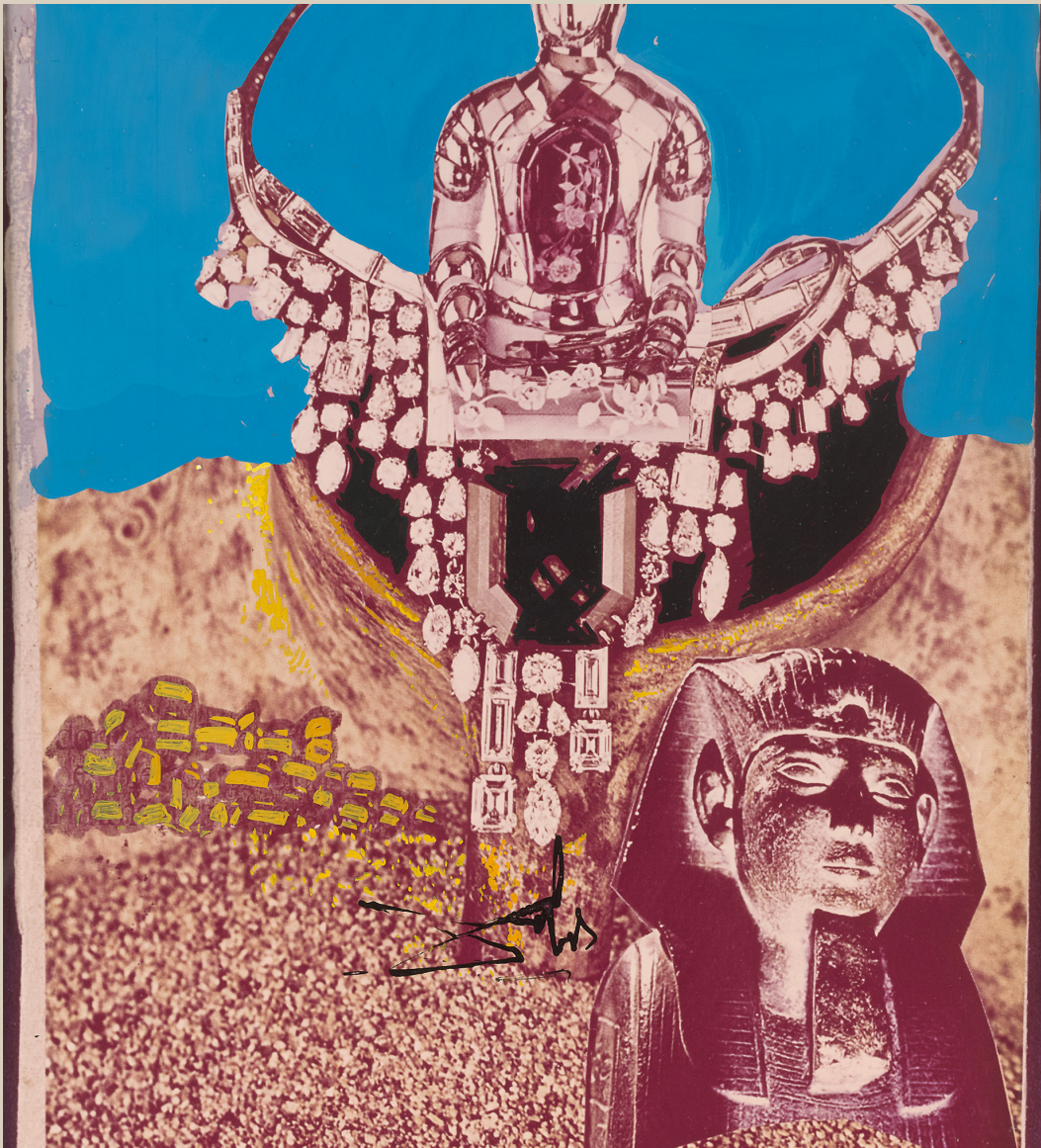


Salvador Dalí



1904-1989 | SPANISH

The Golden Calf (Chariot Tarot Card)

M.S. Rau
FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

This gouache exemplifies a unique fusion of spiritualism and Surrealism, originating from Salvador Dalí's highly inventive deck of custom-made tarot cards. In quintessential Dalí style, the renowned Surrealist reimagines the Chariot card in a vividly evocative manner, characterized by bold colors and dynamic symbolism. Dalí explored several iterations of the Chariot motif, with this gouache he titled *The Golden Calf* standing as a more vibrant counterpart to his final, darker rendition. His fascination with the bright imagery in this original work continued beyond the tarot deck, inspiring a 1981 lithograph where he revived the bright, energetic palette seen in this gouache.

