

THE **Salvador Dalí**

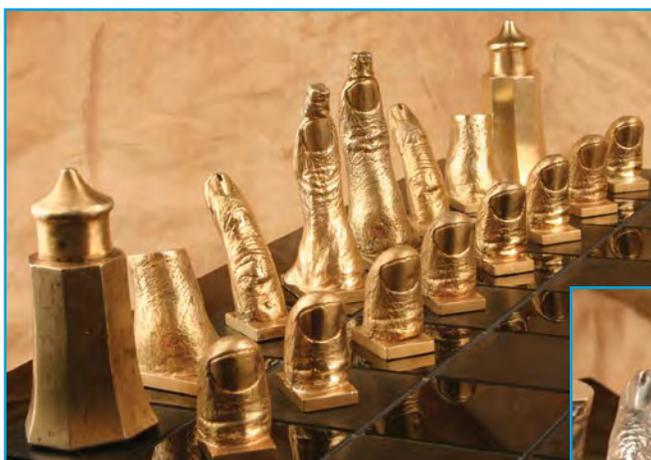
COLLECTORS BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL

FOR THE DALI AFICIONADO AND SERIOUS COLLECTOR

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

Dali Chess Set at Espace Dali, Paris

Rare Dali creation modeled on molds of Dali and Gala's thumbs and fingers...



A Salvador Dalí "Thumb" Chess Set, one of only 13 such sterling silver and 24-karat gold vermeil overlay sets, will soon become part of the exhibit at Espace Dalí Montmartre in Paris, France.



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Dali designed the set in honor of artist and chess expert Marcel Duchamp. Its 3.75" tall kings are castings of Dalí's thumb, topped by a dental crown -- a Dalí play on words -- cast from a Dalí childhood tooth which he kept when it came out. The queens are Gala's thumb, crowned with the tooth.

The rooks are the salt shakers from the St. Regis Hotel, topped by a mold of Dalí's nipple. The knights and pawns are segments of Dalí's thumb. And the bishops are Dalí's little finger.

Only 13 of the numbered sets were made, each piece struck beneath with the set number and a Dalí signature. Philadelphia jeweller F. J. Cooper made the sets, sold to raise money in Duchamp's name for the American Chess Foundation. 



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All web links in this PDF issue are clickable and will open the sites in a browser window.

Dali Chess Set Honored Marcel Duchamp

Excerpted from *ChessQuest* by Lawrence Totaro



Detail from *Two Pieces of Bread, Expressing the Sentiment of Love* (1940)

Consider the Dali painting, *Two Pieces of Bread, Expressing the Sentiment of Love* (1940). This beautiful still life, depicting three slices of bread, a few crumbs, and a chess pawn, is a remarkable example of the way in which Dali succeeds in adding an epic dimension to the most ordinary of everyday things.

This picture was painted in Arcachon in the spring of 1940. Dali has said about the “intervention, from an anecdotal point of view,” of Marcel Duchamp in this oil:

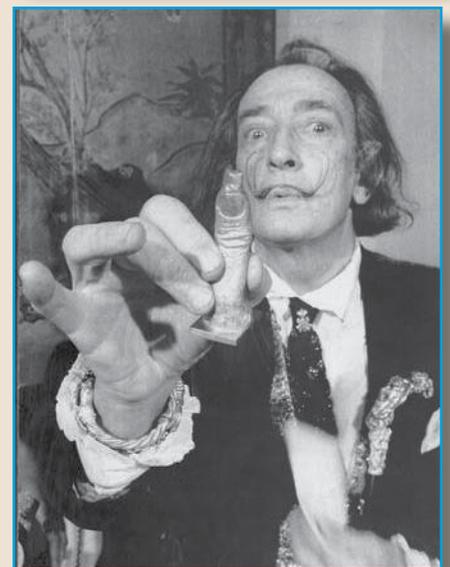
“Gala and I used to play chess every afternoon, at the same time that I was in the process of painting the slices of bread. I was trying to make the surface on which the rough crumbs of bread were placed very smooth. Often there were things scattered about on the floor for instance, the pawns.

“One day, instead of putting them all back in the box, one of the pawns remained placed in the middle of the model of my still life. Afterwards we had to find another chess set in order to continue our games, because I was using this one and would not allow anyone to remove it.”

