

THE Salvador Dali

COLLECTORS BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL ©

FOR THE DALI AFICIONADO AND SERIOUS COLLECTOR

*** Now In Our 22nd Year ***

Dali Museum Masterworks Cleaned

Excerpted from *The Tampa Bay Times*, by Lennie Bennet, 6/12/2012

From our breath to dirt particles on our clothes, everything about us contributes to art's slow deterioration. The dilemma for museums: how to protect precious artwork while making it accessible to vast numbers of people.

Conservationist Rustin Levenson is one of the human stopgaps who makes both possible. She usually works in a private lab, but recently, patrons had the rare opportunity to see her clean and repair inch by inch four of the largest and most popular paintings at the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The four Dali masterworks deemed most in need of help: *The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus* (1958-59); *The Ecumenical Council* (1960); *Galacidalalacidesoxiribunucleicacid - Homage to Crick and Watson* (1963) and *The Hallucinogenic Toreador* (1969-70). The monumentally sized works, which measure at least 10 feet in height and length, were moved from their regular home in the permanent gallery and propped against walls in the Hough Family Gallery.

During the conservation project, titled "Stripped Bare & Bathed: the Preservation of Dalí Masterworks," visitors were able to watch during museum hours, and Levenson and her colleagues answered questions daily at 3 p.m.

"There is a mystery to conservation," says Hank Hine, director of the museum, "the chemicals, the arcane technology. But most of it is very hands-on, and we wanted to demystify and dramatize the technique."

On the first day of the project, Levenson and eight other conservators started with two of the paintings, *Discovery of America* and *Ecumenical Council*. Levenson said *Council* would take



The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus

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Masterworks Cleaned (Cont'd from page 1)

the most time. Looking at the sides where the canvas was nailed to its wood frame, she said, "It looks like someone used a machine gun." It had been restretched several times before it came into the Dalí's collection, meaning the canvas was removed from its wood frame and reattached. The fabric was riddled with uneven holes from old nails.

Also in the course of restretching, the canvas was not put on straight, so thin lines of unpainted canvas were visible on two sides. For an unknown reason, Dalí used "flimsier fabric" for the painting, and that also contributed to the canvas' fraying. And now, well past 40, the painting was in great need of cleaning.




To view a video of the cleaning and restoration work, **CLICK** the link below or copy/paste it into your web browser:
<http://bcove.me/ynbqs075>

Levenson and her team began by testing a gentle, water-based solution on a tiny bit of every color on the canvas to make sure it removed only dirt, never paint. The cotton tips were taped to a sheet of paper to compare shades of grime. Then the painting was gridded into sections with hanging strings. Worker went inch by inch, slowly swabbing sections.

The painting had a small hole in the canvas, incurred during its journey to or from Australia for a special exhibition. It needed retouching. If paint is applied to any work it is used according to the universal conservation dictum: Do nothing that can't be undone. In the case of these paintings, which have a protective varnish, the retouching paint goes on over that varnish and can easily be taken off in the future.

It's a laborious process. Levenson spent several weeks evaluating the paintings and writing damage reports. It took her two weeks to figure out and mix the right chemical solutions for each painting.

"It's more complicated than it looks," Levenson says. "It's part art history, part science. No one should ever try to clean art at home. The worst damage I have seen was by untrained restorers."

Levenson has worked at Harvard University's Fogg Museum, the National Gallery of Canada and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Now she has her own company with studios in New York and Miami and a client list filled with museums and private collectors. 

"The thermometer of success is merely the jealousy of the malcontents."



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Stolen Dali Artwork Returned by Mail

Excerpted from *The New York Times*, by James Barron, 6/29/2012

The Salvador Dalí Gallery's resident Sherlock thinks this Dali art theft caper reeks of elaborate publicity stunt. What do you think? --SDCBJ Editor

The way it was stolen was unusual. So was the way it was returned. A \$150,000 drawing by the Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí that was stolen from a Manhattan gallery was sent back to New York from Europe by Express Mail, the U. S. Postal Inspection Service said.

Postal inspectors intercepted it at Kennedy International Airport before it was sorted for delivery, said Donna Harris, spokeswoman for the inspection service.

