

# THE **Salvador Dali**

COLLECTORS BI-MONTHLY JOURNAL ©

**FOR THE DALI AFICIONADO AND SERIOUS COLLECTOR**

\* \* \* Now In Our 24th Year \* \* \*

## ***Moment of Transition* Takes Its Place on Highest Dalí Auction Prices List**

**A** 1934 oil on canvas titled *Moment of Transition* has become the latest Salvador Dali work in recent years to sell for a staggering sum at auction, bringing in \$9,125,000-USD at the Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale at Christie's New York on May 6. The price realized is the third-highest amount ever paid for a Dali painting at auction.

*Moment of Transition* depicts a covered cart approaching a distant small town. The setting is the Ampurdà plain, stretching from the Pyrenees foothills to the sea. Dalí's Figueres home is situated there between Barcelona and the French border.

He based the painting on his childhood memory of a sunset horse-drawn carriage journey to El Molí de la Torre, a farmhouse belonging to friends of his family. This painting is Dalí's definitive treatment of his "phantom cart" theme, which he had first explored in 1933 via two smaller oil paintings on wood -- both earlier pieces were titled simply *The Phantom Cart*.



*Moment of Transition* is the culminating statement of the sequence. In it, Dalí amplified the expressive intensity of the scene, replacing the haunting melancholy of the small panel paintings with a sense of eerie and disquieting foreboding.

The pale, delicate tones of the earlier works are replaced here by rich ochres and blues, complementary colors which signal the almost lurid intensity of the late afternoon sun; the cliffs, the cart, and even the smallest pebbles cast long, irregularly shaped shadows across the landscape of Dalí's childhood.

Yet the most unsettling aspect of *Moment of Transition* is one that does not necessarily reveal itself at first glance. The painting and its two smaller variants are among Dalí's earliest and most successful uses of the enigmatic device of the double image, which the artist described as "such a representation of an object that is also, without the slightest physical or anatomical change, the representation of an entirely different object." The driver and passenger in the cart (which itself resembles a hollowed-out bone) can also be read as the silhouettes of two towers in the distant village toward which they are traveling, while the wheels of the cart double as two stakes planted in the ground. 

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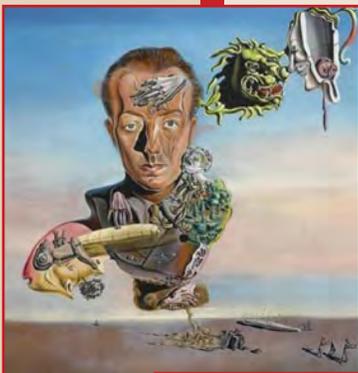
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All web links in this PDF issue are clickable and will open the sites in a browser window.



# The Six Priciest Dalí Oil Paintings Ever Sold at Auction

Feature by Breanna Galceran, special to the *SDCBJ*

**W**e thought our readers might be interested in a rundown of all the highest-priced Dalí paintings ever to sell at auction. Here are the top six, in descending order...

1.



1.) Not merely the most expensive Salvador Dalí painting, but also at the time of sale the most expensive Surrealist painting ever sold at auction is Dalí's 1929 oil on canvas *Portrait of Paul Eluard*. In February 2011, it auctioned at Sotheby's London for a whopping \$21.6-million USD.

2.



2.) Still hanging in there at second place despite some recent would-be contenders is *Necrophiliac Springtime*, a 1936 Dalí oil on canvas that cleared a cool \$16.3-million USD at a Sotheby's New York Surrealist auction in May 2012.

4.



3.) Taking the bronze for the time being is the 1934 oil on canvas *Moment of Transition*. (See cover story this issue of the *SDCBJ* for image and complete 411.)

4.) *Study for Honey is Sweeter than Blood* (1926) is a preparatory study for the 1927 painting *Honey Is Sweeter than Blood*, a Dalí work that is now lost and believed destroyed. Dalí painted this piece as a 23 year old, inspired by the Surrealist poet Paul Eluard, whose wife Gala would later transform Dalí's entire personal and professional life. This work sold for \$6.5-million at a Christie's London auction in February 2011, one day before *Portrait of Paul Eluard* claimed the all-time top Dalí sales slot a few blocks away at Sotheby's.

5.



5.) *Evening Spectre on the Beach* (1934) is an oil on canvas depicting three distant human figures at Rosas Beach in Cadaquez, Spain on the Costa Brava. It sold for \$5.7-million USD at a Sotheby's New York auction in May 2010.

6.) *My Wife, Nude, Contemplating Her Own Flesh Becoming Stairs* (1945) rounds out the field. This oil on panel sold for \$4.6-million USD at a London auction in December 2000. 

