

MEADOWS MUSEUM ACQUIRES PORTFOLIO OF HISTORIC DALÍ LITHOGRAPHS

Gift celebrates Honorary Consul of Spain's 20 years of service

Dallas, TX—October 2, 2017—The Meadows Museum at SMU has added *Aliyah* (1968), a set of 25 lithographs by Spanish artist Salvador Dalí (1904–1989), to its collection. The purchase was made possible thanks to gifts from Linda P. and William A. Custard and The Meadows Foundation, in tribute to the Honorable Janet Pollman Kafka, Honorary Consul of Spain, for her twenty years of service to the country. Both Linda Custard and Janet Kafka serve on the Museum's Advisory Council, the former in the role of chair.



Salvador Dalí (Spanish, 1904–1989), *Aliyah*, 1968. Plate 1, *Aliyah*. Complete portfolio of 25 color lithographs on Arches paper. Ed. 58/250. Meadows Museum, SMU, Dallas. Museum purchase thanks to a gift from Linda P. and William A. Custard and The Meadows Foundation in tribute to the Honorable Janet Pollman Kafka, Honorary Consul of Spain, for her twenty years of service, MM.2017.02.01. Photo by Kevin Todora.

The series was commissioned by Samuel Shore of Shorewood Publishers in New York in 1966, in preparation for the upcoming 20th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The artist produced a series of 25 mixed-media paintings on paper depicting the renewal of the Jewish people, which were subsequently reproduced as lithographs and published in a limited edition of 250 sets of 25 lithographs each. Each set is accompanied by a letter of introduction from David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973), the

primary founder and first Prime Minister of the State of Israel. Titled *Aliyah*, a Hebrew word that literally means “migration to the land of Israel,” Dalí completed the series in 1968, in time for the celebration of Israeli Independence Day on April 3. *Hadassah Magazine* described the set of paintings as capturing “...the spirit of the Jews from the first days of the exile and for nearly 2,000 years in the diaspora until their final return to their cherished soil of Israel. Embracing a wide spectrum of moods, from gaiety to deep drama and stark tragedy, it culminates in the ultimate triumph of justice and the joyous restoration of the nation” (April 1968). Few complete sets of the series exist today; the Meadows’ set is edition 58/250.

“This portfolio adds to our growing collection of works by Dalí, which includes several other prints and an oil painting, the latter the only one in a public Texas collection,” said Mark A. Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum and Centennial Chair, Meadows School of the Arts, SMU. “*Aliyah* enhances our collection of his work from this period and will provide more opportunities for its study.”

Linda Custard added, “With the recent acquisition of the Dalí [*L’homme poisson*, acquired by the Meadows Museum in 2014], Bill and I felt that this was a unique, timely and appropriate way to honor Janet for her dedication to the Meadows Museum and all things Spanish.”

“I am truly humbled by this generous donation made to the Meadows Museum by the Custards and The Meadows Foundation in my honor,” said Kafka. “For the past 20 years, it has been a privilege to serve the Kingdom of Spain as Honorary Consul; my service as a member of the Meadows Museum Advisory Council has been paramount in my efforts to build the relationship between Spain and Dallas-Fort Worth.”

Kafka has served as the Honorary Consul of Spain since 1997 and was elected and served two terms as Dean of the Consular Corps of Dallas-Fort Worth, beginning in 2006. In 2001, Ms. Kafka was instrumental in organizing the visit of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofía of Spain to Dallas for the inauguration of the new Meadows Museum building. During her tenure as Honorary Consul, she has served under six Ambassadors of Spain to the United States. She has hosted these and many other distinguished guests in Dallas, including the Duke of Alba, Ministers of the Spanish government, and former Spanish Presidents José María Aznar and José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero. In 2004 Kafka was decorated by King Juan Carlos I with the prestigious *Encomienda de la Orden de Isabel la Católica*. This honor recognizes those who

demonstrate extraordinary civil character and accomplishments that have benefited Spain.

Since 1984, Kafka has been the Principal at Janet Kafka and Associates, a firm that specializes in marketing communications, branding and public relations for businesses from Spain. In addition to an active professional life, Kafka is deeply involved in various civic and charitable organizations including the Meadows Museum and Meadows School of the Arts, SMU; The Joaquín Achúcarro Foundation; the Latino Cultural Center; the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations; the Dallas Architecture Forum; Charter 100; and the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, among others. Kafka earned her International Master of Business Administration from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The Museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows' vision to create "a small Prado for Texas."

Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. Since 2010 the Museum has been engaged in a multidimensional partnership with the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid, which has included the exchange of scholarship, exhibitions, works of art and other resources.

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