



DREAMS  
*of*  
DALÍ

Educational Guide

# about *dreams of dalí*

Created for The Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, FL. [\*Dreams of Dalí\*](#), a virtual reality experience, celebrates the remarkable marriage of art and technology, as viewers go into – and beyond – Dalí's painting *Archeological Reminiscence of Millet's "Angelus."*

Throughout his life and career, Salvador Dalí was an innovator, constantly challenging the status quo. Whether revolutionizing the art world, questioning the social mores of his day, or forcing us to reevaluate how we see, interpret and interact with the world around us, Dalí was future focused, constantly searching for scientific, spiritual and artistic connections. His experimental techniques, provocative theories of art and his ongoing fascination with technology placed him in the vanguard of discovery, always testing limits, probing boundaries and leaning purposefully into the future.

At The Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, FL, we believe that Salvador Dalí, being an early adopter of new technology, would be delighted that in the decades following his death, through virtual reality, people across the globe could experience his work in a new way, providing a glimpse into his extraordinary imagination.

Dreams of Dalí © 2016 by Salvador Dalí Museum, Inc., St. Petersburg, FL, is a virtual reality experience available on-site at the Museum or as a 360° video for desktops and mobile devices at [www.DreamsOfDali.org](http://www.DreamsOfDali.org). Created for The Dalí by Goodby Silverstein & Partners, San Francisco, CA

*Archeological Reminiscence  
of Millet's "Angelus"*

Salvador Dalí, c.1934, oil on panel,  
Collection of The Dalí Museum



**about *archeological reminiscence*  
*of millet's "angelus"***

The monumental ruins on this moonlit beach represent a primordial couple. The female, on the right, bends towards the male. Her figure recalls a praying mantis, who devours her mate after copulation. In the center foreground is a young Dalí whose father points at the statues. At the base of the female figure, another Dalí gazes upon the pair with his seated nanny.



The inspiration for this work is a 19th century painting called *The Angelus* by the French artist Jean-François Millet. The original painting depicts a peasant couple, in a similar position, praying in a vast field. During Dalí's childhood, the Millet painting was reproduced multiple times in popular culture, and it haunted him throughout his lifetime. An image of it hung on the wall of his boyhood classroom and it often was an object of his daydreams and fantasies. During this period of his life, the two figures appeared to him multiple times and in unexpected places. He began to think the work uncovered a universal truth to human relationships.

In this surrealist reinterpretation of *The Angelus*, Dalí seems to have uncovered an ancient myth of the femme fatale, who subjugates the male with the threat of destruction.

# about the dalínian symbols within the experience



The nanny symbolizes Dalí's childhood nurse, Lucia. A strong influence on Dalí's life, she appears in a pose like the net menders Dalí saw on the beach of Port Lligat.



Ants symbolize death, decay and decadence. The young Dalí watched with shock and fascination as the decomposed remains of small animals were eaten by ants.



Dalí was intrigued by the use of math and science throughout his career and often used the spiral shape, drawn by graphing the Fibonacci sequence, in his work.



The girl skipping rope symbolizes innocence and curiosity. It was inspired by the shape of a bell tower from a school his sister attended.



Juxtaposing two familiar objects delighted Dalí, who said, "I do not understand why, when I ask for grilled lobster in a restaurant, I'm never served a cooked telephone."



Dalí declared he and American singer-songwriter Alice Cooper were "the greatest living artists," calling Cooper "the best exponent of total confusion I know."



The towers' silhouette is inspired by the peasant couple in the wildly popular Jean-François Millet painting *The Angelus* (1857-59).



Dalí regularly distorted perceptions of space & reality; for example, the bulk of an elephant supported by the frail legs of a fly.



The father and son figures symbolize a time when Dalí and his father were close. This symbol emerges after a falling out with his father.

# about virtual reality

Virtual Reality (VR) is the use of computer technology to create a simulated environment. Unlike traditional user interfaces, VR places the user inside an experience. Instead of viewing a screen in front of them, users are immersed and able to interact with 3D worlds.

Today's VR technologies build upon ideas that date back to the 1800s, almost to the very beginning of practical photography. In 1838, the first stereoscope was invented, using twin mirrors to project a single image. That eventually developed into the View-Master, patented in 1939 and still produced today.

Technologists have been developing simulated environments since then. One milestone was the Sensorama in 1956. Morton Heilig's background was in the Hollywood motion picture industry. He wanted to see how people could feel like they were "in" the movie. The Sensorama experience simulated a real city environment, which you "rode" through on a motorcycle.

The term "virtual reality," however, was first used in the mid-1980s when Jaron Lanier, founder of VPL Research, began to develop the gear, including goggles and gloves, needed to experience what he called "virtual reality."

Today's current virtual reality gear owes a debt of gratitude to the pioneering inventors of the past six decades who paved the way for the low-cost, high-quality devices which are easily accessible.

# how to experience *dreams of dalí*

## Download the Immersive, Interactive Experience

Download *Dreams of Dalí* from these leading VR platforms:

[Download \*Dreams of Dalí\* from Oculus Home](#) (Rift)

[Download \*Dreams of Dalí\* from VivePort](#) (Vive)

[Download \*Dreams of Dalí\* from Steam](#) (Vive or Rift)

## Watch the Linear 360° Video

You may view a [linear 360° video version of \*Dreams of Dalí\*](#) from a variety of devices such as a Samsung Gear VR or Google Cardboard or Daydream.

Even if you don't have a VR device, you may view the [video](#) on any smartphone, tablet or desktop PC using the latest version of Chrome.





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For additional questions or needs email [Library@TheDali.org](mailto:Library@TheDali.org)