6.



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## See Dalí on Merv Griffin

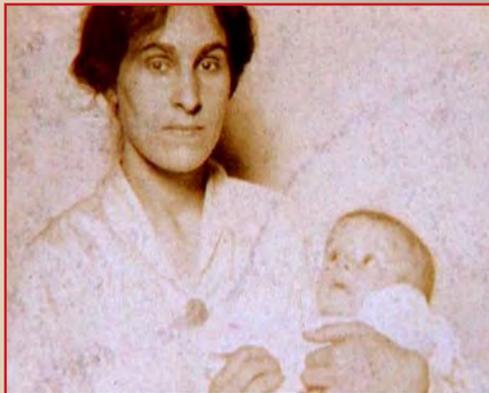
**W**atch Merv Griffin interview the great Surrealist painter Salvador Dalí in a show segment that aired originally on December 30, 1965. This is a very rare peek into the life of this eccentric genius. Dalí's sense of humor is on full display along with his great passion for art. 

CLICK the link below to view in your browser:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kT6N2fTWGo>



# My Life with the Surrealist Elite: Dali's Step Daughter Remembers

Excerpted from *The Guardian*, 4/12/2014, by Agnès Poirier



*Gala and baby daughter Cécile Eluard*

*Cécile Eluard, 95, is interviewed in The Guardian, recounting her experiences growing up among such geniuses as Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp and Salvador Dalí.*

As befits the daughter of one of the 20th century's most famous surrealists, Paul Eluard, the childhood of Cécile Eluard was never less than extraordinary. As she grew up in the family home of Eaubonne, north of Paris, in the late 1920s, the German dadaist Max Ernst was painting frescoes on the walls as well as sleeping with her mother. Ernst became Paul Eluard's best friend at the

age of 30 as well as the lover of her mother, Gala. "We lived there, all together, quite naturally, for a few years. I don't remember finding it odd."

Having grown up surrounded by some of the most colourful, eccentric and brilliant artists of the century, Eluard has a treasure trove of such memories. But she has been reticent when it comes to sharing them. Cécile was destined to find her loves and friendships among the luminaries of the avant-garde. Her parents, Paul Eluard and Gala, born Elena Ivanovna Diakonova, met in Switzerland at a sanatorium in 1913. He was 18, she 19. They fell in love, punch-drunk on poetry and Russian literature, and married in 1917. A year later Cécile Eluard was born, the only daughter of the very young couple.

And what does Cécile have to say about her mother Gala, who left Eluard to marry Salvador Dalí and was also a muse to such figures as Louis Aragon and André Breton?

"After she met Dalí in 1929, she was not interested in me anymore." Cécile was only 11 when Gala abandoned both husband and daughter.

"She was never very warm, even before. She was very mysterious, very secretive. I never got to meet my Russian family. I didn't even know when exactly she was born."

After Gala left, Cécile went to live with her paternal grandmother in Paris, seeing her father very regularly, and her mother only once or twice a year. For Gala, Cécile didn't really exist any more. One day in June 1940, as the Wehrmacht was marching down from Flanders towards Paris and beyond, Cécile, then 22, was told by her employer, the Wheat Office, that she and the entire ministry had to leave the capital at once by their own means. Cécile remembered that her mother had rented a villa in the resort of Arcachon for the summer.

"A handsome young truck driver drove me there. The journey took two days. Millions of French people were on the roads, going south, fleeing the German army.

"I arrived at the villa and asked to see my mother. The maid said that Gala didn't have any daughter and that I was a liar. Gala wasn't in and I had nowhere else to go. I kept talking with the maid who finally and defiantly said: 'Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray arrived this morning. We'll see if they know you.' She opened the door, Duchamp and Man Ray were playing chess. They knew me well, of course, so I was safe."

It has been a turbulent ride through the decades, but it has never been dull. Looking back on her rich life and four marriages, Cécile Eluard says: "I married and divorced easily. There was no drama, we met and parted amicably. My father was the same, and each time we had a party.

"Ah, parents! I may not have had much of a mother, but at least I had a nice papa." 