The original commission for the design came from Albert Broccoli, the James Bond film *Live and Let Die* producer, who sought a tarot card deck to use in the film. Though the contractual deal eventually fell through, Dalí continued the project of his own accord, largely thanks to the inspiration of his wife Gala, who had an interest in mysticism.

The Surrealist maestro drew upon a number of influences to complete the deck, which comprised 78 cards in total—22 major arcana and 56 minor. His own self-portrait served as the Magician card, while his beloved wife Gala naturally posed for the Empress. Jan Gossaert's 1516 Renaissance work *Neptune and Amphitrite* was the basis for the Lovers card, while the Queen of Cups card represents a fascinating marriage of Duchamp's iconic Mona Lisa remix, *L.H.O.O.Q.*, with a portrait of Elizabeth of Austria. The iconography of the deck is as eclectic as one would expect from Dalí; it is little wonder that it took him ten years to complete the project.

This gouache represents a reinterpretation of the Chariot card, drawn from the original 22 Major Arcana cards and reimagined here as *The Golden Calf*. The term "Golden Calf" originates from the Hebrew Bible, specifically the Book of Exodus, where an idol was created by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments. The Golden Calf symbolizes idolatry and the temptation to worship

material objects instead of the divine. Here, the Golden Calf card serves as a poignant reminder of the pitfalls of materialism and the importance of maintaining spiritual integrity.

Interestingly, Dalí does not depict a literal golden calf in this artwork. Instead, the central composition features a necklaced bust with the superimposed image of an Egyptian pharaoh depicted on the Chariot card. The disproportionately sized icon in place of the figure's head suggests complex themes of identity and greed, inviting deeper contemplation on the nature of desire and the human experience. After Dalí completed his deck, the original cards were assembled and published in a limited art edition in 1984.

Born in Catalonia in 1904, Dalí was formally educated in the fine arts in Madrid, particularly falling under the influence of the Impressionists and the Renaissance masters. At a young age, he became associated with the Madrid avant-garde group Ultra, though he eventually became more acquainted with other movements such as Cubism, Dada and Futurism. Today, he is remembered as one of the most legendary and significant contributors to Surrealism. His *Persistence of Memory*, with its melting clocks, is arguably the most recognizable painting of the movement. Two museums—one in St. Petersburg, Florida and another in Catalonia—are entirely devoted to his oeuvre; other important works by the artist can be found in the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.), among many others.





Salvador Dalí

1904-1989 | Spanish

The Golden Calf (Chariot Tarot Card), circa 1971

Signed "Dalí" (lower center)
Gouache on a photographic base

Paper: 11 1/4" high x 8 1/2" wide | 28.58 x 21.59 cm
Frame: 26 1/2" high x 23 1/4" wide x 2" deep | 67.31 x 59.06 x 5.08 cm

The late Robert Descharnes confirmed the authenticity of this work.

PROVENANCE

The Salvador Dalí Gallery, California

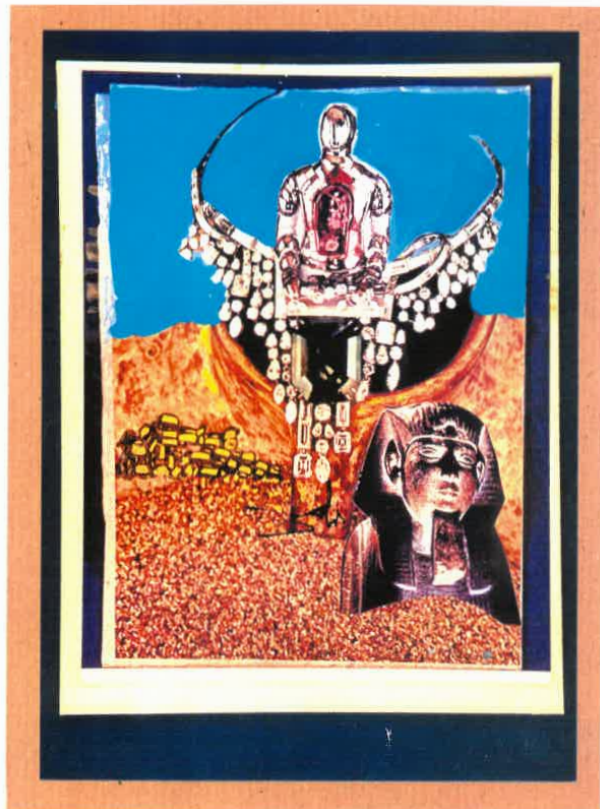
Private Collection

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

EXHIBITED

Los Angeles, University of California, *Dalí at UCLA*, July 2001, p. 5 (illustrated)





Selon mon opinion et ma connaissance de l'œuvre, la maquette originale reproduite ci-dessus ainsi que sur la photographie au recto est bien de la main de Salvador Dalí Domenech (1904-1989).