Thirty years later, Dali set out to create a most exquisite chess set, entirely molded from fingers. The result was a very unique solid sterling silver chess set, created by Salvador Dali and using over 148 ounces of sterling silver. The pieces are cast from Dali’s fingers.



Dali created the set in honor of his late friend, Marcel Duchamp. Philadelphia jeweller F. J. Cooper was commissioned to produce a limited number of sets. There are 32 pieces in all, 16 of the pieces are sterling with a 24 karat gold vermeil overlay. Each piece is signed by Dali and each set is numbered. Only 13 sets exist -- Dali owned set number 1. Both the King and Queen (the King is Dali’s thumb, the Queen is Madam Dali’s thumb) wear a tooth as a crown.



From a vintage news clipping of Dali touting his thumb chess set

F. J. Cooper, in a moment of unrestrained curiosity, asked Dali why a tooth? Dali fielded the question brilliantly and asked Mr. Cooper why not a tooth. As the reason why Dali created a set using his own fingers, he said, “I had a precise and yet symbolic concept, in chess, as in other forms of human alchemy, there is always the creator, above all, the artist as the creator. It is this that I wanted represented, the hand of the artist, the eternal creator. How better to express this vision than by sculpting my own fingers?”

Other pieces are his pinky finger, the pawns are his thumbs and the tops of the castles are Salvador Dali’s nipples. 

“I do not paint a portrait to look like the subject. Rather does the subject grow to look like his portrait.”



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Salvador Dali's Favorite Supermodel

Excerpted from *The Huffington Post*, 12/5/2011
by Ben Arogundade

Supermodel Kate Moss has been the muse of artists Lucien Freud and Mark Quinn, in a tradition stretching back to the earliest models of the late nineteenth century. The association is an obvious one. The world's great beauties synergising with those obsessed with image.

Perhaps the most striking of these associations was the renowned surrealist painter Salvador Dali's meeting with seminal African-American supermodel, Donyale Luna, at his hideaway in the Spanish fishing village of Cadaqués, Catalonia in 1966.



Discovered by Richard Avedon barely a year earlier, Luna was the first African-American model to hit the big time. Hers was the first non-white face to appear on the covers of *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar*. She worked with Diana Vreeland, Helmut Newton and David Bailey, and appeared in the films of Andy Warhol and Federico Fellini.

Luna's rendezvous with Dali was surely fated, as she was considered to be just as much of an oddball as he. She was a misfit, known both for her aesthetic unconventionality and for the weirdness of her personality.

"She was a kind of a kook," said Roland Sharette, who coached her in acting at Detroit's Civic Center Theater. "She used to walk around barefoot all the time, even down the street."

Fashion designers were quick to latch onto Luna's strangeness. She modeled for the most adventurous designers of the day, including André Courrèges, Yves Saint Laurent, Rudi Gernrich, Mary Quant and Paco Rabanne.



Donyale Luna was the first African-American supermodel. Hers was the first non-white face to appear on the covers of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar.

Her much publicised meeting with Salvador Dali was recorded by photographer William Claxton, who captured the pair in a two-day photo-shoot.

Luna posed in a bikini in the lake outside Dali's home, which had a grand piano in the water, which she pretended to play with her feet. Later, Dali art directed her as she appeared on a hill dressed in one of Paco Rabanne's famously avant-garde aluminium and plastic dresses. Then inside the house, Luna put on a plain white full-length dress, while Dali scribed an original drawing along her back and bottom.

The collaboration was not a one-off, and the pair worked together again in 1970, this time in a documentary on Salvador Dali, narrated by Orson Welles for French television.

Alas, no artwork was produced from the Dali-Luna collaboration, other than the photographs -- Luna's avant-garde beauty did not make it into any of Dali's surreal paintings. 

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



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Destino: Dalí and Disney Collaboration

Excerpted from *The Atlantic*, 11/27/2011, by Maria Popova

Last week, I discovered Salvador Dalí's lovely, little-known 1969 *Alice in Wonderland* illustrations (<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2011/11/15/salvador-dali-alice-in-wonderland-1969/>). I followed the rabbit hole to another confluence of creative culture titans.

In 1945, Dalí and Walt Disney embarked upon a formidable collaboration -- to create a six-minute sequence combining animation with live dancers, in the process inventing a new animation technique inspired by Freud's work on the unconscious mind and the hidden images with double meaning.

The resulting short film, titled *Destino*, tells the tragic love story of Chronos, the personification of time, who falls in love with a mortal woman as the two float across the surrealist landscapes of Dalí's paintings.