*Paul Eluard with Gala and Cécile around the time they first met Salvador Dalí*



*Cécile and father Paul Eluard*

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



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## Robert Descharnes Dies in France

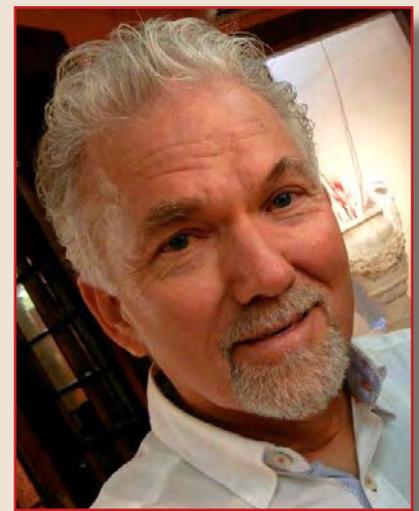
The Dali world is mourning the death of Robert Descharnes, who died at his home in Indre-et-Loire, France on February 15. He was 88.

Descharnes was Salvador Dali's final personal secretary, photographer, raconteur and good friend. His books on Dali art are numerous, and his expertise on the artist revered worldwide. An upcoming special tribute issue of the *SDCBI* will expound a fuller story of Robert Descharnes' extraordinary life. For now, our condolences are with his family and others who were closest to this truly remarkable man. He is much missed. 

## Dalí Documentary Scores Big Nominations at Madrid International Film Festival



The motion picture *Dali's Greatest Secret* has garnered a nomination for Best Feature Documentary at the 2014 Madrid International Film Festival. The film's creator, documentarian Paul Perry, has also been nominated for Best Director of a Feature Documentary.



*Dali's Greatest Secret* director Paul Perry

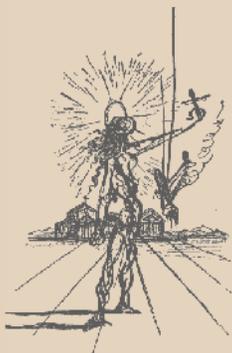
*Dali's Greatest Secret* tells the story behind the painting that changed the artist's life, Perry notes. Dali found himself trapped between atheism and Catholic belief in God. But in 1959, Dali was asked



by World Apostolate of Fatima director John Haffert to paint a picture of the first part of the Fátima Secret, the *Vision of Hell*, as seen in 1917 by the child seers of Fatima.

"Dali was a constant seeker of truth in many arenas -- mysticism, history, science, God -- and he rediscovered God by accident through the *Vision of Hell at Fatima*," explains Perry. "Dali's devotion to Fatima and the Secrecy surrounding this painting and his own conversion is one of the great untold stories in art." 

*"The desire constantly, systematically and at any cost to do just the opposite of what everybody else did pushed me to extravagances that soon became notorious in artistic circles."*



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### Order the new 2014 Salvador Dali Print Price Guide

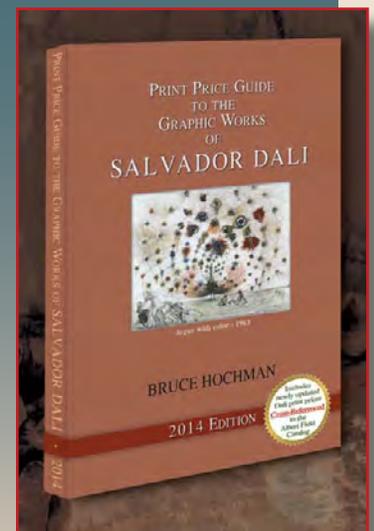
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# A Lot of Surrealist Art Is Really About Sex...

Video excerpted from *The Guardian*, 4/23/2014

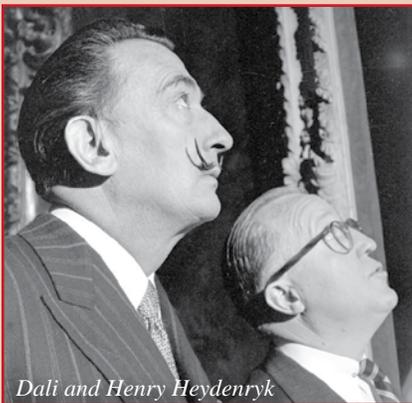
Peter Capaldi takes us through the history of Surrealism, from its origins in the cafes of Paris with André Breton to its Freudian obsession with desire and dream -- and on to Dalí's lobster telephone and Oppenheim's furry teacup.

This entertaining interlude is part of Tate's *Unlock Art* series. CLICK the link below to view the video in your browser:

<http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/video/2014/apr/23/peter-capaldi-surrealist-art-sex-video>



## House of Heydenryk Framers for Dalí



Dalí and Henry Heydenryk

The House of Heydenryk, one of the world's oldest & most respected frame companies, was introduced to Salvador Dalí in the early 1940s by his patron, the English poet Edward James. Founder Henry Heydenryk created original designs & supplied antique frames to Dalí for more than three decades.

In collaboration with the Argentine jeweler Carlos Alemany, Heydenryk designed settings for Dalí's jewels which were exhibited across the country during the 1950s and 60s.

