around us and have a sense of awareness about our dreams, feelings, and emotions.

Sigmund Freud studied human consciousness and unconsciousness. His work was very influential to Dalí and the Surrealists.

Other Terms

Bust: a sculpture of the head and shoulders of a person.

Disintegration: a process of an object decaying or breaking into multiple pieces.

Dislocation: taking an object from its usual environment and placing it in an unfamiliar one.

Dreams: the mental images and emotions we experience while sleeping.

Dreamlike Imagery: images that resemble those found in a dream.

Other Terms

Free Form Shapes: irregular or organic shapes that look like forms found in nature.

Metamorphosis: a change in appearance, character, or condition.

Metaphor: a phrase or symbol being used to represent something else.

Paranoiac-Critical Method: Dalí's term to describe the process of creating surreal double-images.

Unity: a sense of harmony or balance in the composition or an artwork.

Other Terms

Rational: thoughts based on reason and facts rather than emotion.

Realistic: the way an object appears in real life.

Silhouette: the outline of a shape that is then filled in with a solid color.

Subconscious: the part of the mind we are not fully aware of
but influences our actions and feelings.

Wean: to gradually remove something from your life.

who is the man behind the mustache?

Timeline of the Life of Salvador Dalí

1904 Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dalí Domènech is born on May 11 in Figueres, Spain a small town in the northeast principality of Catalonia. Approximately nine months prior to his birth, his older brother, also named Salvador, died at the age of twenty-two months, an event which figures prominently in some of his later work. Dalí also had a younger sister, Ana Maria, whom he painted frequently early in his career.

1908 Dalí spends his childhood summers in the seaside village of Cadaqués, also in his beloved Catalonia. In 1912, he paints what are believed to have been his first paintings: a series of tiny undated landscapes of the region.

1910 Dalí attends various schools, including the Figueres Instituto, the Marist Brother's School, and the Municipal Drawing School.

1921 His mother dies of cancer.

1922 Dalí exhibits for the first time in Barcelona. He begins schooling at the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid.

1924 Dalí reads Sigmund Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*, now translated in Spanish; it will have a profound impact on his life and work.

1925 The Dalmau Gallery, one of the most important galleries in Barcelona, gives Dalí his first one-man show.

1926 Dalí meets both Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró, Spanish artists Dalí greatly admired. In May he is permanently expelled from the San Fernando Academy for refusing to complete his end-of-year oral examination.

1929 Dalí co-creates the film "Un Chien Andalou" ("An Andalusian Dog") with friend and Surrealist filmmaker Luis Buñuel. Shortly thereafter, he meets and becomes infatuated with Gala, wife of Surrealist poet Paul Éluard; she is ten years older than Dalí. In November, he joins the Surrealist group.

1930 Dalí again co-creates a film, "L'Age d'or" ("The Golden Age"), with Buñuel.

1931 Dalí paints his most famous work, *The Persistence of Memory*.

1934 Dalí marries Gala in a civil ceremony. Dalí clashes with the Surrealists over ideology and is almost thrown out of group.

1936 Dalí gives a lecture in a diving suit at the International Surrealist Exhibition in London. Appears on cover of *Time Magazine*.

1938 Dalí permanently expelled from Surrealist group. Visits Sigmund Freud in London.

1940 Dalí and Gala flee to the United States from a war-torn Europe where he remains for 8 years.

1941 Dalí has first retrospective at Museum of Modern Art, New York.

1942 Publishes semi-false autobiography, *The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí*.

1945 Works with Alfred Hitchcock on dream sequence for movie *Spellbound*.

1946 Works with Walt Disney on short film "Destino."

1943 Reynolds and Eleanor Morse buy their first Dalí painting and thus become his patrons. Their collection of Dalí's work is now owned by the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg.

1950 Dalí's father dies as a result of cancer. Dalí begins calling himself a "Nuclear Mystical" painter, mixing religion, math, science and Catalan culture.

1958 Dalí and Gala renew their wedding vows in a religious ceremony.

1965 Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art presents a major retrospective exhibition of Dalí's work.