The 11-by-14-inch drawing, *Cartel de Don Juan Tenorio*, was taken from the month-old gallery Venus Over Manhattan on June 19 by a thief in a checkered shirt who strolled in with a shopping bag and strolled out with the Dalí. He apparently simply lifted it off the wall of the gallery, at 980 Madison Ave. near East 77th Street.



Cartel de Don Juan Tenorio

It had been hanging alongside more than a dozen other works in the gallery's first exhibition, "A Rebours." Also in the exhibition were a portrait of the American Indian activist Russell Means by Andy Warhol and a painting called *I Left My Heart at Wounded Knee* by Llyn Ffolkes, both from the 1970s, and older works like *Des Esseintes* by the French painter Odilon Redon (1888) and *Fairy Mab* by Swiss-born British artist Henry Fuseli (1793).

The police released surveillance images last week showing the thief in the checkered shirt. "There was a security guard standing right there," the gallery's owner, Adam Lindemann, said at the time, "so how you don't see a young, sweaty guy with a shopping bag I don't understand." He also wondered, "What do you do with a stolen drawing by Dalí?"

Ms. Harris said that the answer to that question apparently turned out to be, not much. Typically, she said, art thieves cannot sell stolen paintings "because they're hot." She said there had been no arrests in the case.

She said the gallery received an e-mail earlier in the week that said the drawing, *Cartel de Don Juan Tenorio*, had been sent back. The e-mail included an Express Mail tracking number. She said the gallery had informed the police, and detectives had contacted the inspection service, which retrieved the package at the airport. ☺

IndyCar Driver Wears His Passion for Dali

Excerpted from *The Windsor Star*, 5/31/2012



If you watched the Detroit Chevrolet Belle Isle Grand Prix on Memorial Day weekend, you know that each of the drivers who competes in the IZOD IndyCar Series has distinctive paint schemes on their race cars.

But there's another way to tell them apart on race day -- their helmet design. And when it comes to those designs, none tell stories like the ones that protect the head of Oriol Servia, driver of the No. 22 Chevrolet for Dreyer & Reinbold Racing.

Servia pays homage to his hero on his helmet, but it's not who you would expect. The Spaniard is a huge fan of Surrealist painter and countryman Salvador Dalí (1904-89), and his helmet displays a depiction of Dalí's face. "It's kind of cool, because if you look at it while I'm in the race car, it's like he's hunched down in the car, peering over the side," Servia said.

He comes by his passion for Dali naturally and even toured the Dali Museum when the IndyCar Series raced in St. Petersburg, Fla. earlier this year. "I grew up 10 minutes from where Dali was born (in Figueres, Spain)," said Servia, who hails from nearby Catalonia.

"I have toured his house. I'm not a big art fan, but I am a fan of his art. You can look at it many times and always see something different."

Previous to carrying Dalí's likeness on his helmet, which is designed by Barcelona-based artist Alvaro Soler, Servia raced with a depiction of Dalí's melting timepieces on his headgear.

"In racing, we are always battling the clock for better lap times in qualifying, so it seemed like an appropriate choice," Servia explained. ☺



To view a video of Oriol Servia touring the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., **CLICK** the link below or copy/paste it into your web browser: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7QikFUEDRuU

"As for watches, they would have to be soft or not be at all!"



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Collector Notes...

Bruce—
 THE OWL THAT CALLS UPON
 THE NIGHT SPEAKS THE UNBELIEVER'S
 FRIGHT, AS WILLIAM BLAKE WROTE
 IN A POEM. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED
 SALVADOR DALI— AND OWLS—
 AND DALI'S BLUE OWL IS MY
 MEN FAVORITE.
 ACQUIRING FROM YOUR GALLERY
 WAS A "WISE" DECISION
 INDEED!
 THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP,
 Rebecca DeMunnyn



Dali Sculptures Dazzle Taiwan Exhibition



Photos from the spectacular Dali exhibit now going on in Taiwan. Read the complete details in the **EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS** section on page 8.



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Dali Graphic Novel Part of New Series

A new partnership between comic-book publisher Bluewater Productions and German artist Willi Bloess looks to fuse the old art world with the new in a series of biography comics featuring the lives and legacies of some of Western Civilizations most influential artists.