The House of Heydenryk, under the leadership of President David Mandel, currently resides in the Chelsea neighborhood of

New York City and continues to make many of the exclusive frame profiles used by Dalí and other famous artists such as Pablo Picasso, Fernand Leger, Edward Hopper and Georgia O'Keeffe. Heydenryk frames can be seen on Dalí masterpieces in major museums throughout the world. In addition to these classic designs, Mandel regularly creates and produces new frame mouldings and finishes for fine art collectors, dealers and interior designers.



*"Just as I am astonished that a bank clerk never eats a cheque, so too am I astonished that no painter before me ever thought of painting a soft watch."*



## Dalí Space Elephant in LegoVision...

We've seen Salvador Dalí himself rendered in Lego before, but that's not half as hard as trying to build his art out of the magical little bricks. Self-described brick artist Jin Kei has done it though -- and it's awesome!

Kei's Lego sculpture *The Elephant* is a tribute to the towering beasts from Dalí's famous 1948 painting, also titled *The Elephants*. It's massive, at nearly three feet tall, and assembled from a very curious mélange of bricks and brick-like pieces.



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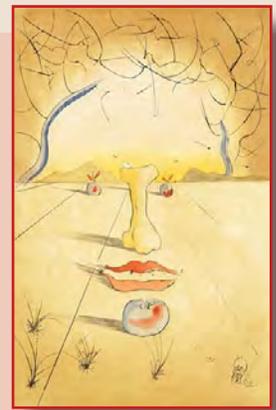
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# AUCTION NEWS



**Sans titre - Fleurs, pastèque et poire (top left)**  
Gouache, watercolor, brush, ink, felt tip on paper, signed, 1966  
Estimated: \$200,000-\$300,000  
Sold: \$389,000 at Christie's New York, May 7, 2014



**Projet pour les costumes "As You Like It" (2nd left)**  
Watercolor, pen & India ink on paper, signed, 1948  
Estimated: \$50,000-\$70,000  
Sold: \$197,000 at Christie's New York, May 7, 2014



**Visage Surrealiste, for Aurélia (top right)**  
Experimental BAT proof, hand-colored etching, signed, 1972  
Estimated: \$8,000-\$12,000  
Sold: \$43,750 at Phillips New York, April 28, 2014



**Space Venus (2nd right)**  
Bronze sculpture, green patina, 1977  
Estimated: \$15,000-\$25,000  
Sold: \$47,500 at Phillips New York, April 28, 2014



**Figures for Ballet "Tristan Fou" (3rd left)**  
Pen and brown ink on paper, 1938  
Estimated: \$50,000-\$70,000  
Sold: \$75,000 at Christie's New York, May 7, 2014



**Le Judgement Dernier (4th left)**  
Sanguine and pencil on paper, signed, 1949  
Estimated: \$200,000-\$300,000  
Sold: \$197,000 at Christie's New York, May 7, 2014



**American Trotting Horse #2 (3rd right)**  
Gouache, collage, brush & ink on card, signed, 1971  
Estimated: \$150,000-\$250,000  
Sold: \$293,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014



**Le lit à la fontaine (4th right)**  
Collage, gouache & pencil on paper, 1935-36  
Estimated: \$66,300-\$92,900  
Sold: \$81,600 at Christie's Paris, March 26, 2014



**Buste a Tiroir (5th right)**  
Pen & ink on paper, signed, 1936  
Estimated: \$50,000-\$70,000  
Sold: \$167,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014



**1) Montre Molle, Projet pour un Hologramme (bottom right)**  
Original pencil design drawing on card, signed, 1975  
**2) Melting Clock Hologram**  
Holographic glass in carved frame with LED spotlights, 2003  
Estimated: \$100,000-\$150,000  
Sold: \$269,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014



**Self-Portrait with Gala Appearing as Spanish Nun (top left)**

Gouache on photograph on paper, signed, 1962  
Estimated: \$70,000-\$90,000  
Sold: \$341,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Adam et Eve (2nd left)**

Pen & ink, watercolor, pencil on card, signed, 1948  
Estimated: \$120,000-\$180,000  
Sold: \$137,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Crisalida - Figure aux Ramures (top right)**

Oil on plexi, painted by René d'Auriac studio under Dali's direction, 1958  
Estimated: \$70,000-\$100,000  
Sold: \$112,500 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Crisalida - Femme Tete aux Ailes (2nd right)**

Oil on plexi, painted by René d'Auriac studio under Dali's direction, 1958  
Estimated: \$70,000-\$100,000  
Sold: \$87,500 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Crisalida - Femme tete de Fleurs Bras Droit Leve (3rd right)**