1971 The Morses open their Salvador Dalí Museum in Beachwood, Ohio.

1974 Dalí's own museum, the Teatro-Museo Dalí, opens in Figueres, Spain.

1982 The Morses' Dalí Museum relocates to St. Petersburg, Florida. On June 10, Dalí's beloved Gala dies. Her death has a profound effect on him, weakening his physical strength, and he spends the remainder of his life in seclusion. Then, King Juan Carlos of Spain bestows upon him the title of Marquis of Pubol.

1983 Dalí completes his last painting, *The Swallow's Tail*.

1989 Salvador Dalí dies of heart failure on January 23 at the age of 84. He is buried under the geodesic dome of his Teatro-Museo Dalí.

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.



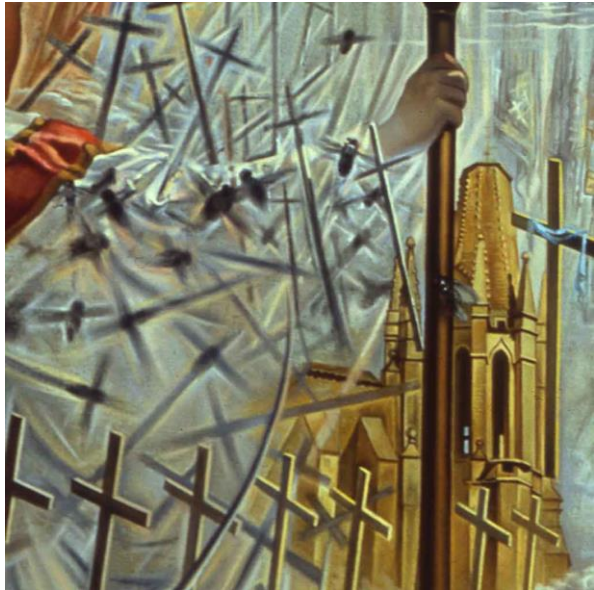
eggs

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

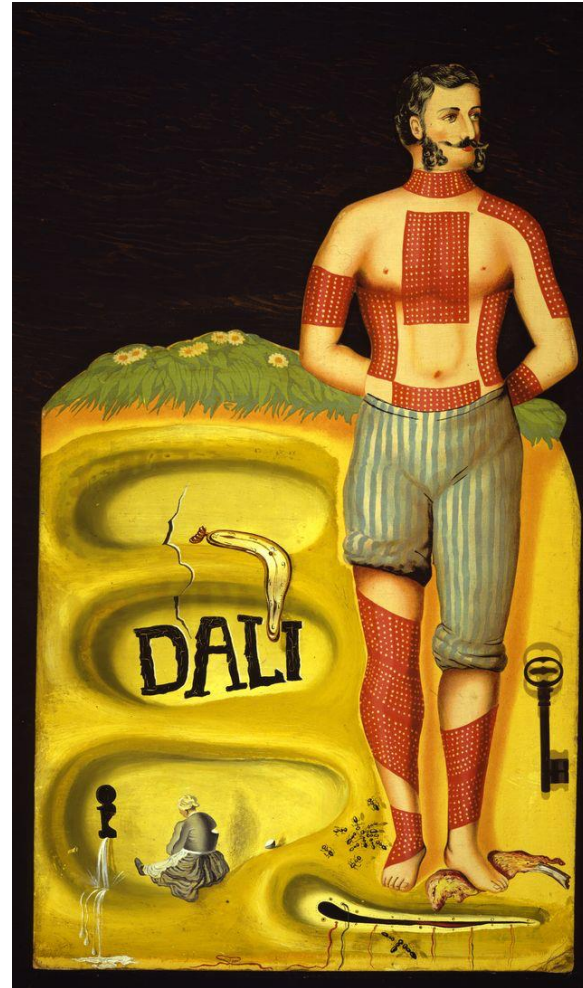
Grasshoppers represent fear and horror because Dalí was afraid of grasshoppers.



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 Dali’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.

