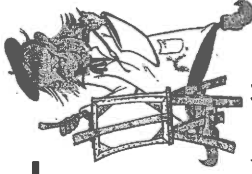


EL SURREALISMO

Un movimiento artístico y literario del siglo XX que intenta expresar como funciona el subconsciente, y es caracterizado por imágenes fantásticas y la yuxtaposición incongrua de temas y sujetos.

# FACT SHEET

## SALVADOR DALÍ (1904-1989)



### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Born in Figueras, Catalonia, Spain
- In later years, made his home in Port Lligat
- Studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid—joined an avant-garde student group before being expelled for insolence
- In 1929 he studied in Paris, where he became associated with a group of counter-culture artists, the Surrealists
- Performed bizarre stunts like filling a Rolls Royce with cauliflower and giving a speech in Paris dressed in a wet suit
- Lived in America during World War II
- His expensive lifestyle forced him to commercialize his art in the 1960s
- He became the most commercially successful artist of his day
- Was dogged in later years by accusations of artistic fraud
- In Figueras, a museum houses his tomb and the largest collection of his works

### SURREALISM

- An art movement influenced by psychoanalysis and based on the expression of the imagination uncontrolled by reason
- It seeks to suggest the activities of the unconscious mind through representing images from dreams and/or waking thoughts
- André Breton was the leader of the movement
- Was as much political as artistic (Breton's idols were Lenin and Freud)
- In the years before Dalí joined, was more a counter-culture movement than a defined artistic mode
- Dalí, who became the biggest proponent of surrealism, captured the moods of the unconscious better and more creatively than other Surrealist artists
- Dalí's "paranoiac-critical method" refers to a method of searching the unconscious mind for images
- This method was instrumental in defining Surrealism

### FAMOUS WORKS

- *Portrait of the Artist's Father* (1925): was painted in the years following his expulsion from school and expresses the strong, intimidating paternal authority of his father
- *The Andalusian Dog* (1929): a Surrealist film he made with an old school mate, Louis Brunnel, which combined unconventional, irrational images, such as rotting donkeys next to pianos
- *The Persistence of Memory* (1931): perhaps Dalí's most famous painting; it depicts soft watches on a Port Lligat landscape
- *Soft Construction with Boiled Beans: Premonition of Civil War* (1936): images of intermingled arms and legs symbolize Spain's self-destruction and suggest its eventual return to world power
- *Poetry of America* (1943): painted during his years in America; it depicts two football players along with a soft map of Africa and a coca cola bottle; symbolizes the American cultural landscape
- Set design for Alfred Hitchcock's movie, *Spellbound* (1945): he designed dream sequences in the movie that were very sharp, distinct, and concrete
- *Atomica Melancholica* (1945): shows his fascination with science and his interest in current world events, specifically the explosion of the atom bomb
- *The Madonna of Port Lligat* (1950): the first of his great religious works and of his giant canvases; depicts his wife Gala as Mary along with baby Jesus and the eucharistic bread set against the Port Lligat landscape

# TRUE OR FALSE

1. Dalí's "paranoic-critical method" was instrumental in defining commercial art. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Port Lligat's landscape serves as the backdrop for many of Dalí's paintings. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Dalí is a native of Spain. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dalí's only form of artistic expression are his paintings. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Dalí was expelled from Breton's group of Surrealists because of his unusual political views and his insistence on presenting the disturbing images formed by his imagination. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The central figures in his painting *Poetry of America* are two football players. \_\_\_\_\_
7. *The Madonna of Port Lligat* depicts his wife Gala as Mary. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The surrealist movement was as much political as artistic. \_\_\_\_\_
9. *The Andalusian Dog* is a painting which combines the images of rotting donkeys and pianos. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Modern science and the explosion of the atomic bomb were significant influences on Dalí's art. \_\_\_\_\_
11. In his later years, Dalí was plagued by accusations of theft. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Dalí's most powerful painting, *The Persistence of Memory*, depicts a soft map of Africa. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Dalí became the central figure and the most outspoken proponent of the surrealist movement. \_\_\_\_\_
14. *Soft Construction with Boiled Beans* is Dalí's first religious painting and the first of his giant canvasses. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Financial necessity forced Dalí to commercialize his art. \_\_\_\_\_

# MATCHING

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____ Dalí once gave a speech in Paris while dressed in one.</li> <li>2. _____ While studying here, Dalí became acquainted with the surrealists.</li> <li>3. _____ In the 1940s he was particularly influenced by this world event.</li> <li>4. _____ He was the biggest, most recognizable proponent of Surrealism.</li> <li>5. _____ In his late years, Dalí became financially successful by turning to this form of art.</li> <li>6. _____ A painting which depicts soft watches on a Port Lligat landscape.</li> <li>7. _____ Dalí's place of birth.</li> <li>8. _____ A prominent image in the painting <i>Poetry of America</i>.</li> <li>9. _____ The first of Dalí's paintings done on a giant canvas.</li> <li>10. _____ He was the leader of the Surrealist movement.</li> <li>11. _____ The landscape surrounding this town provides the backdrop of <i>The Persistence of Memory</i> and many of Dalí's other paintings.</li> <li>12. _____ Dalí designed the set for the dream sequences of this movie.</li> <li>13. _____ This painting depicts intermingled arms and legs.</li> <li>14. _____ Dalí filled one with cauliflower.</li> <li>15. _____ The movie director with whom Dalí collaborated in producing <i>The Andalusian Dog</i>.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Louis Brunuel</li> <li>b. André Breton</li> <li>c. <i>The Persistence of Memory</i></li> <li>d. Paris</li> <li>e. commercial</li> <li>f. Port Lligat</li> <li>g. a coca-cola bottle</li> <li>h. explosion of atomic bomb</li> <li>i. a wet suit</li> <li>j. a Rolls Royce</li> <li>k. Figueras</li> <li>l. <i>Spellbound</i></li> <li>m. <i>Soft Construction with Boiled Beans</i></li> <li>n. Dalí</li> <li>o. <i>The Madonna of Port Lligat</i></li> </ol> |
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