

THE Salvador Dalí COLLECTORS JOURNAL[®]

FOR THE DALÍ AFICIONADO AND SERIOUS COLLECTOR

* * * Now In Our 28th Year * * *

Vatican Art Collection Includes Dalí

Travel Notes & Photos by E. J. Campfield & Linda Bost Campfield

We had heard that the Vatican's modern religious art collection included a handful of Dalí originals. So we sneaked away from our tour group amid the mindless cattle crowds clustered under the Sistine Chapel ceiling (which in our quick assessment we found cartoonish, trite, and much over-rated) to spend quality time in search of something more satisfyingly Surrealistic.

To our delight, we discovered three delectable little Dalís!



Crocifisso was a 1954 study for his *Corpus Hypercubicus*, a large oil on canvas residing now at the Met in New York. *Soft Monster in Angelic Landscape* is rife with Dalí symbols of impotence and castration. Oddly, this 1977 work was gifted to the Vatican by King Juan Carlos I in 1980. Is it possible they're clueless as to its meanings?



Crocifisso or Christ Crucified - 1954



Soft Monster in Angelic Landscape - 1977



L'Annuncio or The Announcement - 1960

The work we enjoyed most however was *L'Annuncio*, a 1960 preparatory study for *The Ecumenical Council*, one of the towering masterpieces displayed at the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla. This study focuses on the upper part of the final work, including iconic references to Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment* -- the overwrought fresco we'd just seen sprawled across the entire altar wall of the Sistine Chapel.

We much prefer the Dalí interpretation. 

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are clickable and will open the
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Dalí & Gala welcome "Big Baby."

Dalí's Surreal Gift for Air India

Excerpted from *The Tribune (India)*, 8/5/2017 by Capt. M.S. Kohli

Air India Regional Director Nari Dastur had approached Salvador Dalí to design a special piece of art for the airline. Nari wanted to know the cost, and Dalí asked for *a live baby elephant from India!* Air India flew a two-year-old elephant and its keeper from Bangalore to Geneva. The elephant, nick-named "Big Baby," was trucked to Cadaqués, and amid a wild holiday declared there by the mayor, was presented to Dalí, who took it home. The elephant was paraded before thousands who arrived from neighbouring towns for the fun, festivity and music that lasted three days and nights. Dalí eventually gave the elephant to the Barcelona Zoo.

Keeping his promise to Air India, Dalí created a unique piece of art, a "double image" -- probably the most-unusual ashtray in the world. It was composed of a shell-shaped centre, with a serpent twined around its perimeter and supported by two surrealist headstands of an elephant on one side and a swan on the other.

Dalí explained to Nari: "The reflection of the elephant appears to be a swan, and the reflection of the swan appears to be an elephant. This is what I have done for Air India. Thus the swan upside down becomes an elephant's head inverted, and elephant inverted becomes a swan."



Read the complete unabridged story at this web link: <http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/dali-s-surreal-gift-for-the-maharaja/447221.html>

Dalí Apprentice Artist Opens at Figueres Museum

Recently acquired for \$2.1-million at Bonhams London, the 1925 *Figure in Profile*, depicting Dalí's sister Anna Maria, is the centerpiece of a new exhibit. *Salvador Dalí, Apprentice Painter* runs through December 2018 at the Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres, Spain.

Figure in Profile was painted when Dalí was 21 years old. It forms part of a series of portraits the artist made of his sister during the 1920s at the family's home in Es Llaner, Cadaqués. Last publicly exhibited at Barcelona's Dalmau Art Gallery in 1925, when the artist was still a complete unknown, it was purchased by family friend and local pharmacist Joaquim Cusí for 500 pesetas -- or about 3 Euros.

For more than nine decades, it passed from one private collector to another. It was not exhibited again until it was auctioned in London at Bonhams this past March. The only record of the painting until then existed as a black & white reproduction of it published in the magazine *Atlántico* in 1929.

"*Figure in Profile* is a great revelation, as it shows Dalí as an apprentice painter, soaking up both tradition and complete experimentation to depict his sister, Anna Maria in the centre of the scene, with Cadaqués in the background," reflected exhibit curator Montse Aguer, director of the Dalí Museums.

