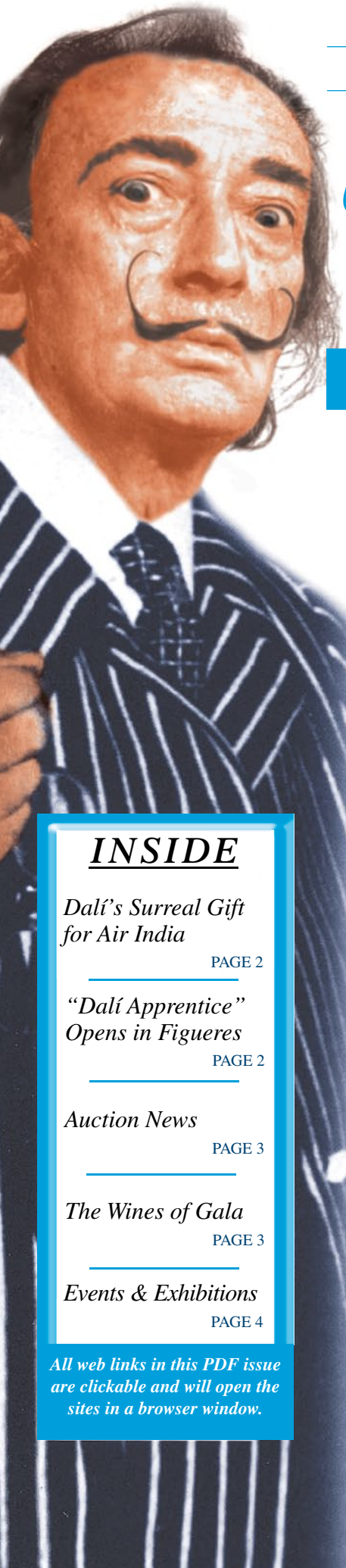


THE Salvador Dalí COLLECTORS JOURNAL

FOR THE DALI 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!

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Crocifisso or Christ Crucified - 1954

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?



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. 