Starting in the fall, Bluewater will publish six 40-page Bloess-produced graphic novels which will include "homage biographies" for such luminary artists as Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Vincent Van Gogh, Keith Haring and Andy Warhol. The series is titled *The Milestones of Art*. The Salvador Dali title will be *Salvador Dali: The Paranoia-Method*.



"What makes these truly stand out is that the artist's life story is told in the style of that artist. Bloess has meticulously researched and painstakingly emulated the style of each artist featured. These books are gorgeous," said Bluewater president Darren Davis. The books will be available through national book channels and comic book stores as well as in NOOK & Kindle formats. 

New Salvador Dali Anthology Call for Entries

Obsolent.info is the creation of German-American filmmaker and producer David Joseph Clarke, who characterizes it as "a small press for a big world." They are pleased to announce a call for submissions for their latest anthology project titled *Dali-ances: The Salvador Dali Anthology*.

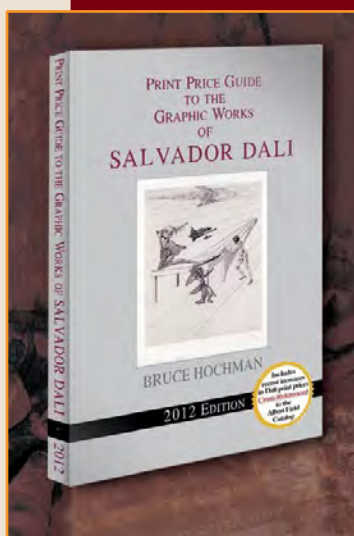
Dali-ances: The Salvador Dali Anthology will feature "ten to fifteen short fiction stories dealing with Salvador Dali and his artworks. We are looking for stories inspired by or involving the artist, his art, or his symbolisms that categorize him as one of the 20th century's most influential artists.

"All subgenres and forms of fantastic fiction, from horror and science fiction, steampunk and bizarro, fantasy and magic realism, are welcome. We are looking for short fiction stories -- between 1500-7500 words, though longer fiction will be considered -- which showcase Dali or his artwork as the central theme."

The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2012. 

For a thorough overview of what the anthology is looking for, including manuscript formatting, submission guidelines and pay rate, visit their website by **CLICKING** the link below, or copy/paste it into your web browser: <http://www.obsolent.info/submissions/daliances-the-salvador-dali-anthology/>

"When I was seven years old, my father decided to take me to school. He had to resort to force; with great effort he dragged me all the way by the hand."



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Dali: A Soft Self Portrait on YouTube, Narrated by Orson Welles

Originally produced for French television, this complete 52-min. portrait of Salvador Dali details the dreamlike inspiration behind many of his avant-garde creations. Set in Dali's hometown of Port Lligat, Spain, the artist himself takes the viewer on a tour of the creative process that is behind his remarkable body of work. Journey into the subconscious of one of the most influential artists of the 20th century and look at the world through Dali's eyes via this program that he both designed and performed. The documentary is directed by Jean-Christopher Averty, with narration by Orson Welles. ☺

CLICK link below to view the video on *YouTube* or copy/paste it into your browser:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOQ1UgDg5OU&feature=player_detailpage

Dali and Freud in *Hysteria*

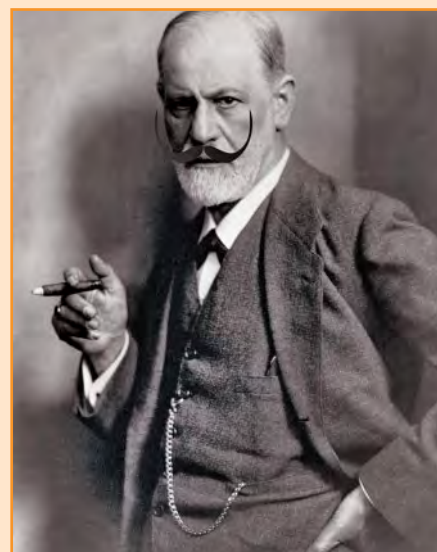
Excerpted from *Playbill.com*, by Mark Shenton, 5/21/2012

The Theatre Royal Bath in the spa city in South West England will produce Terry Johnson's play *Hysteria*, with the author himself directing. The cast will include Antony Sher, Will Keen, Indira Varma and David Horovitch. Performances to run July 26 through August 18.