Oil on plexi, painted by René d'Auriac studio under Dali's direction, 1958  
Estimated: \$60,000-\$80,000  
Sold: \$112,500 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Crisalida - Femme tete de Fleurs Bras Gauche Leve (4th right)**

Oil on plexi, painted by René d'Auriac studio under Dali's direction, 1958  
Estimated: \$70,000-\$100,000  
Sold: \$112,500 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Figure anthropomorphe (3rd left)**

Pencil & biro on paper, signed, 1954  
Estimated: \$33,200-\$46,400  
Sold: \$52,900 at Christie's Paris, March 26, 2014

**Mes vœux de Noël paranoïaques-critiques (4th left)**

Watercolor, ink, pencil, felt-tip pen & collage on board, signed, 1961  
Estimated: \$92,800-\$132,600  
Sold: \$97,450 at Christie's Paris, March 26, 2014

**The Eye of Time (5th right)**

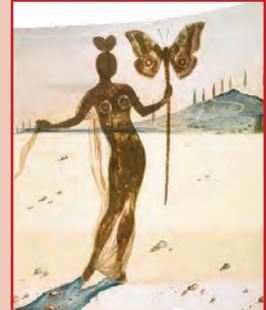
Platinum, diamond, ruby, blue enamel brooch w/watch movement  
Inscribed Dali on dial, conceived 1949 - executed before 1951  
Estimated: \$250,000-\$350,000  
Sold: \$1,055,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**Bust of President John F. Kennedy (bottom right)**

Wax & paperclips, authenticity confirmed by Nicolas Descharnes  
Estimated: \$100,000-\$150,000  
Sold: \$233,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014

**L'homme sur la Lune (bottom left)**

Watercolor, gouache & pencil on paper, signed, 1965  
Estimated: \$70,000-\$90,000  
Sold: \$125,000 at Sotheby's New York, May 8, 2014



# EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS



## The Salvador Dali Museum

One Dali Blvd., St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

*Marvels of Illusion* -- June 14 - October 12

A sensational optical and intellectual experience delving into the world of double images and illusions, showcasing a variety of Dali paintings, prints and sculpture. A centerpiece of the exhibit is an interactive installation titled "Gala Contemplating You" placing visitors inside Dali's 1976 painting *Gala Contemplating the Mediterranean Sea - Portrait of Abraham Lincoln* which proved that 121 pixels could identify a particular human face. Telephone (727) 823-3767 or for complete details online visit <http://thedali.org/exhibit/marvels-illusion>



## Banco do Brasil Cultural Center

Rua Primeiro de Março, 66 - Centro

CEP: 20010-000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*Salvador Dali* -- May 30 - September 22

Includes 30 paintings and 80 etchings, as well as books, photographs, films and other works illustrating Dali's evolution as an artist. On loan from the collections of the Fundacion Gala-Salvador Dali in Figueras, Spain, the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the Queen Sofia Museum in Madrid. Telephone (21) 3808-2020 or for complete information online visit <http://culturabancodobrasil.com.br/portal/salvador-dali>



## Texas A&M: MSC James R. Reynolds Student Art Gallery

Across from Kyle Field, College Station, TX 77843

*Salvador Dali: His Image and Imaginations* -- Through July 13

Exhibiting both mixed media pieces from Dali and the iconic surreal photography the artist created in collaboration with Philippe Halsman. For complete information telephone (979) 845-5851 or visit online <http://vac.tamu.edu>



## Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art

Kargar-e Shomali Ave., Tehran, Iran

*History of Contemporary Printmaking Impressionism Until Now* -- May 12 - August 7

Modern print works by 75 renowned artists, including Salvador Dali print pieces from the museum's collection. For complete information telephone +98-21-653200 or visit online

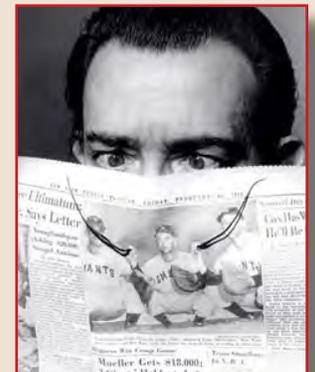
<http://www.tehranmoca.com>

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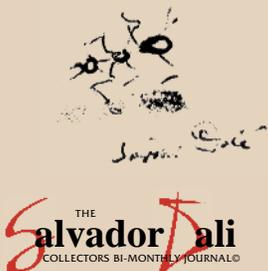
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Enjoy all the latest Dali news!



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