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Salvador Dali

By Breiana Cecil

On a quick trip down to London last month, I had the pleasure of visiting the Dali Museum. I have

always been an admirer of the artist, as he experimented with such vast media and bizarre expression. After viewing hundreds of sketches, illustrations, and paintings, I've become more intrigued than ever before. This man led a wildly interesting life full of fascination, rebellion, and obsession that he expelled directly through his artwork. What follows is a very brief biography of an artist that we have all heard of and a life that we will never fully comprehend.

The artist was born Salvador Felip Jacinct Dali Domenech on May 11, 1904 in Figueres, Spain. His father worked in law and although a strict authoritarian, never objected to Dali's artistic endeavors. Also encouraged by his mother, Dali was granted his own fully supplied studio and consent to stay with the family of impressionist, Ramon Pichot. Dali's work from early to late illustrates palpable influence of Spanish landscape seen through the wild imagination of an artistic child. At thirteen, Dali attended the Municipal Drawing School in Madrid under Moreno Carbonero. The same year, his parents held an exhibition of his charcoal drawings at their home. Salvador was already proving uncanny technical facility as a painter and in 1919 at only fifteen years old, his first public exhibition at his academy was a success.

In the early twenties, Dali enrolled in the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid. It was also at this time that Dali discovered Sigmund Freud's writings on the erotic significance of subconscious imagery and his affiliation with Paris Surrealists. Dali began experimenting with hallucinogens to induce a state he coined Paranoiac Critical. (This style can be seen illustrated in *The Great Masturbator*, 1929) Upon discovery of this phenomenon, Dali's painting style matured at an extraordinary pace and his distinction in the art world transpired.

Donning a fashion style of a century earlier, and a manner before his time, Dali was considered quite the eccentric among his peers and instructors. He became very proud with his philosophy and artwork and in 1926 he was expelled from the Academy when he deemed his superiors incapable of examining him. The same year he would meet Pablo Picasso whom he had previously emulated, as there were no Cubists in Spain. At this time, Dali had proven amazing capabilities ranging from academic classicism (*El Son "The Tartan"*, 1919) to the most avant-garde surrealism (*Sleep*, 1937) and Picasso

Salvador Dali

praised him. In 1929, Dali collaborated with friend Luis Bunuel on a short film where he met his future wife and renowned muse, Gala (Galatea of the Spheres, 1952). He officially joined the Surrealist group in Montparnasse of Paris and he was hailed for his Paranoiac Critical Method of employing the subconscious for developing creativity.

Dali's most outstanding work in the 1930's came to demonstrate what we all know now as Surrealism. Not so much a style, but a place, where with profound detail, objects become morphed into an exaggerated state backed by a semi-rational environment, as to force them from the subconscious into reality. Completed in 1931 and perhaps his most well-known painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, portrays this extraordinary realm. Throughout this time, Dali's notorious arrogance grew as he became more publicly revered for his extreme antics and incontestable talent. He degraded many other Surrealist artists of the time for becoming too caught up in the Paranoiac side of his method and claimed that where they were trying to become the method, he was only accepting notions through it. The antagonizing of his colleagues along with his unconventional political views (some say he was

fascinated with Hitler) got him expelled from the Surrealist group.

"Surrealism? I am Surrealism!" retaliated Dali. There are not many who would disagree.

The following years brought Dali the fame and notability that he had always yearned for. His compositions reached the status of Masterpieces. Not only did he continue to experiment with various media, but various styles, and he seemed able to perfect them all. In the 1940's, he and Gala moved to America where they were greeted with fascination and loyalty from sponsors and critics alike. He opened his Teatre-Museu Gala Salvador Dali in Figueres in the late fifties. Dali was bestowed title of Marquis of Pubol by King Juan Carlos of Spain. In 1989, Salvador Dali died of heart failure at the age of 84 and was buried in the crypt of his Teatre-Museu.

Without contest, Salvador Dali remains one of the most brilliant artists of all time. His drive to outlet creativity was exceptional, and his capacity for range of technique was unparalleled. But most captivating may be his ability to exemplify that peculiar and vast world veiled inside every person subconscious. Dali makes for an essential addition to each of our personal collections. Works of Salvador Dali on overstockart.com: *El Son (The Tartan)*; 1919 *Nude In The Water*; 1927 *The Great Masturbator*; 1929 *Sleep*; 1937 *Galatea Of The Spheres*; 1952 *Landscape with Butterflies*; 1956 *Meditative Rose*; 1958 *Apparition of the Visage of Aphrodite*; 1979

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today!

The Afro-brazilian City - Salvador

By Naldo Camarones

The capital city of the State of Bahia, Salvador, is alive with African influence that can be seen in locally prepared dishes, ancient ceremonies and rituals that are still being conducted, as well as in the churches and schools of the area. Salvador has approximately 2,250,000 residents, and is widely known as "The City of Joy."

The history of Salvador can be traced back to 1549, when the city was founded by a group of Portuguese settlers. During this time, Salvador was Brazil's main seaport, and was important to the sugar industry as well as the slave trade. Today, Salvador is known for its world famous soccer teams. Also noteworthy is the fact that Ford Motor Company has a plant in the metropolitan area of Salvador that produces cars such as the Fiesta, Courier and Ecosport.

The region of Salvador is situated as a small, triangular peninsula that has diverse terrain including flat lands, rolling hills and low lying mountains. The coastline of Salvador is also quite diverse in that it features many islands, mangrove swamps, sandy beaches as well as sea cliffs.

Since Salvador is located in a tropical area, the temperatures are always hot and the humidity is always very high. The hottest temperatures can be felt in March, and the coolest temperatures arrive in July.

Salvador is a city that is very rich in the cultural sense. African influence weighs heavy in this region, and the city is home to Brazil's oldest cathedral, which was built in 1572. There are also more than 350 churches in this city, a majority of them Catholic. The local cuisine centers on West African recipes and ingredients, and includes seafood as the main staple mixed with hot spices.

Since Salvador is a melting pot of diverse people; Indians, Africans and Europeans, there is an eclectic mix of music, food, religion and cultural celebrations that can be witnessed here. Musical tastes run from Axe, known as carnival music, to Bolero, to Reggae and Classical. Street celebrations are a regular occurrence in Salvador, and bring together people of many different cultures, all wanting to share a bit of themselves, and their history, with one another. Some of the most important festival celebrations that take place in Salvador are Carnival, the International Fireworks Festival, Bonfim Washing, and Christ's Week, also known as Holy Week.

Visitors to Salvador will be introduced to beautiful architecture, which can be seen in the cities buildings, churches and ruins, magnificent beaches, majestic mountains, glorious museums, as well as being able to literally taste the culture at any of Salvador's wonderful restaurants.

If you plan on visiting Salvador, know that there are a variety of options for lodging; hotels, camps, apartments, flats, hostels as well as lodges are available throughout Salvador and are all economically priced. Any visit to Salvador will leave one with a renewed love for the arts, a passion for history, and a

new found respect for the diverse people who make Salvador what it is today.

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