

## Kids @ CAM – At Home Family Projects

### Spotlight on Art History

#### **SALVADOR DALI**

#### About the Artist:

“Surrealism is destructive, but it destroys only what it considers to be shackles limiting our vision.”

Salvador Dali (1904 – 1985) was a Spanish Surrealist artist renowned for his technical skill, precise draftsmanship and the striking and bizarre images in his work. Influenced by Impressionism and the Renaissance masters from a young age, Dali became increasingly attracted to Cubism and avant-garde movements. Dalí worked in painting, graphic arts, film, sculpture, design and photography, at times in collaboration with other artists. He also wrote fiction, poetry, autobiography, essays and criticism.

Dali was best known as a Surrealist painter. Surrealism is a 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature which sought to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind. Major themes in

Dali's work include the subconscious, religion, science and his closest personal relationships. He was particularly interested in dreams. Like his fellow surrealists, Dali considered dreams and imagination as central rather than marginal to human thought. He knew that the state between wakefulness and sleep was possibly the most creative for a brain and he liked to portray that in his work.



## ART AT HOME – DREAM COLLAGE DRAWINGS

### What You Will Need:

- Magazines, Newspapers, Catalogs, etc. for cutting out pictures
- Large sheet of drawing paper
- Markers / Crayons / Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Salvador Dali sometimes referred to his paintings as “hand-painted dream photographs” which were filled with outrageous and impossible subjects and ideas. You can choose to use dreams you have had as inspiration for your artwork, or just have fun putting together images that do not normally go together.

- Step 1 – Cut out images that you are drawn to from your magazines (animals, flowers, dessert foods, parts of buildings, etc.) Make sure you have a variety to choose from (you do not need to use them all in your collage).
- Step 2 – On your sheet of paper, begin to place some of your favorite cut outs around the page. Make sure there is plenty of space between the cut outs.
- Step 3 – When you are happy with your design, glue down the cut outs and allow them to dry.
- Step 4 – Using your drawing utensils and imagination, finish the collage by drawing in the rest of the picture. For example, if you have a picture of someone’s face glued down, draw them onto an animal body. If you have a picture of a cupcake, place it at the top of a mountain.
- Step 5 – Color in any parts of your drawing that you want.
- Step 6 – Clean up your work area.

### Tips:

- Look at other paintings by Salvador Dali, and other Surrealist artists, for inspiration before you begin working.
- You may have to fight the urge to have your picture “make sense”. Challenge yourself to create images that you’ve never heard of in real life!

### Questions to Ask One Another:

- What is the title of your artwork?
- Tell the story of what is happening in your picture.
- Did you make things up as you went along, or did you have a plan in mind as you went?

### Follow Up Project Idea:

- On separate sheets of paper, write down five different animals, five different random items and five different objects from nature (You can come up with your own categories if you prefer). Place the paper in a cup and choose 8 at random (or however many you prefer). Create a surrealist collage drawing that includes all those items.

