

Salvador Dalí



Family Life

Salvador Dalí was born in 1904 in Figueres, Spain. It was a city located close to the Pyrenees, which border France and Spain.

His father was a lawyer and a strict disciplinarian. His mother was more gentle and encouraged Dalí's art and creativity.



Salvador the Second

Salvador Dalí had an elder brother who had also been called Salvador. He had died at a young age, and Salvador II had been told by his mother and father, that he was his brother's reincarnation. Dalí said,

“We resembled each other like two drops of water but we had different reflections”.



What do you think Dalí meant by this quote?

Think About It

Early Life

Salvador Dalí showed great flair for art from an early age and both parents supported him.

He was described as 'precocious and intelligent' but also had quite a temper, which often got him into trouble, especially with his father who would punish him severely.



Drawing School

In 1916, Dalí was sent to drawing school in Figueres. He demonstrated quite a talent for sophisticated drawings.

He was a bit of a daydreamer and began to dress in unusual clothes and have long hair.

His father organised his first exhibition of charcoal drawings in their home. In 1919, Dalí had his first public exhibition.



An Unusual Artist

In 1922, Dalí began attending Academia de San Fernando in Madrid. His appearance became very eccentric and he began to be influenced by Cubism.

He was also inspired by the work of Raphael, Bronzino and Diego Velázquez. In fact, he began wearing a curly moustache in the same style as Velázquez.



Introduction to Surrealism

In the late twenties, Dalí met a number of influential artists. He was particularly impressed with Pablo Picasso.

He also met artist Joan Miró, poet Paul Eluard and painter René Magritte. These artists introduced Dalí to Surrealism.



The word 'surrealist' means 'beyond reality'. This means that surrealist art is an expression of dreams and the unreal rather than something that is true and rational.



Photo courtesy of Carl Van Vechten, 1934 - granted under public domain

Surrealism

Is This Surrealism?



Explain your thoughts about this picture.

Dali's Surrealism

Dali used the images from his dreams and in his subconscious to improve his creativity.

His most famous piece of art is called *The Persistence of Memory* and he painted it in 1931.



The Persistence of Memory 1931



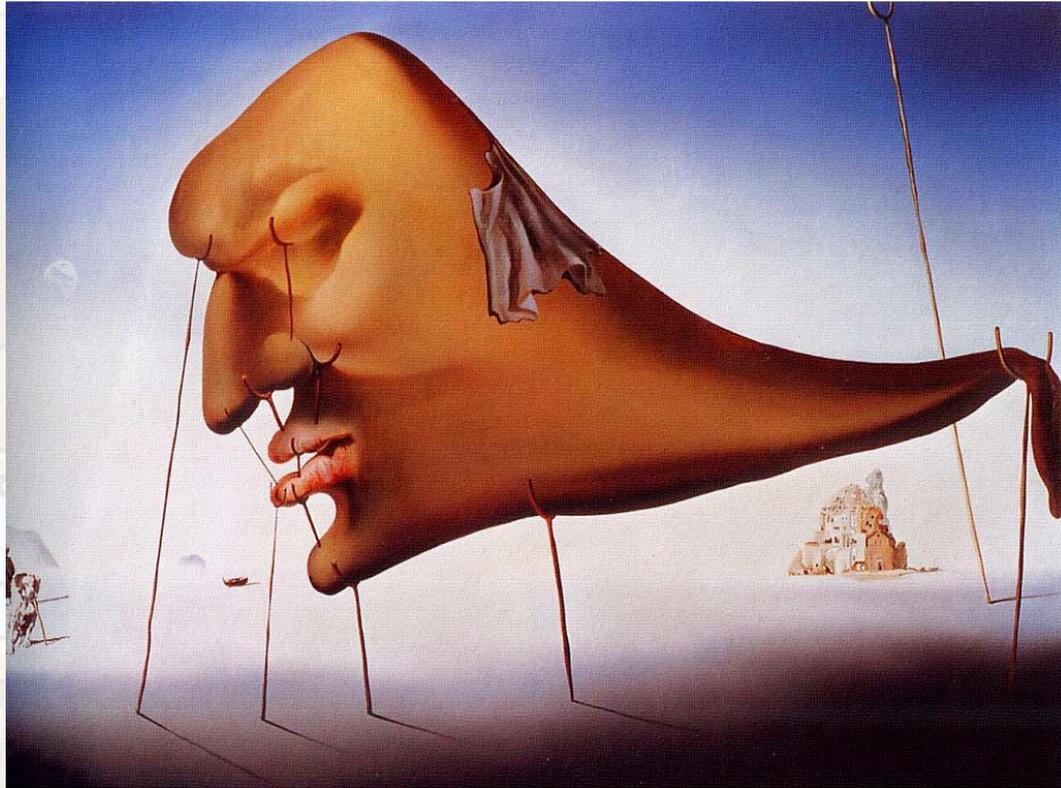
Talk about this painting.
What makes it an example of Surrealism?
What themes do you think Dalí is expressing?

Metamorphosis of Narcissus 1937



What examples of Surrealism can you see in this painting?

Sleep 1937



What message is Dalí expressing about sleep in this painting?

At the End



Dalí wrote an autobiography and created Teatro-Museo Dalí: the Dalí Theatre-Museum.

He had to stop painting in 1980 due to trembling and weakness in his hands.

After a series of events, Dalí died in 1989 from heart failure.

He left behind paintings and drawings of great symbolism, imagination and originality. He was an intriguing, talented artist who grabbed attention both in life and art.