The poetic, wordless animation features a score by Mexican composer Armando Dominguez performed by Dora Luz.

As fascinating as the film itself is the juxtaposition of the two creative geniuses behind it is mesmerizing.

Each bringing his own life-lens to the project. Dalí described the film as "a magical display of the problem of life in the labyrinth of time" and Disney called it "a simple story about a young girl in search of true love."

The project remained a secret and didn't see the light of day until a half-century later.

In 1999, Walt Disney's nephew Roy E. Disney accidentally stumbled upon *Destino* while working on *Fantasia 2000*, eventually resurrecting the dormant gem.

In 2003, *Destino* was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film.

Destino is included as an extra feature on Disney's *Fantasia/Fantasia 2000 Two-Movie Collection Special Edition*.



"The secret of my influence has always been that it remained secret."



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Salvador Dali Day Trip to Figueres and the Costa Brava from Barcelona

Excerpted from *Lonely Planet*, Tours Arranged by Viator, Inc.

One of the most inclusive Salvador Dalí tours in Spain, this private day trip from Barcelona will introduce you to all things Dalí in Figueres, his birthplace, and the Costa Brava, where he spent much time. Spend the morning at the Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres and finish the day on his beloved Costa Brava, in either the town of Cadaqués (in winter) or Palamos (in summer). It's a complete surrealistic experience!

Depart Barcelona and set out for Figueres, the birthplace of Dalí and home to the world-famous Dalí Theatre-Museum. See where he was born on Monturiol Street and step inside his surreal world in the museum like none other. Dalí wanted visitors to see his massive collection as a 'whole' work, so he declined to use catalogues and refused to have his works placed in chronological or subject order. Inside the museum, you'll find a world of fantasy mixed with architecture, paintings and sculptures. From Figueres, your tour itinerary varies depending on season.



The Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres

September 16 - June 30 (Winter):

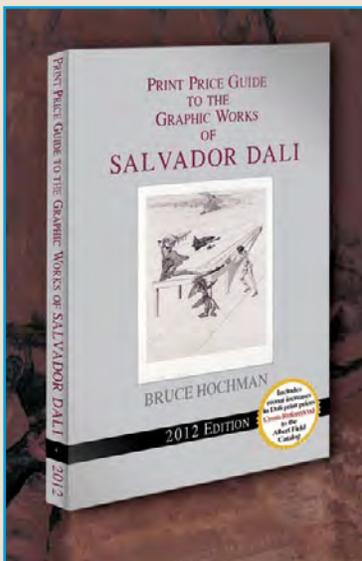
Head to the beautiful coastal village of Cadaqués. Famous for its white-washed Mediterranean houses, narrow shady streets and sandy bay, Cadaqués is one of the most picturesque villages on the Costa Brava. The dramatic drive there, which offers some of the best views in Catalonia, will be one of the most memorable highlights of your day trip. Enjoy your lunch in a local restaurant in Cadaqués (own expense). In the afternoon, travel just a few minutes up the coast to the even-smaller village of Port Lligat, the place where Dalí built a house and found the peace and quiet that truly inspired him. He lived here from 1930, and every detail of the house bears his imprint, still containing his original furniture and decoration. Then head to Cap de Creus, the most easterly point of mainland Spain and one of the most starkly beautiful coastal landscapes in the country.

July 1 – September 15 (Summer):

Go to another of Dalí's creations, Pubol Castle in the village of the same name. You'll have time to eat lunch on your own in Pubol before visiting the castle, which he gave to his wife in 1970. In midafternoon, your tour will continue to Palamos, a rare hidden spot still found on the Costa Brava. Dalí visited this area several times in the 1930s, and it's easy to see why, with its location on a beautiful bay.

To book these very affordable day tours, visit Viator's website at <http://www.viator.com/>

"It is good taste, and good taste alone, that possesses the power to sterilize and is always the first handicap to any creative functioning."