Références de l'œuvre:

" **Le Veau d'Or** ", projet de carte pour les "Tarots de Salvador Dalí"- circa 1971 – mixed-media, 31 x 24 cm. Signé au centre " Dalí ".

Référence d'archives : **D-3322**.

Aucun autre certificat original ne sera délivré.

Fait le vendredi 6 avril 2001

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R. Descharnes
 Robert P. DESCHARNES





Salvador Dalí
Bouche mystérieuse
apparaissant sur le dos de ma
nurse
 gouache on magazine cover
 Height 44.7 x Width 30.3 cm.
 Height 17.598 x Width 11.929 in.
 1941

06 October 2020 *over 4 years ago*
 Christie's New York
20th Century Evening Sale – [Lot 00027]

est. 1,200,000 - 1,800,000 USD **1,650,000** USD (P)



Salvador Dalí
L'Adolescence
 gouache, pen, brush and india ink and pencil on
 magazine cover
 Height 44.9 x Width 30.1 cm.
 Height 17.677 x Width 11.85 in.
 1941

11 November 2018 *about 6 years ago*
 Christie's New York

*Impressionist and Modern Art Evening Sale Including Property
 from the Collection of Herbert and Adele Klapper – [Lot 0002A]*

est. 700,000 - 1,000,000 USD **1,452,500** USD (P)
 ↑ 45% est



Salvador Dalí
L'oeil du peintre
 watercolor, pen and brush and colored inks over
 pencil on card
 Height 25.6 x Width 26.7 cm.
 Height 10.079 x Width 10.512 in.
 1941

12 November 2019 *about 5 years ago*
 Christie's New York

Impressionist and Modern Art Works on Paper – [Lot 00115]

est. 300,000 - 500,000 USD **711,000** USD (P)
 ↑ 42% est



Salvador Dalí
Allégorie de soie
 gouache, watercolor, pen and india ink with
 paper collage on board
 Height 51 x Width 38 cm.
 Height 20.079 x Width 14.961 in.
 1950

13 November 2015 *about 9 years ago*
 Christie's New York

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 01029]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 USD **665,000** USD (P)
 ↑ 90% est





Salvador Dalí

Hollywood

gouache, watercolor, pen and colored inks and painted and printed paper collage on card

Height 30.7 x Width 22.4 cm.

Height 12.087 x Width 8.819 in.

1947

14 May 2021 over 3 years ago

Christie's New York

Impressionist & Modern Art Works on Paper Sale – [Lot 00418]

est. 250,000 - 350,000 USD

650,000 USD ©

↑ 86% est



Salvador Dalí

DREAM OF VENUS (RÊVE DE VÉNUS)

gouache, pen and black ink on paper

Height 36.9 x Width 58.2 cm.

Height 14.528 x Width 22.913 in.

1939

27 February 2019 almost 6 years ago

Sotheby's London

Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00133]

est. 120,000 - 180,000 GBP

435,000 GBP ©

est. 159,808 - 239,712 USD

579,304 USD ©

↑ 142% est



Salvador Dalí

*FLEURS, PASTÈQUE ET POIRE
DANS UN PAYSAGE
AMPURDANAIS*

gouache

Height 38.6 x Width 56.7 cm.

Height 15.197 x Width 22.323 in.

1966

20 June 2018 over 6 years ago

Sotheby's London

Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00324]

est. 120,000 - 180,000 GBP

286,000 GBP ©

est. 158,520 - 237,780 USD

377,807 USD ©

↑ 59% est



Salvador Dalí

DREAM OF VENUS

gouache on paper

Height 37.2 x Width 59.3 cm.

Height 14.646 x Width 23.346 in.

1939

15 May 2018 over 6 years ago

Sotheby's New York

Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00339]

est. 150,000 - 250,000 USD

325,000 USD ©

↑ 30% est



Salvador Dalí

Venus Butterfly

gouache, watercolor, india ink, pencil and collage on card

Height 32.11 x Width 24.1 cm.

Height 12.64 x Width 9.49 in.