Set in 1939, *Hysteria*'s 82-year-old Sigmund Freud has fled Nazi-occupied Austria and settles down in a quiet Hampstead suburb where he aims to spend his dying days in peace. But when surrealist painter Salvador Dali unexpectedly turns up in his study, along with a young woman who finds it impossible to keep her clothes on, all hell breaks loose.

This dazzling comedy is part broad farce, part case-history and brings together two of the world's greatest and most eccentric minds. *Hysteria* won the 1994 Evening Standard award for best comedy and the 1994 Writers' Guild award for the best play in the West End.

CLICK <http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk/page/3028/Hysteria/289> or copy/paste into your browser for details and tickets, or telephone the Box Office: 01225 448844. Theatre Royal Bath, Sawclose, Bath BA1 1ET ☺



"Continuing to stare at me with a fixity in which his whole being seemed to converge, Freud exclaimed, 'I have never seen a more complete example of a Spaniard. What a fanatic!'"



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You might not have noticed this, but...

...Salvador Dali made an extremely brief cameo appearance in a train station crowd scene in Martin Scorsese's AFI and multiple Academy Award winning film *Hugo* last year.

In a role credited to Ben Addis, the moustachioed surrealist can be glimpsed seated next to James Joyce, portrayed by actor Robert Gill. ☺



AUCTION NEWS



Paysage de Port Lligat, avant la Tempete (pictured top left)

Oil on canvas

Signed, 1956

Estimated: \$1,765,000-2,613,000

Sold: \$2,543,200 at Sotheby's Paris, May 30, 2012



Etude de nu (pictured 2nd left)

Pen and red ink with crayon on paper

Signed, 1950

Estimated: \$12,950-\$19,450

Sold: \$24,295 at Christie's London, June 22, 2012

Space Elephant (pictured top right)

Watercolor, ink, pencil & acrylic on paper

Signed, 1966

Estimated: \$49,000-\$80,990

Sold: \$83,660 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012

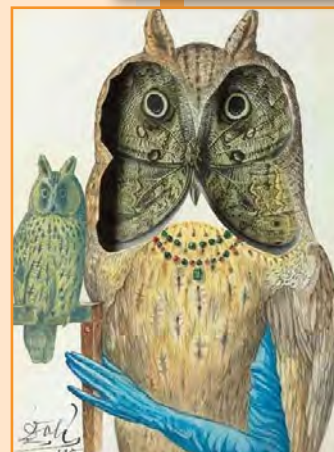
Trompe l'Oeil (pictured 2nd right)

Watercolor & collage on paper

Signed, 1950

Estimated: \$80,990-\$129,580

Sold: \$244,980 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012



Portrait de Sara Maria Larrabure (pictured 3rd left)

Oil on canvas

Signed, 1963

Estimated: \$324,000-\$486,000

Sold: \$507,370 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012

Ulysse et Telemaque

Watercolor & gouache on paper

Signed, 1969

Estimated: \$97,200-\$129,600

Sold: \$196,400 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012



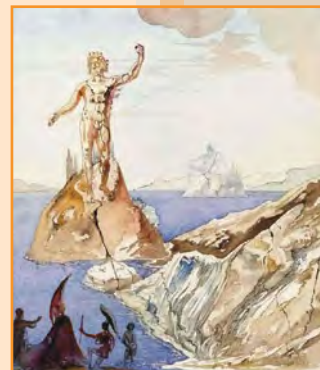
Agamemnon et Clytemnestre (pictured bottom right)

