

Salvador Dalí (Spanish, 1904-89) – Artist Resources



Dalí, 1939
Photograph: Carl Van Vechten

[The Dalí Museum, Paris](#)

[Dalí, Centre Pompidou's 2012-2013 retrospective](#), brought together over 200 paintings, drawings, sculptures, film footage, and archival photographs to showcase the Surrealist's creative genius, which is often over-shadowed by his frequently outrageous media persona.

The Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (National Museum of Art, Catalonia) in Barcelona celebrated the artistic passion and ingenuity of Dalí's enigmatic wife, muse, and collaborator, Gala, in the 2018 exhibition, [Gala Salvador Dalí. A Room of One's Own in Púbol](#). The Russian-born Gala was a fixture of the early Surrealist movement and became Dalí's life-long confidante after their initial meeting in 1929.

Recent scholarship:

[Dalí, The Paintings \(Taschen, 2019\)](#): the most comprehensive volume on Dalí's painted works to date.



Dalí, 1954
Photograph: Carlos Pérez de Rozas



Salvador Dalí (Spanish, 1904-89)
Buste à tiroir (Bust of drawers), 1937
Pen, gouache and India ink on paper

Private Collection; L2019:145.2

Throughout his prolific and experimental career – which included painting, sculpture, printmaking, and film – the enigmatic Surrealist Salvador Dalí was fascinated with Sigmund Freud’s theories of the unconscious mind and the creative power of dreams. Dalí set out to mine this resource in all its complexities, reflecting how Freud discovered “that the human body is full of secret drawers that only psychoanalysis is capable to open.” Drawers became a favorite motif of Dalí’s, reappearing throughout the 1930s in sculptures, paintings, and drawings.

Buste à tiroir demonstrates the artist’s distinct flair for conceptual humor and hybrid, often hallucinatory visions rooted in technical skill. Both title and image play with the concept of a bust, or chest, of drawers: both nouns function as colloquial terms for the upper torso of the human body; bust also refers to a type of sculptural or pictorial portrait, while chest designates a piece of furniture containing drawers. The disconcertingly realistic drawing depicts a bearded sculptural bust with a half-opened drawer protruding from its forehead. The drawer is empty, however, and the contents of the unconscious mind remain elusive.

On view January 29 – May 3, 2020