

Name: _____

Biographies: Salvador Dalí



Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domenech, was born at 8:45 am on May 11, 1904 at 20 Monturiol Street, Figueres, in the Emporda region of Catalonia, Spain; close to the border with France. He was the son of Salvador Dalí i Cursi and Felipa Domenech Ferres.

Salvador Dalí was a famous painter, sketcher, sculptor, writer, engraver, photographer, and stage designer. He is considered one of the greatest representatives of surrealist art.

When Salvador was only 16 years old, his mother died from cancer of the uterus. The artist said that the death of his mother was the biggest blow he could have received in his life, because he adored her more than anything in the world. In addition, after the death of his mother, his father married his mother's sister, Dalí's aunt; a union that Dalí never approved of.

From an early age, he was a very controversial character. For example, in 1922 Dalí began his studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando, but was expelled from the Academy in 1926, shortly before his final exams. His expulsion was justified after claiming that there was no one at the academy in a position to examine him.

With his work, Dalí achieved something that few artists achieve; each of his works was recognized as his, with his particular style, just by looking at them. His style of communicating his thoughts through his works of art is unique and recognizable.

One of Dalí's most famous paintings is 'The Persistence of Memory'; also known as 'Soft Watches'. This one was completed in 1931 and is the one seen on the right.

Salvador Dalí was an extremely imaginative artist, with a creativity that





made him stand out above other artists of his time. It is likely that this well-deserved fame and recognition is due to Dali projecting an eccentric image with tendencies towards narcissism and megalomania. In this way, Dali managed to attract a great deal of public attention in a massive way. For some, his unique and eccentric behavior was very interesting; but for others it was rather unpleasant. So, for better or for worse, he was a breakthrough, novel artist.

Dali used the color gold in almost everything he painted, using it almost obsessively. The same thing happened with his fondness for the Oriental style, which he used in many of his works.

When Dali visited Paris for the first time in 1926, he met the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, who he greatly admired.

In 1929, Dali met the love of his life and his only wife, Elena Ivanovna Diakonova, usually known as Gala. She was his muse and inspiration. Her Russian origin and her immigrant status were not obstacles for them to marry in 1934. Despite many years of happiness, the young couple had no children or descendants.

Dali was very different from other contemporary artists, staying with his wife until her death on June 10, 1982. Her death caused Dali such deep sadness that he lost the will to live. It is alleged that on several occasions he tried to commit suicide, but his friends were able to stop him.



Shortly after the death of his beloved wife, King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain awarded him the title of nobility, Marques de Dali de Pubol, on July 24, 1982. This great recognition was justified because he was a distinguished Spanish painter and the greatest representative of surrealism. The name in the title refers to the family name and the Pubol Castle, in Gerona, the painter's residence. Dali repaid this gesture with a drawing entitled Head of Europe, which many consider Dali's last drawing.



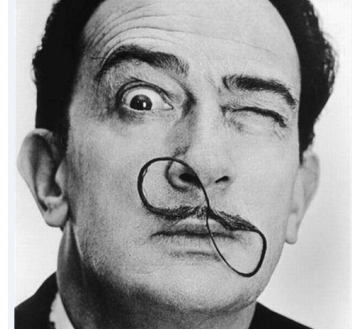
Salvador Dali died on January 23, 1989 at the age of 84, with assets estimated at around 136 million dollars, which included real estate in Catalonia and hundreds of works of art.

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ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did Salvador Dalí do?

- a. He was a painter, sculptor, and postman.
- b. He was a writer, set designer, and singer.
- c. He was a photographer, writer, and gunsmith.
- d. He was a painter, stage designer, and sculptor.



2. What hard blows did Dalí receive in his life?

- a. having to study at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando
- b. his father's death
- c. the death of his mother and the marriage of his aunt to his father
- d. the recognition of his works internationally

3. Where did Dalí study?

- a. at the School of Fine Arts of Barcelona
- b. at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid
- c. at the Lonja School
- d. none of the schools mentioned

4. Why was Dali expelled from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando?

- a. He could not paint or sculpt well.
- b. He was considered controversial.
- c. His teachers did not like the artist's work.
- d. He did not have money to pay for his studies.



5. Why was Dali an outstanding artist in his time?

- a. He had a lot of imagination.
- b. He projected his eccentric thoughts into his works of art.
- c. He was narcissistic and megalomaniac.
- d. All the answers are correct.

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6. Seeing the image of the painting The Persistence of Memory, what do you think he was trying to say?

- a. a. We must protect the environment.
- b. b. You must take care of your little brothers.
- c. c. We should measure the time of our life.
- d. d. He wants to eat at his favorite restaurant.



7. After reading the text, do you think Dali was well liked or not?

- a. He was only loved by his family.
- b. He was loved by some, but others thought he was unpleasant.
- c. He was only loved by other painters like him.
- d. He was loved by the people who lived in Paris.

8. After Dali's death, who inherited his property?

- a. his friend Pablo Picasso
- b. his family
- c. The text does not say.
- d. the citizens of Catalonia

9. What title of nobility was he given in 1982?

- a. Marques de Dali from Pubol
- b. Pubol Castle
- c. Head of Europe
- d. All of the above



10. After reading the text, what adjectives describe Dali?

- a. eccentric and imaginative
- b. surreal and kind
- c. creative and evil
- d. narcissistic and fatherly