



SALVADOR
DALÍ RZEŻBY

24.01 - 23.03 2025



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Warsaw, 23 January 2025

Press Release

“Dalí Universe”: Sculptures that Bring Surrealism to Life

The immersive gallery Art Box Experience in Warsaw is hosting the show “Dalí Universe: Immerse Yourself in the World of the Master of Surrealism” featuring five sculptures of Surrealism’s greatest master, Salvador Dalí. The exhibition opens on 24 January and runs until 23 March 2025 as an event accompanying the ongoing exhibition “Dalí Cybernetics”, which has been visited by more than 35,000 viewers. For the first time in Poland, this immersive presentation introduces the life and work of the brilliant Catalan artist and his three-dimensional works.

Dalí’s sculptures: A less known face of the genius

The “Dalí Universe” exhibition focuses on a less known part of Dalí’s creative works, sculpture, and explores three-dimensional objects that masterfully merge symbolism, imagination, and form. Visitors can view carefully selected works from a collection built over 45 years by Beniamino Levi, Italian art collector, art dealer, and president of the “Dalí Universe” exhibition series. The collection was inspired by Levi’s meetings with Dalí himself, where the artist shared his vision, philosophy, and Surrealist approach to art. The sculptures based on motifs from the Surrealist master’s paintings, giving Dalí’s works a new dimension: a three-dimensional form rooted in the artist’s paintings.

Sparked by the Italian collector’s passion for the Catalan artist’s works, this exceptional collection contains more than 200 works representing different categories of art. They include jewellery, furniture, and more than 50 sculptures made with various techniques, from bronze to gold to glass. Part of the collection will soon be on display for the first time in Poland at Art Box Experience in Warsaw’s Norblin Factory.

“The “Dalí Cybernetics” exhibition offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of Salvador Dalí and experience his art in a new exciting way. Additionally, the event introduces visitors to the world of the artist’s three-dimensional sculptures from the



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Dalí Universe collection. The concept of time was of particular importance for Dalí. That is why we have selected the sculpture "Profile of Time". This work depicts Dalí's iconic soft clock which symbolises the passage of time. The melting object and its fluid undulating form suggests that time has no meaning; it also evokes a sense of timelessness, reminiscent of the world of dreams. Another remarkable work is the sculpture "Atavistic Ruins After the Rain", which reflects Dalí's fascination with the fluidity of matter. The sculpture incorporates one of his favourite symbols, the walking stick, which adds another layer of meaning to his surreal vision," said **James Sanders, Business Development Manager of Dalí Universe**.

This is one of the most important private sculpture collections known worldwide, previously exhibited at the Soumaya in Mexico, the Mitsukoshi Museum of Modern Art in Japan, the Place Vendôme in Paris, the Piazza dell'Academia in Florence, the Time Warner Center in New York, and the Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

"The "Dalí Universe" is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the surreal world of one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, full of symbols, imagination, and fascinating forms. The five sculptures on display are not only works of art but also reflections on human nature, time, transience, and the contemporary world. Each sculpture carries a profound message and invites a conversation with the imagination of Dalí, a master who pursued the three-dimensional throughout his life. The sculptures created on the basis of his paintings and prints are a perfect embodiment of this aspiration, and can be viewed for the first time in Poland at Art Box," said **Joanna Kowalkowska, President of Art Box Experience**.

"Salvador Dalí's path to fame was paved by painting, but the artist did not stop there. He was a total creator; his ambitions went beyond merely presenting his visions, he aspired to create his own universe. And he succeeded. Like the Renaissance artists he drew inspiration from as a painter, Dalí was what we would now call an interdisciplinary artist. He was passionate about science: cybernetics, genetics, physics and this face of the artist is highlighted by the exhibition Dalí Cybernetics. He experimented with various media, from photography and holography to computer

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graphics. Sculpture, too, had a prominent place in his body of work. One of Dalí's great themes was the concept of the multidimensionality of space. In his paintings, he explored it through optical illusions, and in the later stages of his career, he began materializing motifs from his paintings in bronze and other materials. Each of the sculptures displayed at Art Box is a fascinating enigma. Dalí imbued them with a rich array of references to mythology, history, technology, and science — fields filtered through the lens of his visionary imagination, which gains physical presence through sculpture" said **Stach Szablowski, art critic and ambassador of the Dalí Cybernetics project.**

Creative process and the relevance of sculptural techniques

Dalí's sculptures were created by craftsmen based on the artists drawings, designs and models which were then cast in bronze or made from other durable materials. The process transported his surreal visions from a two-dimensional canvas to a three-dimensional world. Dalí often used bronze because this noble material symbolises permanence and eternity. Some sculptures incorporate elements of marble, wood, and gold, which emphasise the richness of the forms and symbolism. Most of the sculptures were created during Dalí's later period, from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. At the time, the artist delved into philosophical reflections on human nature, time, and spirituality. Each piece was not only a work of art but also a manifesto of his reflections and fascinations. The works presented at Art Box Experience were made in bronze using the lost-wax technique. **The casts measure between 18.5 and 150 cm.**