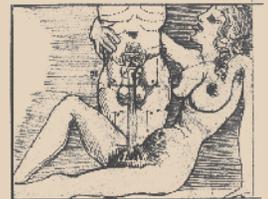
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Many of Dali's works feature food.
*Portrait of Gala with Two Lamb chops
 Balanced on Her Shoulder (1933).*

Dining with Salvador Dali

Excerpted from *WorthPoint*, 8/2/2011, by Liz Holderman

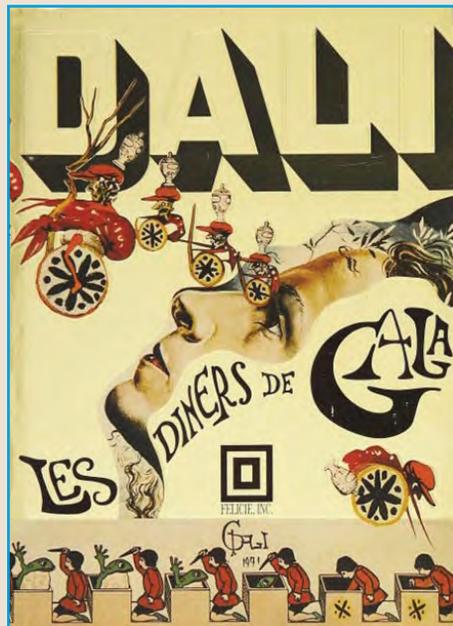
In his 1942 autobiography, Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali wrote, "At the age of six I wanted to be a cook. At seven I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily since." As he obviously believed at age 6, Dali was a lover of food.

His paintings and sculptures include themes with bread, lamb chops, bacon, boiled beans, figs, pears, fish, eggplant, oranges, eggs, omelets, lobsters, pomegranates, ears of corn and other foods. He filmed a humorous TV commercial for Lanvin chocolates in 1968, and he designed the Chupa Chups lollipops logo in 1969. He was also a passionate cheese-maker.

In 1976 Dali created the decoration for a 500-piece limited edition of Suomi dinnerware (designed by Timo Sarpaneva and produced by the German porcelain company Rosenthal). The pieces are glazed in brown and gold, with images of stylized birds and figures surrounding a pond. Dali's bold signature is at the bottom of the scene. The dishes are extremely scarce and can sell at auction for \$450 to \$750 each.

But Dali's greatest contribution to fun with food was the publication of his little-known cookbook in 1973, when the artist was 68 years old. *Les Diners de Gala* includes recipes by his wife, Gala, and recipes from Dali's favorite Paris restaurants, such as Maxim's, Lasserre and La Tour d'Argent. The book is dedicated to Gala and is wrapped in a foil dust jacket featuring her image. Best of all, it is lavishly filled with Dali's surreal illustrations, including 12 color lithographs created in 1971.

"There is only one difference between a madman and me. The madman thinks he is sane. I know I am mad."



Most of the 136 recipes are elaborate and difficult -- some are even bizarre and outrageous. But how could a creation by Dali be any other way? There are veal cutlets stuffed with snails, frogs in pastry, a prawn parfait, potted duck with olives, a dome of steamed crayfish, avocado toast and even aphrodisiacs. Signed copies of the book in fine condition can be pricey, but unsigned copies in lesser condition can also be found for \$150 to \$350.

At a special event this past May, the Sea Change Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis presented a five-course meal from Dali's cookbook, including oysters in brown butter vinaigrette, roasted lamb and banana cream pie. With the same idea, Dali fans sometimes get together for a surreal evening to cook some of his favorite recipes. It is probably asking too much to expect to serve those meals in Dali's Suomi dinnerware. Bamako Soup is one of Gala's fascinating recipes that will feed a crowd of six. It is great served with crusty bread and hearty red wine.



One of the 12 lithograph illustration from
"Les Diners de Gala," 1971

Bamako Soup: From *Les Diners de Gala*

- 2 tablespoons of oil
- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 1 lb. of onions
- 2 ½ lbs. of round steak (plus 6 pieces of beef short ribs)
- 1 marrow-bone
- 2 quarts of water
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 4 cloves
- 3 teaspoons of ginger
- 10 oz. of calf's lungs
- 10 oz. of minced pork meat
- 1 lb. of chick peas
- 1 lb. of carrots
- 1 lb. of turnips

1 bunch of leeks
1 green cabbage
6 eggs

“Here is a dish which is in itself a perfect meal and has its place in the center of a circle of friends. In a very big pot, fry the onions in oil and butter until they are nice and golden. Remove the onions and use the same fat to brown the round steak and the ribs. When the meats are golden brown and crisp, put back the onions and add the water, marrow-bone, bouillon cubes, ground cloves and ginger. When it begins to boil, skim off the fat and simmer on low flame for 5 hours. Taste for seasoning and add salt if needed.

