



All photos courtesy of Salvador Dali Museum



"Galacidalacidesoxiribunucleicacid" (top) was painted in 1962-63, "View of Cadaques with Shadow of Mount Pani" (left) in 1917 and "Apparatus and Hand" (above) in 1927. These artworks and others from Salvador Dalí can be found on the museum's Web site.

Hello Dalí

■ Salvador Dalí's works appear on the Web, portraying the artist's career and eccentricities

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

Ten years ago, the idea of some entertainment reporter in Eugene writing about an art exhibit opening in St. Petersburg, Fla. might have seemed silly. Suggesting a spur-of-the-moment visit to the Salvador Dalí Museum, close to 3,000 miles away, no doubt sounded as impractical as recommending the use of lizards to ladle sunflower soup.

Surrealism has never been easier to access, however, thanks to the Internet. In fact, the Dalí Museum is plugged in at its site, www.daliweb.com.

Dalí, who is arguably the art genre's master, likely would have been pleased to see the explosion of cyberspace since he spent much of his life mentally conversing with other worlds of reality. Although best-known for his surrealist work, he also succeeded with impressionism, cubism and what he called his "classic period."

Yet, the multi-talented Spaniard died Jan. 23, 1989 at age 85, just missing out on the Web and its impact on society.

The Dalí Museum opens its "Masterpieces of Surrealism" exhibit on Jan. 29, but art lovers from around the world can get a peek at the best by logging on and surfing around.

The site takes enthusiasts through Dalí's early years, roughly from 1914 to 1927, then into his surrealist stage from 1929 to

1940. The remainder of Dalí's life is considered his classic period, so named because it was the time he produced 18 large oil paintings, pieces that consumed at least one year of the artist's time and measured at least five feet in one direction.

Many of the images concerned scientific, historical or religious themes and his famous "The Hallucinogenic Toreador" emerged from this time span, in 1970.

The museum's founders, A. Reynolds and Eleanor Morse, collected well over 1,400 pieces, beginning with their first purchase of a Dalí original in 1943.

Not every art piece can be viewed on the Web site, but the designers have given visitors enough images to get an overall sense of Dalí's style.

Dalí's critics have always complained that the artist was more interested in the commercial aspect of his work than the aesthetics. The museum doesn't shy away from this attack, offering several anecdotes from Morse that basically confirm Dalí's tendencies toward a financial focus.

On that note, take a detour through the virtual gift shop if you want a few wacky items for your own collection.

In the book "Salvador Dalí: A Panorama of His Art," Morse sums up what attracted him and his wife to Dalí's works, as opposed to other surrealists.

"It was always Dalí who proved to be the most stimulating, whose ideas were the most exciting, whose colors were the most brilliant and whose talent never failed to astonish," he said.

See for yourself at www.daliweb.com.

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i am open to new things.
and, i am powered by me.

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