The presentation introduces visitors to iconic sculptures including:

Profile of Time

This iconic sculpture, inspired by the 1931 painting "The Persistence of Memory", shows the famous "soft clocks" that have become one of Dalí's most recognisable symbols. Depicted in distorted, unreal forms, the clocks symbolise the subjectivity and transience of the passage of time. Similar to melted fabrics, the clocks are a reminder that time is merely a product of the human mind and that reality is governed by rules that are more



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subjective than they appear. The sculpture incorporates a hidden profile of the artist, which gives it a personal dimension. It is a meditation on time, its instability and transience. Dalí conceived the concept of the "Profile of Time" in 1977.

Michelin's Slave

In this sculpture, Dalí ironically combines classical art based on a statue by Michelangelo with an icon of modern technology, the Michelin tyre. The figure of a deformed slave, inserted in tyres, represents the absurdity of addiction to modern inventions. It is a subtle critique of consumerism and a reflection on freedom and enslavement in the context of industrial change, suggesting that beauty and art are becoming "slaves" to mechanisation. The horizontal arrangement of the sculpture hints at the shape of a car, conveying a humorous but bitter message.

Death Mask of Napoleon

Dalí reinterpreted the classical death mask of Napoleon by combining it with the figure of rhinoceros, a symbol of strength and solidity. The additional surrealistic touches, such as the horns, emphasise the complexity of human ambition and the fragility of even the greatest historical figures in the face of transience. The work is a reflection on ambition and mortality, and on the vanity of the human quest for power.

Lilith and the Double Victory of Samothrace

In this sculpture, Dalí combines the figures of Lilith, the mythological first woman, associated with independence and rebellion, and Nike of Samothrace, the ancient symbol of victory. The duality of the work illustrates both triumph and defeat, beauty and destruction, celebrating femininity and its unruly and unbridled power.

Atavistic Ruins after the Rain

This sculpture explores the idea of atavism, a return to primal instincts and qualities. The organic forms, as if softened by rain, allude to the transience of existence and the processes of passing. The Spanish bean at the top of the work adds a surreal dreamlike touch. It is a combination of realism and surrealism, transporting the viewer into a world



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of dreams and the subconscious, and a surreal vision of the transience of human memory and eternal instincts.

Extension of the “Dalí Cybernetics” exhibition, free admission for children

To mark the launch of the additional presentation of the “Dalí Universe” sculptures, the current **“Dalí Cybernetics” exhibition will be extended until 23 March 2025**. The interactive exhibition has already attracted 35,000 visitors, offering them a unique experience that combines art with modern technology. Visitors will soon be able to enrich their experience of Dalí with a three-dimensional exploration of his sculptures. **In addition, during the winter school holidays on weekdays from 1 to 16 February, children will be offered free entry to Art Box Experience.** The offer is valid for one guardian and one child, only the guardian needs to buy a pass.

Passes for the presentation of the “Dalí Universe” sculptures will be included in the ticket price of the current exhibition “Dalí Cybernetics” and will be available at [Ticketmaster.pl](https://www.ticketmaster.pl). Each ticket purchased for the exhibition starting on 24 January will entitle the visitor to see Salvador Dalí’s sculptures.

More information:

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Art Box Experience is an immersive space (the first in Poland since March 2022) which combines the latest computer animation and sound technology with 360° panorama image projection, 3D and 2D animation, where the scenography - the result of top quality digital projection - can take on different colours and forms. What makes Art Box Experience special, besides world-class entertainment, is its educational content related to culture, art, history, science, geography, nature, and fashion. The project was created thanks to the passion, experience, and competence of leading authorities in the world of new technologies, entertainment, and museums: Joanna Kowalkowska (co-founder of Art Box Experience, graduate of the prestigious art college Central Saint Martins in London, designer and artistic director of many international



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interdisciplinary projects combining theatre, visual arts, design, a passionate of new technologies), Mateusz Labuda (deputy director of the National Museum in Warsaw and the Museum of Warsaw, long-time manager of Maanam, music producer), and Piotr Sikora (co-founder of Platige Image, the production house "Dobro", and Art Box Experience, international producer of animated films, cinematics for computer games, and special effects, winners of hundreds of awards, including Oscar® nominations and BAFTA; his most recognisable productions include the animated short The Cathedral, the Netflix series The Witcher, Wonder Woman for DC Comics, and Lars von Trier's Melancholia and Antichrist).



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