Watercolor & ink on paper

Signed, 1968

Estimated: \$129,600-\$194,400

Sold: \$254,700 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012



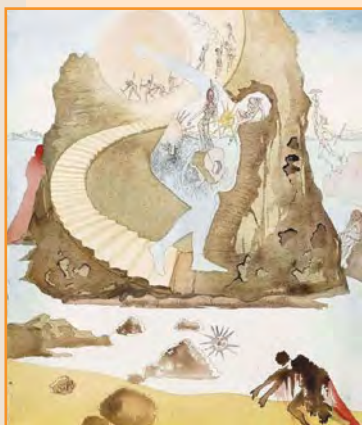
Le Conseil des Dieux (pictured bottom left)

Watercolor & pencil on paper

Signed

Estimated: \$162,000-\$243,000

Sold: \$313,000 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012



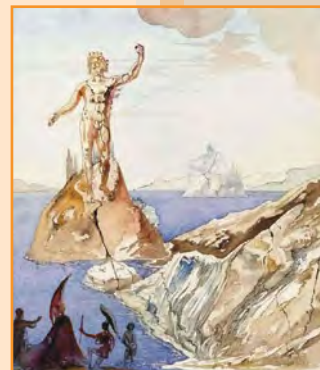
Télémaque part à Pilo (pictured 3rd right)

Watercolor & ink on paper

Signed, 1970

Estimated: \$113,400-\$162,000

Sold: \$245,000 at Christie's London, June 21, 2012



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EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS



Christ Church Picture Gallery

St. Aldates, Entrance via Oriel Square, Oxford, UK, OX1 1DP

Salvador Dalí Illustrates Alice in Wonderland -- Through October 22, 2012

Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is probably the best-known piece of literary nonsense ever written and Salvador Dalí is probably the best-known surrealist artist. It is not surprising, therefore, that Dalí set out to illustrate Carroll's book. Christ Church library holds one of the editions of the thirteen Dalí prints. They are on show at Christ Church Picture Gallery to commemorate 150 years since Charles Dodgson (alias Lewis Carroll) first invented and told the Alice story. Information online CLICK <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery/visiting> or phone 0 1865 276172.



National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall

21, Zhongshan S. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., Taipei City 10048, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Salvador Dalí -- Through September 30, 2012

The exhibition features approximately 100 large sculptures, oil paintings, illustrations, furniture, gold ornaments and colored glasses made by Dalí, showing the artist's diverse and rich creative life. While the last Dalí exhibition in Taipei (2001) featured mostly paintings, this exhibition focuses more on sculptures so that attendees get a more comprehensive view of Dalí's works. Highlights include the bronze sculpture *Woman Aflame*, a woman in flames decorated with drawers on her body, the statue *Space Venus* that portrays a female body with an egg that divides her torso into two and the sculpture *Profile of Time* that shows a clock melting over a tree. The exhibited items are provided by Switzerland's Stratton Foundation. (See related picture story on Page 4, this issue of the SDCBJ.) Information online CLICK <http://www.cksmh.gov.tw/eng/index.php> or phone 886-2-2343-1100.



Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48202

Five Spanish Masterpieces -- Through August 19, 2012

Melancholy Woman by Pablo Picasso returns to the Detroit Institute of Arts this summer, after being on loan to several museums over the past two years, and it brings with it four other masterworks by Spanish artists. DIA celebrates their Picasso's return with *Five Spanish Masterpieces*. The additional pieces on loan from other museums, joining the Picasso for the exhibit are: *Portrait of the Matador Pedro Romero* by Francisco de Goya (from Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Tex.); *The Holy Family with St. Anne and the Infant St. John the Baptist* by El Greco (from Museo del Prado, Madrid); *Soft Construction with Boiled Beans (Premonitions of Civil War)* by Salvador Dalí (from The Philadelphia Museum of Art); *Portrait of a Man* by Diego Velázquez (from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York). Information online CLICK <http://www.dia.org/calendar/exhibition.aspx?id=3195&iid=> or phone (313) 833-7900. ☺

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Toll free 800-ASK-DALÍ (800-275-3254). The Salvador Dalí Gallery, Inc. is a complete Dalí resource, exclusively offering Albert Field's *Official Catalog of the Graphic Works of Salvador Dalí*; Bruce Hochman's *Print Price Guide to the Graphic Works of Salvador Dalí*; authentic Dalí prints and originals, and this publication. Visit The Salvador Dalí Gallery's website: www.DaliGallery.com.