The exhibit includes four additional early Dalí canvases. Two of them, also inspired by Dalí's sister, are titled *Portrait of My Sister* and *Figure Seen from the Back*. A Cubist still life titled *Siphon with Small Bottle of Rum* and *Portrait of Ramoneta Montsalvatge* round out the show.



Download the full color PDF booklet of the exhibition: <https://exhibitions.salvador-dali.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/fulletAprenentENG.pdf>

"Progressive art can assist people to learn not only about the objective forces at work in the society in which they live, but also about the intensely social character of their interior lives."

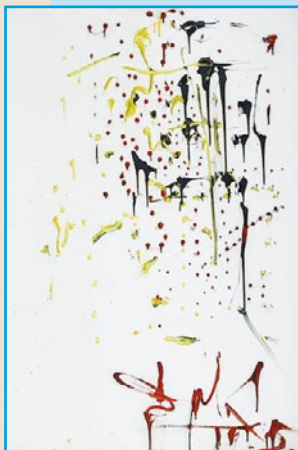


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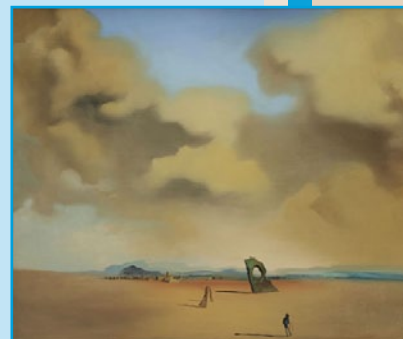
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AUCTION NEWS



Spectre du Soir sur la Plage (top right)
Oil on canvas, 1935
Estimated: \$6,000,000 - \$8,000,000
Sold: \$6,802,000 at Sotheby's, New York
November 14, 2017



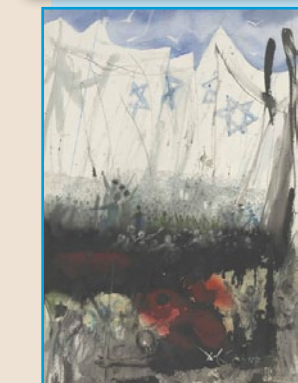
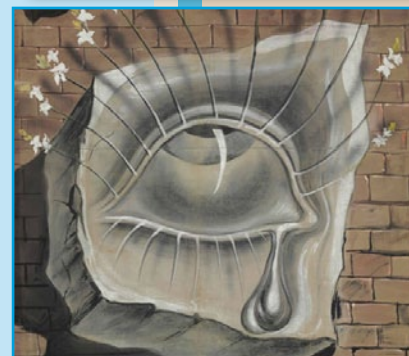
Portrait of Raquel Welch (top left)
Oil & graphite on canvas, 1965
Estimated: \$20,000 - \$30,000
Sold: \$57,500 at Bonhams, New York
November 21, 2017



Danseur (Personnage Fantastique) (2nd left)
Watercolor, ballpoint, brush, ink, collage on board, 1956
Estimated: \$150,000 - \$200,000
Sold: \$200,000 at Sotheby's, New York
November 15, 2017



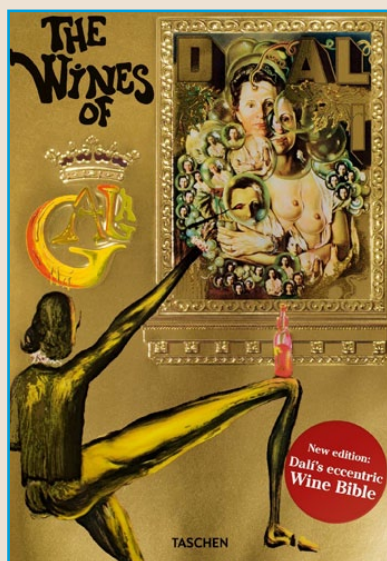
Le Sommeil (2nd right)
Collage with gouache on photographic base on paper, 1955
Estimated: \$29,500 - \$41,250
Sold: \$51,500 at Sotheby's, Paris
October 21, 2017



