

**Salvador Dali**  
(Pronounced Sahl' va dor Dah'lee)  
**1904-1989**

Salvador Dali was born in Figueras, Spain in 1904. He was one of the most famous and unusual artists of the twentieth century. While he was growing up, Salvador Dali had a wonderful imagination and was very interested in art. He started painting when he was eight years old. When he was a teenager, Salvador went to Madrid, the capital of Spain, to enter its school of fine arts. He did not stay at art school for very long. He was bored with the realistic style of painting they were teaching at school, and he was more interested in the exciting, new art being created in Paris, France. Salvador craved new and unusual ways of doing things. When he finally moved to Paris, he got to meet Picasso, his hero. He was influenced by cubism and the other interesting, different approaches Picasso used in painting.

Dali became friends with the group of artists and writers known as the Surrealists, who welcomed him into their group. Dali painted what he remembered from his dreams in a photo-realism style of painting with very small brushes, with no brush strokes showing. The picture is so clear and life-like, it appears to be a photograph rather than a painting.

Dali was quite a showman and a character and considered himself to be a genius. Outrageous would be an understatement when describing Salvador Dali. He was known for his unique and dramatic ways of getting attention and his style of his moustache, which he believed acted like an antenna that could receive messages from outer space. He was certainly best known for his paintings, but he did many other things: He made movies with his friend, Luis Bunuel, he wrote books, designed clothes, jewelry, ads for magazines, and decorated shop windows for big department stores. Salvador Dali even worked in Hollywood for a short time with Walt Disney working in animation. Salvador Dali lived to be 85 years old. It is said, that one night, after dinner, Dali did not join his wife and friends for a movie, instead sat at the table, staring at melting camembert cheese, took one last look at the landscape he was painting, added three melting clocks, and created *Persistence of Memory*.

**Dali Framed Print: *Persistence of Memory*, 1931**

**Vocabulary:**

**Surrealism:** A painting which has futuristic or dream-like qualities and usually depicts a vision.