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Salvador Dali

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Who is he? Some say he is mad, some say he is a legend, what do you think? He has got a unique and standout character which you can tell even from his photo. Look at his long curved flamboyant moustache, smooth shiny hair and big round eyes staring directly at you which were his iconic trademark. His works are so powerful and highly imaginative even though sometime it is hard to understand. One of his best known -work is The Persistence of Memory. Yes, he was known as the Catalan-Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dali I Domenech.¹

Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dali I Domenech was born on 11 May 1904 in a small town name Figueres, near the French border in Catalonia, Spain. His father, Salvador Dalí i Cusí, was a middle-class lawyer and his mother, Felipa Domenech Ferrés, who encouraged him artistic endeavors. He also had a brother, Salvador, who had died in 1903 and a sister, Ana María, three years younger. In 1921 his mother died of breast cancer and his father married his aunt. In 1922 he moved to the Residencia de Estudiantes or Student's Residence in Madrid. He studied at the Academia de San Fernando - School of Fine Arts. In 1924, he was arrested because he was a suspected rebellion but he was free after 1 month in jail. This period his early paintings had

¹ Wikipedia Contributors."Salvador Dali" Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia. 3 February 2012.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvador_Dal%C3%AD>

influenced by Cubism and Dada. In 1926 he was expelled from the school because he was accused of starting an unrest then he went to Paris for the first time where he met one of the greatest artists, Pablo Picasso who influenced a lot of his works.

In 1929 he first experienced the film project with surrealist film director Luis Bunuel. In August of this year he also met and fell in love with Gala, Russian immigrant who became his future wife. He joined the Surrealist group in the Montparnasse quarter of Paris. At this period most of his work had heavily influenced by surrealism. Surrealism is an artistic way to create art founded by Andre Breton.² Surrealism use imagination from the subconscious mind, without a logic or rational sense. Surrealist was begun in Europe with the goal to fix the problem between imagine and fact in the way of art. In 1931 he painted The Persistence of Memory which inspired by the surrealist perception of a Camembert cheese melting in the sun³. The melting watch that means uncertainty, watches is represented precision but now the clock is melt so it is not precise anymore. This painting was one of the well-known surrealist works. In 1934 he was formally expelled from the member of surrealist by Andre Breton because of the political issues.

After he was expelled from surrealist group, he moved to the United State in 1940 because the heavy effect of the World War II in Europe. 8 years in the United State Now he produced a lot of works in various of field. He drafted a film scenario, published a book name The Secret Life of Salvador Dali, wrote a catalog for his work

² Stephen."Surrealism." Surrealist.com 3 February 2012. <<http://www.surrealist.com/>>.

³ Wikipedia Contributors."The Persistence of Memory" Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia. 5 February 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melting_Clocks>

of art and also painted. In 1948 he returned to Catholicism and did not stop working on the other hands his works were known in many subjects. He was interested in natural science, mathematics and religion. He became devout Catholic as shown in the paintings such as The Madonna of Port Lligat and Christ of St. John of the cross. He filmed a humorous television advertisement for Lanvin chocolates and designed the Chupa Chups logo for the 1969 Eurovision Song Contest. In 1974 his largest project was completed, Dali Theatre and Museum in his home town in Figueres. In 1982, his wife Gala's died so he has lost a will to live and moved to the castle in Pubol. In November 1988 he went to the hospital for the heart failure and died on January 23 1989, 10.15 AM, at the age of 84 in Figueras his home town.

The Spanish Surrealist painter Salvador Dalí was not only a painter but also a writer, poet, theorist, printmaker, designer, editor, sculptor, filmmaker. He was a major inspiration for the young modern artist, pop art, and modern surrealist. The famous for having said that "every morning upon awakening, I experience a supreme pleasure: that of being Salvador Dali explains how he thought. Dali will not be remembered because of his bizarre ironic representation or his curve waxed mustaches but everything. He was one of a kind..... express your imagination and dare to do it your way...

In Europe you can experience his memorable works at the largest collections at the Dali Theatre and Museum in Figueres⁴, Catalonia, Spain while in the United State you can visit the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Peterburg,Florida.⁵

⁴ The Salvador Dali Museum. “Clocking in with Salvador Dali: Salvador Dali’s Melting Watches” August 19, 2006.

⁵ The Dali Museum. “Salvador Felipe Jacinto Dali I Domenech”. The Dali museum. 10 February 2012
< <http://www.thedali.org/history/biography.html>>