“After 2 hours, add to the broth six meat balls made with a mixture of calf’s lungs and minced pork meat. Then add the chick peas. After the third hour, add the diced vegetables (carrots and turnips). The bunch of leeks and the cabbage go in without being cut. After the fifth hour, remove meats and vegetables, and keep them warm. Poach the eggs in the broth for five minutes, and out them, one by one, on the meats, keeping everything warm. After skimming off the fat, separate the broth into two equal parts. In the first half, crush the red peppers. Keep it warm. In the second half, throw in the semolina to thicken the broth. Boil for a few minutes.

“In each plate pour the semolina, then arrange a few vegetables, a piece of each type of meat, a meat ball and a slice of marrow on the poached egg. As to the broth that has been spiced with the red pepper, pour it into 6 bowls. Each bowl is put next to a plate so that, from time to time, your guests will be able to take a sip of this explosive mixture. 

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS



Radford University Art Museum at Covington Center
801 East Main St., Radford, Virginia 24142

Goya, Dali, Warhol -- January 19 - March 2, 2012

The exhibition include Salvador Dali’s *The God of the Bay of Roses*. Find complete information online at <http://rumuseum.asp.radford.edu/rumuseumwebsite/> or phone (540) 831-5754.



Auckland Art Gallery

Corner Kitchener & Wellesley Sts., Auckland City, New Zealand

Dali to Degas -- March 3 - June 3, 2012

Illustrating the story of modern art through painting, sculpture and works on paper. It begins with the revolutionary works of the French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist periods, and ranges through Cubism, Surrealism, German Expressionism, the British post-WWII period and American Pop. The 79-piece collection will be the first paid admission exhibition the gallery has hosted since it opened its renovated premises to the public in September. Find complete information about the exhibit online at <http://www.aucklandartgallery.com/> or phone +64 9 379 1349



Tophane-i Amire Cultural Center

Istanbul, Turkey

Divine Comedy; Traces of Surrealism; Dinner with Gala -- Through February 26, 2012

Featuring 121 paintings, drawings and lithographs under tree headings: *Divine Comedy*, an allusion to Dali’s inspiration from Dante’s epic poem; *Traces of Surrealism*, a series of lithographic prints exemplifying Dali’s symbolism and Surrealism; and *Dinner with Gala*, a lithographic portfolio depicting surrealistic menus and recipes from famous restaurants and chefs.



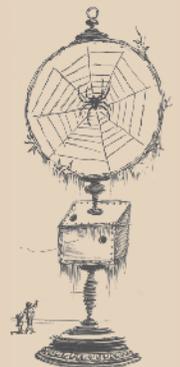
The Tate Liverpool

Albert Dock, Liverpool, England L3 4BB

Alice in Wonderland-- Through January 29, 2012

The exhibition includes Salvador Dali’s series of twelve *Alice in Wonderland* illustrations. Find complete information online at <http://www.tate.org.uk/liverpool/> or phone 0151 702 7400 

“Thank God I am still an atheist.”



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AUCTION NEWS

Dali original drawings and illustrations on paper or card are hot items, as these recent results at larger auction houses demonstrate. They are currently among the best choices for a Dali art acquisition.

Portrait d'Ana Maria Dali (top left)

*Pencil on paper, signed, dated, 1926
Estimated: \$56,490 - \$84,740
Sold: \$85,800 at Sotheby's Paris,
December 8, 2011*

Ohne Title (top right)

*Ink on cardboard, signed, dated, 1972
Estimated: \$33,900
Sold: \$40,600 at Ketterer Kunst, Munich,
December 10, 2011*

The Precius Medium (bottom right)

*Pen & ink on paper, signed, dated, 1946
Estimated: \$112,980 - \$169,480
Sold: \$136,640 at Sotheby's Paris,
December 8, 2011*

Adam and Eve (middle left)

*Watercolor, pencil, pen & ink on card,
signed, dated, 1948
Estimated: \$112,980 - \$169,480
Sold: \$128,170 at Sotheby's Paris,
December 8, 2011*

Designs for Opera "Salome" (bottom left)

*Recto (left) & Verso (right)
Gouache, pencil & watercolor on paper,
signed, dated, 1949
Estimated: \$21,180 - \$28,250
Sold: \$22,950 at Sotheby's Paris,
December 8, 2011*



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