1947

13 May 2021 over 3 years ago

Heritage Auctions

Modern & Contemporary Art Signature Auction - Dallas #8045 – [Lot 77016]

est. 60,000 - 80,000 USD

300,000 USD ©

↑ 275% est



Salvador Dalí | *Mae West's Face which May be Used as a Surrealist Apartment*

1934-35

Medium: Gouache with graphite, on commercially printed magazine page

Dimensions: 11^{3/16} x 7^{1/16} inches | 28.3 x 17.8 cm



The Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago, IL, United States

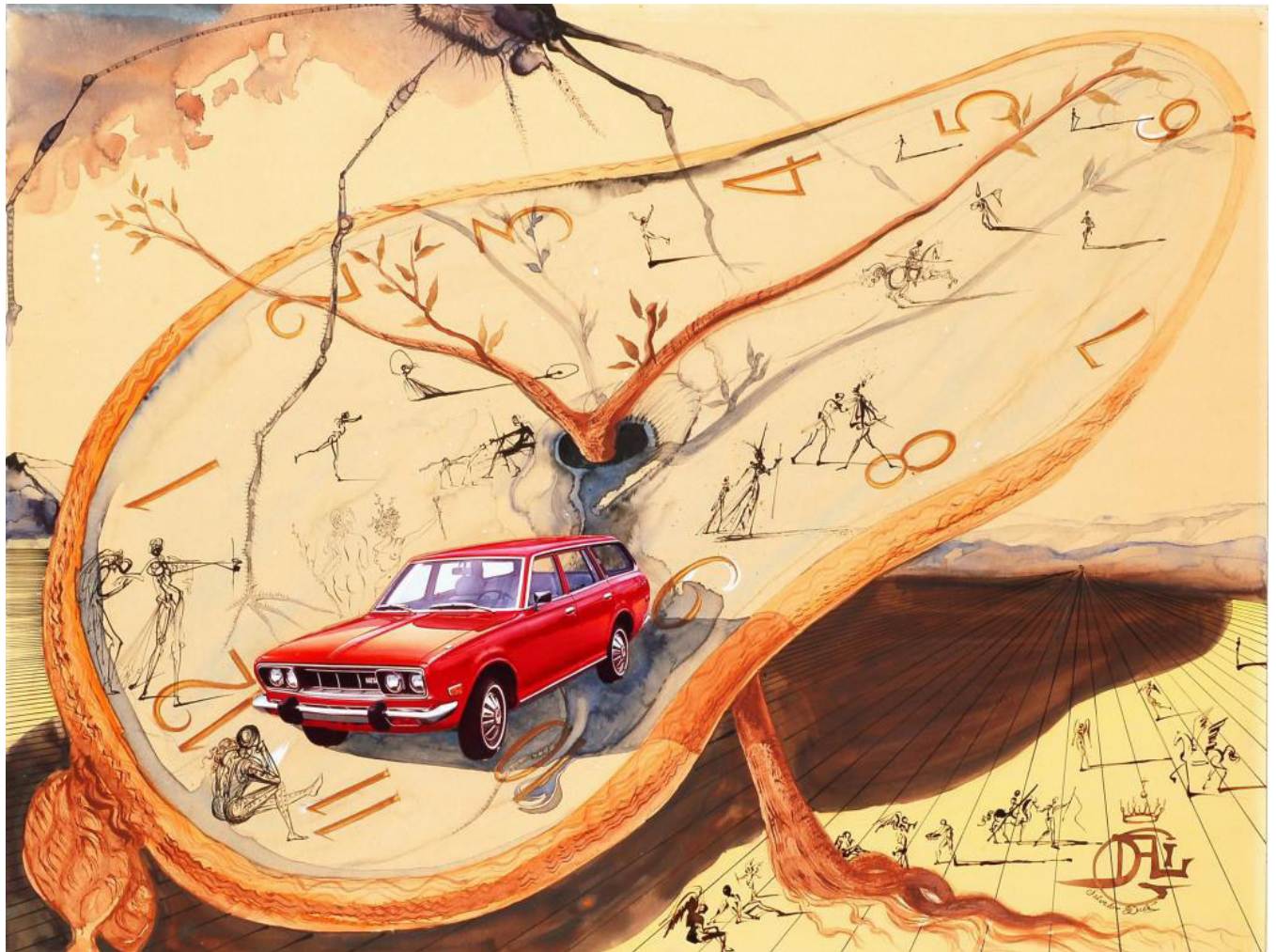


Salvador Dalí | *Untitled*

Circa 1973

Medium: India ink, watercolor, ink wash and offset-photocollage on board

Dimensions: 19 x 25 inches | 48.26 x 63.5 cm



Salvador Dalí | *The Ship*

Circa 1942

Medium: Gouache on chromolithograph

Dimensions: 25 x 18 inches | 63.5 x 45.72 cm



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