

Holiday Greetings

Vol. 21 No. 6 Nov-Dec 2011

THE Salvador Dali

COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER.®

FOR THE DALI AFICIONADO AND SERIOUS COLLECTOR

*** Now In Our 21st Year ***

Dali Paintings Continue to Test Their High Estimates at Major Auction Houses

Continuing a two-year trend of Dali paintings pushing the limits of their high estimate ranges at the major auction houses, two more Dali works sold for multi-million dollar hammer prices at Sotheby's in New York on November 2.

Las Galas de Port Lligat (pictured right) oil on canvas, signed and dated 1973, estimated \$1.8-million to \$2.5-million and sold for \$2,266,500.



Le Voyage Fantastique, (*The Fantastic Voyage* - pictured below) gouache, watercolor, wash, brush and India ink and pencil on paper laid down on board, signed (twice) and dated 1965, estimated \$1.5-million to \$2-million and sold for \$1,930,500.



ArtNet.com -- reporting on the winning bidder: "Jose Mugrabi, perhaps operating on the theory that late works by great artists are undervalued as a rule, won Salvador Dali's 1965 *Le Voyage Fantastique*, a rather startling foray into pop graphics for the old Surrealist. "You're going on a fantastic voyage, sir," joked (auctioneer) Meyer from the podium."

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Florida Gets Surreal with New Dali Museum

Excerpted from AFP News Agency *AFP.com* 10/10/2011 by Paula Bustamante



The concrete Florida building may not stand out as a surreal playground, but geodesic glass and a melted watch draped over a twisted bench are sure signs of a museum housing the largest Salvador Dali collection outside his native Spain.

Since moving to sprawling new digs in this US coastal resort city in January, the Dali Museum has been pitching the artist's fantastical images and objects to tourists more focused on the Sunshine State's theme parks and aquariums than on art.

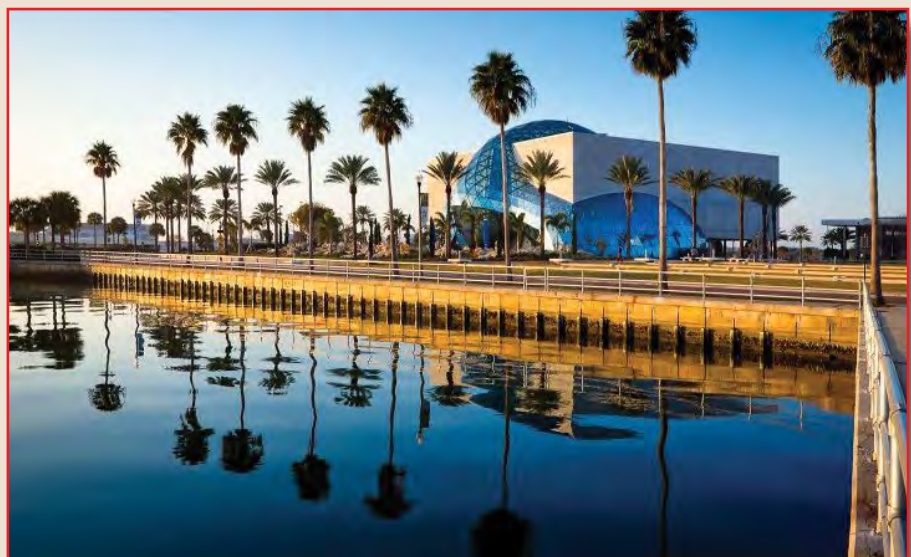
It seems to be working. Since the new facility opened nine months ago, some 213,000 people have ventured through its doors -- a 50-percent increase in traffic.

"It's quite positive for us," museum deputy director Kathy White told AFP. "We know a lot of people come to this area for the beaches and theme parks, but this is another option for tourists, with organized activities for children and the community," she added.

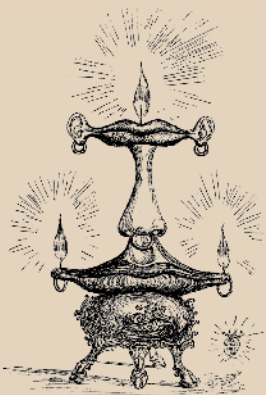
The museum -- less than two hours by car from Orlando, capital of the Disney amusement empire, Universal theme parks, Sea World and other parks -- includes 96 oil paintings and some 2,000 objects from Dali's career as the 20th century art world's resident eccentric. And while it can't match Disney on the pure adrenaline front for children, the museum offers several opportunities for little ones to "dillydally with Dali," as the curators describe it.