La Victoire (3rd left)
Oil, gouache, watercolor, ink, brush & wash on card 1967
Estimated: \$80,000 - \$120,000
Sold: \$118,750 at Christie's, New York
November 14, 2017

L'oeil Fleuri (Pour Tristan Fou) (3rd right)
Oil & tempera on canvas, 1944
Estimated: \$150,000 - \$250,000
Sold: \$225,000 at Christie's, New York
November 14, 2017

TASCHEN Holiday Reprint: *The Wines of Gala*



TASCHEN's 2016 reprint of the highly collectible *Les Diners de Gala* became a best-selling coffee table gift book last holiday season. On the heels of that success, their recent 2017 reprint of its companion volume, *The Wines of Gala*, is already a winner of the 2018 Gourmand World Cookbook Awards and is well on the way to matching its predecessor's popularity.

Originally published in 1977, the new book reportedly features more than 140 illustrations, including 124 in full color. Among them are numerous reproductions of Dalí paintings and drawings, several of which he created specifically for inclusion in the book. *Goodreads.com* notes: "Large color reproductions of specific grapes and pictures of wine paraphernalia, such as bottles and labels, add an informative counterpoint to Dalí's surrealistic visions."

More details at this Amazon book link:

https://www.amazon.com/Dal%C3%AD-Wines-Gala-TASCHEN/dp/3836567725/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1514575900&sr=8-1&keywords=wines+of+gala

"Drawing is the honesty of the art. There is no possibility of cheating. It is either good or bad."



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The Prison Guards Who Stole a Dalí Painting

Excerpted from *TheDailyBeast.com*, 10/1/2017 by Allison McNearney



1965 - Dali's representative presents Christ on the Cross to a Rikers Island corrections commissioner.

In one hour and 15 minutes, Dalí painted a 4' x 5' surrealist crucifixion scene. He signed it, adding a note: "For the inmates dining room on Rikers Island." For 16 years, the 1965 painting hung in the cafeteria where it could be enjoyed by the prison's occupants. Over time, its origins were forgotten.

Years later, appraised as a genuine Dalí worth \$250,000, it went on a short tour of the U.S. before being stored for several years. Eventually, it was displayed at Rikers again, on the wall of a lobby used by prison employees, secured in a locked glass case in direct view of the guards as they came and went on their daily shifts.

Until March 2003 when four guards hatched a plan to steal it....

Dispatching his accomplices as lookouts, the ringleader swapped out the real Dalí for a fake. It was notably smaller than the original and a poor reproduction. The whole plan was amateurish at best. The very next day, several guards reported that there was something wrong with the Dalí.

"It looks like the painting has been replaced by a copy. That appears to be the case based on a consensus of nonexpert opinion, people who work near the painting and see it day in and day out," a spokesman for the Department of Corrections told *The New York Times*. An investigation quickly concluded that the only people who had access to the work were the guards. With their pool of suspects narrowed down, the four guards were soon uncovered. All four were charged with second degree grand larceny, but in a strange turn of events, the ringleader of the operation was acquitted in a jury trial and served no jail time.

The real Dalí painting has never been seen again. One of the accomplices claims that it never will be. He said their leader got nervous and destroyed the piece.

Read the complete unabridged story at this web link: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-prison-guards-who-stole-a-salvador-dali-painting>

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS



The Salvador Dalí Museum

One Dalí Blvd., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dali & Schiaparelli -- Through January 14, 2018

Presented in collaboration with Schiaparelli Paris, dedicated to the creative relationship and works of Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dalí. Featuring haute couture gowns and accessories, jewelry, paintings, drawings, objects and photos. Telephone (727) 823-3767 or for complete information online visit <http://thedali.org/exhibit/dali-and-schiaparelli>

Dali / Duchamp -- February 10 - May 27, 2018

Examines the relationship between Dalí and the father of conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp. Around 60 works, including some of Dalí's most inspired and technically accomplished paintings and sculptures and Duchamp's ground-breaking assemblages and ready-mades. Telephone (727) 823-3767 or for complete information online visit <http://thedali.org/exhibit/daliduchamp>

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