



MEADOWS MUSEUM  
SMU • DALLAS

**SALVADOR DALÍ AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE**

**The Surrealist Master's Small-Scale Paintings To Be Explored For The First Time  
In Upcoming Exhibition At The Meadows Museum**

Dallas, TX—February 7, 2018— The Meadows Museum, SMU, will present the first in-depth exploration of the small-scale paintings of Salvador Dalí (1904–1989). While many of Dalí's canvases are known around the world and are among the defining works of the Surrealist movement, the small size of many of these works is frequently overlooked. Nearly half of the artist's paintings during the early part of his Surrealist period (1929–1936) were actually small-format works: some measuring just over a foot, and others as small as 3 x 2 in. Organized by the Meadows as part of its mission to present Spanish art in America, *Dalí: Poetics of the Small* will be on view at the Meadows Museum—the only venue for this exhibition—from September 9–December 9, 2018.

The exhibition will include nearly two dozen of Dalí's small-scale paintings, including important works such as *The Accommodations of Desire* (1929, Metropolitan Museum of Art), *The Angelus* (c. 1932, private collection), and *The Weaning of Furniture-Nutrition* (1934, The Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, Florida). While diminutive in scale, these paintings reflect Dalí's distinctive Surrealist style—with familiar but distorted figures often set against a dramatic or barren landscape. An outgrowth of Dalí's love for the refined and precise works of Dutch Masters, specifically Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675), as well as Dalí's own notorious attention to detail, these cabinet paintings from the height of his career have never been systematically studied or exhibited as a cohesive group.

"Salvador Dalí has a worldwide reputation, but this exhibition is an opportunity to explore a side of his artistic development and output that is much less understood," said Mark Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum. "It is clear that Dalí himself felt the size of these paintings was important, an opportunity for the artist to explore Surrealist ideas within a constrained frame, where the eye is drawn to detail differently. We are excited to provide visitors with a chance to reconsider one of the 20th century's most important and engaging artists."

Plans for the exhibition began after the Meadows acquired the small-scale painting *L'homme poisson* (1930) in 2014, and asked the conservation department of the Kimbell Art Museum to conduct a technical analysis of the work. That research revealed extensive underdrawing and changes to the composition before it was completed. However, despite much art historical study of Dalí's life and work, it became clear that very few such technical analyses had been made of his other small-scale paintings—nor had these works been shown together in a way that encouraged viewers to see them as a distinctive subset of the artist's overall body of work.

While Dalí continued to make small-scale paintings later in his life, the eight-year span of this exhibition addresses the crucial period of productivity at the height of his career.

As part of the exhibition development, the Meadows Museum is continuing its research collaboration with the Kimbell Art Museum. Claire Barry, the Kimbell's director of conservation, is conducting technical studies of nine of the paintings that will be presented, broadening the research begun with *L'homme poisson*, and using both X-radiography and infrared reflectography, as well as pigment analysis, to provide a better understanding of Dalí's artistic technique and working process during the 1930s. The Meadows is also collaborating with the Gala-Salvador Dalí Foundation in Figueres, Spain, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York on analysis of additional small-scale paintings by the artist.

*Dalí: Poetics of the Small* is co-curated by Roglán and Meadows Museum Curatorial Assistant Shelley DeMaria, and will be accompanied by a full color catalogue with essays by: Meadows Museum director Mark Roglán, addressing Dalí's historical influences; Shelley DeMaria, Curatorial Assistant, exploring Dalí's biography and contemporaneous influences; and Claire Barry, Director of Conservation at the Kimbell Art Museum, presenting the results of the technical analyses of many of these works.

#### **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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