While a prominent characteristic of the \$36 million structure is its ability to withstand the punishing hurricanes that frequently batter the Florida coast, the architecture incorporates elements of the weird and wonderful that marked Dali's work. Designed by architect Yann Weymouth, who helped I.M. Pei create the famed glass pyramid of the Louvre in Paris, the museum features a pair of geodesic glass bulges protruding from the building. The "Glass Enigma," as it's called, is comprised of about 1,000 glass triangles that allow visitors a panoramic view of Tampa Bay, reminiscent of Dali's retreat in Cadaques, perched above the Mediterranean Sea. To help recreate the feel of the Spanish Catalan village where Dali spent many summers, the museum's garden features Mediterranean-style rock formations and a hedge labyrinth. Inside is a playful spiraling staircase to nowhere, a tribute to Dali's fascination with the double helix structure of DNA.

The museum has a stunningly comprehensive array of Dali artwork, from self-portraits and still-life drawings to sculptures and his larger paintings -- all in a seaside resort known more for the white-sand beaches nearby. And while it may not possess what is perhaps Dali's most recognizable work, 1931's *The Persistence of Memory*, whose melting clocks became a pop-culture reference point, it



"To say I think about death all the time is not enough. I wear its fabulous presence."




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does own *The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory* from the early 1950s, a reinterpretation of the masterpiece.

The museum is about twice the size of its predecessor, a humbler facility that opened in 1982 a stone's throw from the current location. The works are from the collection of Eleanor and A. Reynolds Morse, who met Dali at a New York cocktail party in 1943, a year after the American couple married. They quickly purchased their first Dali painting, *Daddy Longlegs of the Evening, Hope!* and a collection was born. Over a four-decade friendship the couple frequently visited the artist and his wife Gala at their villa in Spain, and they constantly helped promote Dali's artwork in American bohemian circles.

The Morses eventually built a small Dali museum in 1971 in their hometown of Beachwood, Ohio, and the opening was attended by Dali himself. But public interest was intense, and they outgrew the space. After a futile nationwide search for a museum that would preserve the historic integrity of the collection, they opted to build a new museum in St. Petersburg. They chose the spot in part because the environment on the Gulf Coast was reminiscent of the Mediterranean, but also because a quick-thinking attorney in St. Petersburg in 1980 learned that the fate of the Dali collection hung in the balance and began a movement to raise state and public funding for the museum. 

Dali Universe Finds a New Home in Venice


The Dalí Universe in Venice is a fantastic exhibition dedicated entirely to Salvador Dalí with more than 100 Dalí artworks on display. Visitors can admire a collection of artworks lesser known to the public, which include bronze sculpture, rare graphics portfolios, glass pate de verre sculptures and gold objets d'art. This is the only collection of its kind in the world, featuring the most important and largest grouping of Dalí sculptures.



Bronze sculptures on display include, *Homage to Newton*, *Woman Aflame*, *Space Elephant* and *Toreador Hallucinogen*. Each sculpture offers the visitor the chance to discover a new and unique aspect of Dalí's surrealism, from the iconographic soft watch of *The Persistence of Memory* to his homage to the female figure in *Space Venus*.

The collection of pate de verre sculptures arises from an artistic collaboration between Dalí and the french glass-making

company Daum Cristallerie during the 1960s. For Dalí, glass offered the perfect medium for artistic expression.

The exhibition has on display an important collection of rare, hand-signed graphics illustrating the great themes of literature both contemporary and classic, such as *Song of Songs of Solomon* and *Roi je t'attends a Babylone*. 



"Mistakes are almost always of a sacred nature. Never try to correct them. On the contrary: rationalize them, understand them thoroughly. After that, it will be possible for you to sublimate them."



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Opera Explores Dali & Gala's Relationship

Excerpted from *Catalan News Agency* 10/17/2011 by Margalida Amengual



The tense, complex and ambiguous relationship between Salvador Dalí and his muse Gala is the theme of *Jo, Dalí (I, Dalí)*, by Xavier Benguerel. The opera previously premiered in Madrid and was presented recently for three shows only at Barcelona's famous Liceu Theatre on October 19, 21 and 23.


The work resulted when Benguerel was contacted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and commissioned to compose an opera commemorating the centennial of Salvador Dalí's birth in 1904. The Catalan composer had already been thinking about doing this opera since 1999, but it was as a result of this push by the Ministry that the opera was finally finished in its current form.

Jo, Dalí is based on a libretto by Jaime Salom. The story spans the 50 year relationship that Gala and Salvador Dalí shared; an intense sentimental, artistic and even commercial relationship between them.

"I was very scared to face the process of writing a large opera", stated Benguerel in the presentation of *Jo, Dalí* in Barcelona. "It is one of the most dramatic things I've ever done", he said.


