

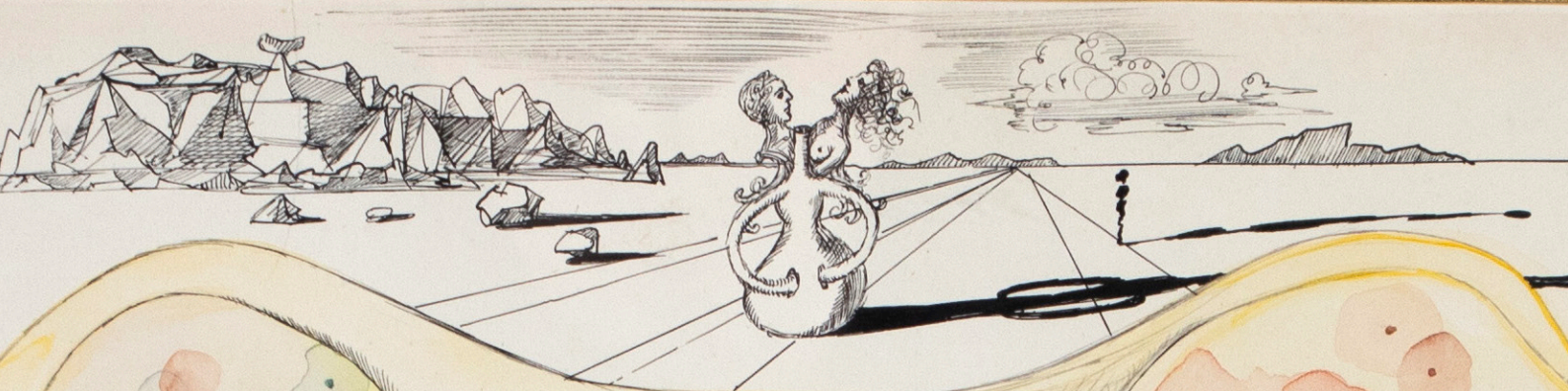


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Salvador Dalí, *Untitled [Homage to Biology]*, c. 1945

**ARTIST**

Salvador Dalí (1904 - 1989)

**TITLE**

Untitled [Homage to Biology]

**MEDIUM**

Watercolour, pen and Chinese ink and pencil on paper

**DATE**

c. 1945

**SIZE**

7 ½ x 10 ¼ in : 19.2 x 26.2 cm

**FRAME SIZE**

15 ¾ x 19 ¼ in : 40.3 x 48.8 cm

**INSCRIPTIONS**

Signed by Gala Dalí lower right  
'Gala Dalí'

**PROVENANCE**

Barbara Lee Diamondstein, New York  
Anon. sale, Sotheby's London, 28 June  
1996, lot 361

Acquired at the above; sale, Christie's  
London, 10 February 2005, lot 692  
Mayoral Galeria de Arte, Barcelona  
Private Collection (acquired from the  
above)

Christie's London, 10 February 2012,  
lot 711

Private Collection (acquired at the above  
sale)

**CERTIFICATION**

This work is accompanied by a photo-  
certificate from Monsieur Robert  
Descharnes dated 29 June 1990

**REFERENCE**

AC24-28



## Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí, born in 1904 in Figueres, Spain, is one of the most renowned figures in surrealist art. Known for his eccentric personality and extraordinary imagination, Dalí's work encompasses a wide range of mediums, including painting, sculpture, film, and photography. He studied at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid, where he explored Impressionism, Cubism, and classical art before fully embracing Surrealism in the late 1920s.

Dalí's paintings are characterised by dreamlike scenes, meticulous detail, and bizarre, fantastical imagery. His most famous work, "The Persistence of Memory" (1931), features melting clocks draped over a desolate landscape, epitomising his ability to transform ordinary objects into surreal elements that challenge viewers' perceptions of reality. Dalí's technique combined precise realism with imaginative subject matter, influenced by his fascination with psychoanalytic theories and the work of Sigmund Freud.

Throughout his career, Dalí collaborated with other artists and filmmakers, notably working with Luis Buñuel on the film "Un Chien Andalou" (1929) and with Alfred Hitchcock on the dream sequence in "Spellbound" (1945). These collaborations showcased his talent for blending fine art with popular culture, further cementing his reputation as a versatile and innovative artist.

Dalí's flamboyant personality and public antics often overshadowed his artistic achievements, but his impact on the art world is undeniable. He was

a master of self-promotion, creating a distinctive personal brand that included his iconic moustache and elaborate outfits. Despite his eccentricities, Dalí's technical skill and artistic vision garnered widespread acclaim.

Dalí's work has been exhibited extensively worldwide, including major retrospectives at the Tate Gallery in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. His pieces are held in prestigious collections such as the Salvador Dalí Museum in Florida, the Dalí Theatre-Museum in Figueres, and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

In addition to painting, Dalí was a prolific writer and illustrator, producing several books, including his autobiography "The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí" (1942) and "Diary of a Genius" (1964). These writings provide insight into his thoughts and creative process, further illuminating the mind behind his surreal creations.

Dalí passed away in 1989, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire and provoke. His innovative approach to art and his ability to blur the lines between reality and imagination have secured his place as a pivotal figure in 20th-century art. Salvador Dalí's contributions to Surrealism and his broader impact on contemporary culture remain profound, making him a central figure in art history and a significant influence on subsequent generations of artists.





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