



SIMPLY DALÍ

"What is important is to spread confusion,
not eliminate it."
- Salvador Dalí

10 THINGS ABOUT DALI

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10 Things You Didn't Know About Salvador Dali

by Liza Lentini

1. Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dali y Domenech was born on May 11, 1904 in Figueres, Spain. He was named Salvador after his namesake brother, who had died the year before. Said Dali of his brother, "We resembled each other like two drops of water, but we had different reflections. He was probably a first version of myself, but conceived too much in the absolute."
2. By the time Dali went to the School of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1922, he was already an eccentric. In an effort to draw extra attention to himself, he would often walk the streets ringing a bell. At school, he became close friends with famed Spanish poet/playwright Federico Garcia Lorca. Expelled from art school in 1926 for insisting none of his professors were competent enough to examine him, he went to bohemian Paris, where he met up with fellow artists Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, and joined the Surrealist group.
3. Five years later, in 1934, Dali was again expelled—this time from the Surrealist movement, for supporting fascism. The ousting, however, didn't stop Dali from participating in Surrealist exhibitions.
4. When asked to deliver a lecture for the London Internationals Surrealist Exhibition in 1936, no one could have anticipated that would address his audience wearing a deep-sea diving suit. His justification: "I just wanted to show that I was plunging deeply into the human mind."
5. Despite his obvious flair for the unusual, Dali was nothing short of a commercial artist who longed for fame. During his lifetime he even created a museum to display his own work, the Dali Theatre-Museum in his native Figueres. This is where Dali's famous "lips" sofa originated.
6. In painting "Sacrament of the Last Supper" in 1955, he used his wife Gala's face as the model for Christ.
7. In 1969, Dali designed a bright yellow and orange logo for Chupa Chumps lollipops, one of the most iconic logos of all time.
8. Even as the years went on, he never ceased to amaze. In a "60 Minutes" interview with Mike Wallace, Dali referred to himself in the third person. Topping that, he carried a leather rhinoceros with him when he appeared on the "Tonight Show," and insisted on sitting on it throughout his interview.
9. It's said that when Gala, his wife of nearly 50 years, died in 1982, Dali lost his will to live. He completed his last painting, "The Swallowtail" the following year, in 1983. At that time he suffered from palsy, which made his hands shake terribly, making painting a difficult task.
10. A fire forced him from his home in 1984, and he lived his final years in the Theatre-Museum until he died of heart failure five years later, at the age of 84.