Divided into four acts, *Jo, Dalí* explores the relationship between Dalí and his mysterious muse and life partner, Gala. She was married to the French poet Paul Éluard, but in 1929 she met Dalí and they began a relationship that continued until Gala's death at Púbol Castle in Catalonia.



Singers Joan Martín-Royo and Marise Martins portray Salvador Dalí and Gala respectively. Benguerel offered Jaime Salom the job of writing the libretto for this opera, because Salom had authored a theatre piece about Gala, *Casi una Diosa (Almost a Goddess)*. 

Dali Persistence of Memory Tapestry Benefits Fundraiser

The Dali Gallery donated a *Persistence of Memory* tapestry for a fundraising event held in early October at the Santa Anita Racetrack in California to benefit the *Eye on Jacob Foundation*. The foundation funds research and promotes awareness of Usher's Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder affecting primarily children and teens with profound loss of hearing, sight and balance problems.

The winner of the tapestry was Melissa DeAngelo. The evening event was very well attended. Raffles and silent auctions raised significant funds for Usher research. 



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Dali Gallery director Bruce Hochman
with "Eye on Jacob" founder
Sonia Desormeaux



San Diego Exhibit Wrap-up

The entire Salvador Dali Gallery staff made a field trip to the San Diego Museum of Art recently to view several Dali paintings being shown as part of the *Great Spanish Masters* exhibit that closed there last week, a show which had earlier been in Paris and Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Star of the show was the stunning oil on canvas *The Ascension of Christ* (1958), on loan to the exhibit from the collection of Juan Antonio Pérez Simón who reportedly purchased it at a 1993 Christie's auction for \$2.2-million.

Other Dali pieces in the show that we very much enjoyed were:

- *Study for the Tuna Hunt*, ink, watercolor & gouache, 1965
- *The Erotic Beach*, oil on panel, 1950
- *Design for a Ballet Set (Romeo & Juliet)*, oil on canvas, 1942
- *Gala's Christ*, oil on canvas & wood structure w/mirrors, 1978
- *Polyhedron*, oil on panel, foam, pins & photographs in acrylic box, 1972



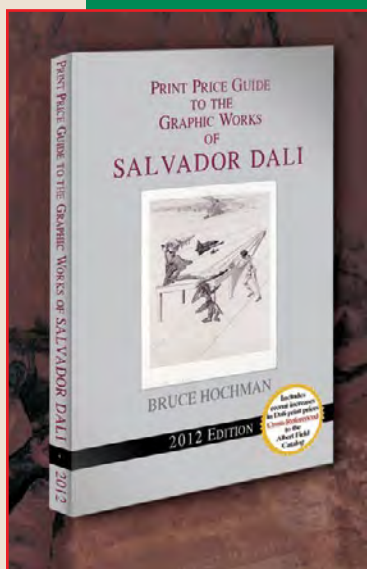
The Ascension of Christ



Study for the Tuna Hunt



The Erotic Beach



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Dali Work Exhibited at Tehran Museum

Excerpted from *Tehran Times* 10/16/2011

A work created by Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dalí, which had previously been kept in the international archives of the Jahan-Nama Museum in Tehran, Iran, is now being publicly display for the first time.


This Autumn, Jahan-Nama Museum is displaying the artwork entitled *Anarcordium Recordans (Begonia, Le Coeur)* from Dalí's *Flora Dalinae* intaglio series.

Created in 1968, *Anarcordium Recordans* features a human heart in the middle of a tree in which vine stems resemble veins. It is a photolithograph with an original engraving, signed and numbered in pencil. 

Best Dali Halloween Costume

The SDCN's "Persistent Memory Award" this year for best Salvador Dalí Halloween costume goes to Lori Zimmer for her unforgettable *Lobster Telephone* creation.

Zimmer is a freelance writer, curator, art consultant and regular fixture on the NYC art scene. She whipped up her Dalí tele-crustacean outfit for the costume bash this Halloween at the New Museum.

Want to make your own? Lori has detailed the entire assembly for you online at <http://inhabitat.com/diy-how-to-make-a-last-minute-salvador-dali-lobster-telephone-costume-in-just-30-minutes/> 



"Today, science has become to the intelligence a living shadow of faith."

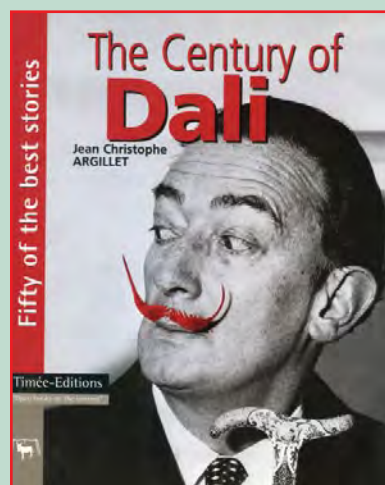


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Stocking Stuffer Books for the Dalí Aficionado

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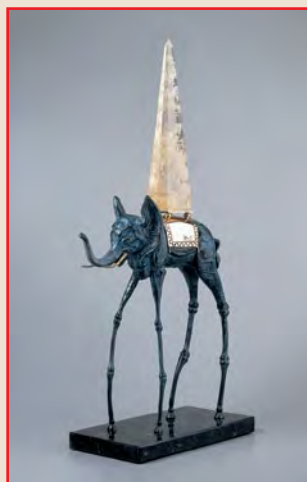


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Bronze Trio at Sotheby's Auction Signals Renewed Strength in Dali Sculpture Values

All three Dali bronze sculptures offered at a November 3 Sotheby's auction sold at prices dramatically exceeding their estimated ranges.

Space Elephant (1981), estimated \$18,000 - \$25,000, sold for \$40,000 while an *Alice in Wonderland* (1977) estimated at \$12,000 - \$18,000 brought a staggering \$40,625. Rounding out the field was *Horse Saddled with Time* (1980), estimated at \$12,000 - \$18,000 and bringing a whopping \$33,750.



This kind of increase in values would seem to parallel the collector interest that has been driving prices of Dali paintings, drawings and early edition etchings higher over the past couple years. Since January 2010, Dali paintings at auction have appreciated nearly 550%, while Dali drawings and watercolors have shown increases in value of 68%.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS



Púbol House-Museum Gala Dalí Castle Gala Dalí Square, E-17120 Púbol-la Pera, Spain

Dali by Halsman -- Through December 31, 2011

2011 marks the seventieth anniversary of Dali and Halsman's first encounter in the United States in 1941. This exhibit is comprised of 88 photographs of Dalí taken by Philippe Halsman (plus a gouache by Dalí painted on a photograph), in all of which Dalí's involvement was both physical and conceptual. The pictures in this exhibition were kept by Dalí throughout his life. They are reminiscences of his collaboration over 37 years with another alchemist of the creative process. Phone 34 972 488 655 or find additional info online at: http://www.salvador-dali.org/en_noticies.html?ID=138&CATEGORY2=29



Opera Gallery, The Dubai Mall Al Doha St., Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Treasures of Dali -- Through November 30, 2011

In an exhibition inaugurated by His Excellency Mohammed Al Murr, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, for the first time in Dubai, 40 original Dali artworks and sculptures are on exhibit at Opera Gallery in The Dubai Mall. The gallery is showcasing 11 table sculptures, nine jewelry sculptures, and two museum sculptures; while seven monumental sculptures will be located in the mall's Grand Atrium and Bloomingdales, located on the ground floor apart from two other monumental sculptures at the Dubai Mall's Grand Entrance. Officially the world's largest mall by area, Dubai Mall boasts more than 1,000 stores, a cineplex, aquarium, an ice rink and the Sega Republic indoor theme park. Phone 04 362 7500 for details or find additional info online at: <http://www.thedubaimall.com/en/events/dali-exhibition-at-tdm>

"I am not one for stimulants. they create subjective states of a vague, romantic nature."



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AUCTION NEWS



Fleurs d'été dans un paysage surréaliste (pictured top left)
Gouache, watercolor, brush/pen/ink/pencil on board
 Signed & dated, 1953
 Estimated: \$100,000 - \$150,000
 Sold: \$362,500 at Christie's New York
 November 2, 2011



Rêve de Moïse ou cauchemar de Moïse (pictured below right)
Oil, gouache, watercolor/pen/ink on paper
 Signed, 1975
 Estimated: \$60,000 - \$80,000
 Sold: \$158,500 at Christie's New York
 November 2, 2011



Les lys, décor de ballet Tristan Fou (pictured middle left)
Oil and tempera on joined canvas, 1944
 Estimated: \$100,000 - \$150,000
 Sold: \$170,500 at Christie's New York
 November 2, 2011



Oeil fleuri, décor de ballet Tristan Fou (pictured bottom left)
Oil and tempera on joined canvas, 1944
 Estimated: \$200,000 - \$300,000
 Sold: \$266,500 at Christie's New York
 November 2, 2011

El Rapto de Europa (pictured above right)
Watercolor/pen/ink on paper laid down on board
 Signed & dated, 1947
 Estimated: \$70,000 - \$90,000
 Sold: \$86,500 at Sotheby's New York
 November 3, 2011



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