

# Salvador Dalí



1904-1989 | SPANISH

*Le Terrain de croquet de la reine*

**F**ew stories weave fantasy and surrealism as effortlessly as *Alice in Wonderland*. It is fitting, then, that Salvador Dalí, the master of the surreal, transformed Lewis Carroll's tale into one of his most celebrated illustrated series. This original 1968 painting, *Le Terrain de croquet de la reine* (*The Queen's Croquet Ground*), is a striking depiction of the story's famed Queen of Hearts.

Dalí's interpretation of Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* exemplifies the perfect alliance between two visionary creators. In this scene of Alice's croquet match, Dalí's distinctive motifs—two large flamingo mallets and the executioner in the background—transport viewers into the depths of the subconscious. The Queen of Hearts, possibly representing the viewer, dominates the composition. Her commanding figure embodying the unrestrained passion that both shocked the Victorian sensibilities of Carroll's audience and aligned perfectly with Dalí's exploration of dream logic.

This gouache, watercolor and ink painting laid the foundation for one of Dalí's most significant published works. In 1969, Maecenas Press-Random House in New York released a limited edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* featuring Dalí's artwork (a set of 12 lithographs, one for every chapter). These books are now held in prestigious rare book collections around the world, with exhibitions dedicated to the series at institutions including the Panhandle-Plains Museum of Art, the University of South Florida, and the Philbrook Museum of Art in Oklahoma. Each of these first-edition books is rare and highly sought after, but the original gouache paintings such as this are the ultimate collector's item.

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 major 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 in 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 in Washington, D.C., among many others.



“

Like Alice in Wonderland...  
[artists] will be led to pass  
through the looking glass  
of the retina, to reach a  
more profound expression.

– Marcel Duchamp

”







## Salvador Dalí

1904-1989 | Spanish

*Le Terrain de croquet de la reine*, 1968

Signed and dated "Dalí 1968" (upper center)  
Gouache, watercolor, ink wash and India ink on paper

Paper: 22" high x 15" wide | 55.88 x 38.10 cm

Frame: 31 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" high x 24 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" wide x 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" deep | 80.96 x 63.18 x 4.45 cm

Nicolas and Olivier Descharnes have confirmed the authenticity of this work.

### PROVENANCE

Galería Jorge Juan, Madrid

Private Collection, Spain

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

### LITERATURE

Lewis Carroll, edited by Mark Burstein & Thomas Banchoff, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: 150th Anniversary Edition*, 2016 (illustrated)





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

Référence de l'œuvre :

*The Queen's Croquet Ground* (Le terrain de croquet de la reine), illustration pour la série d'estampes *Alice in Wonderland* (Alice au pays des merveilles), Maecenas Press WUCUA, New York (1969), 1968

Gouache, aquarelle, lavis d'encre, et encre de Chine sur papier épais, filigrane "Arches / FRANCE" et timbre sec "VERITABLE PAPIER D'ARCHES / FIN FIN" en bas à droite, 56,4 x 38,7 cm irrégulier

Signé et daté à l'encre de Chine en haut au centre avec la Croix "Dalí / 1968"

Estampe reproduite dans : Field, Albert, *The Official Catalog of the Graphic Works of Salvador Dalí*, The Salvador Dalí Archives, New York 1996, p.37, nr.oi69-05-1

Référence d'archives : **d 1281**

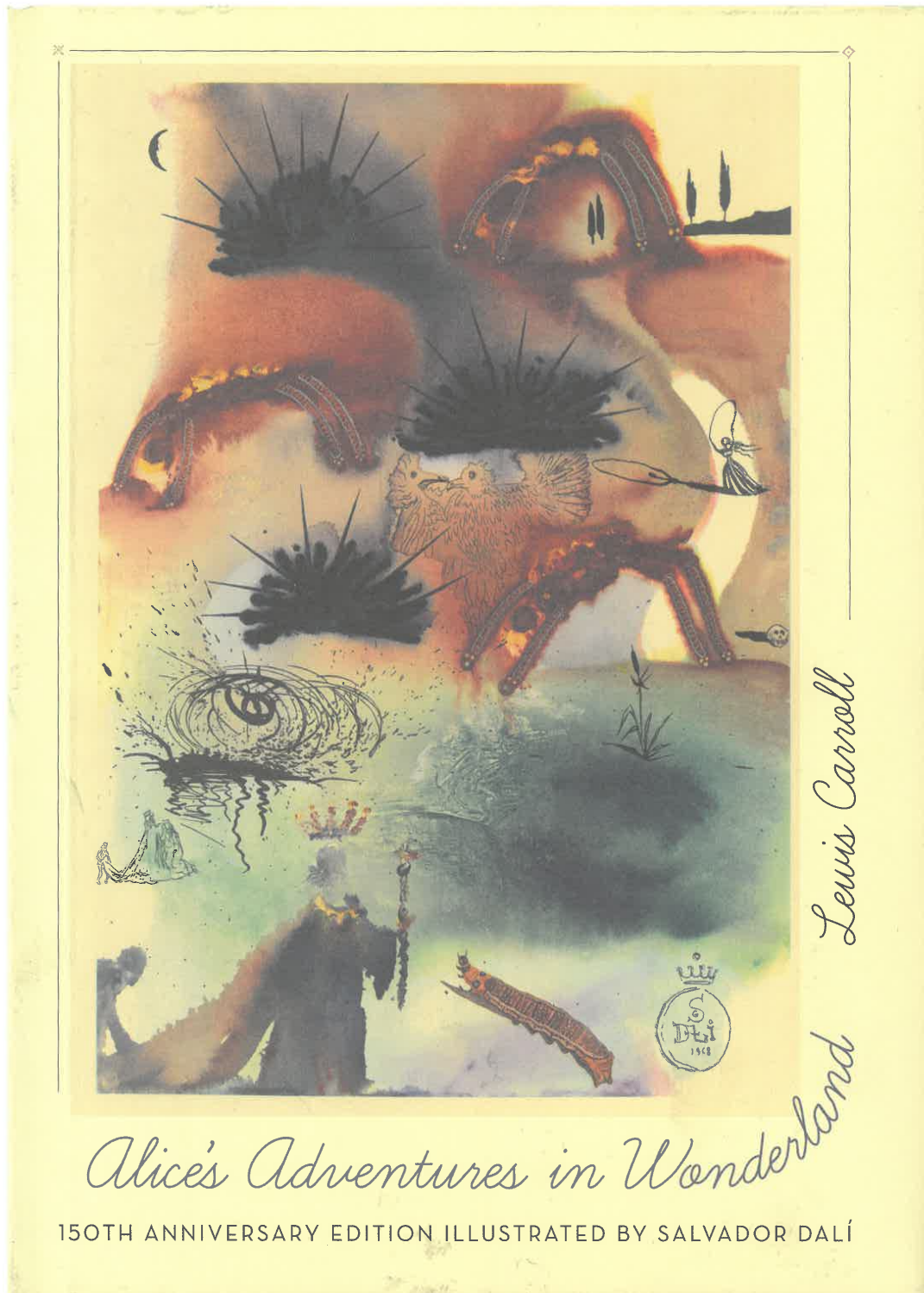
Aucun autre certificat original ne sera délivré. lundi 21 octobre 2024

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Olivier M. Descharnes  
Archives

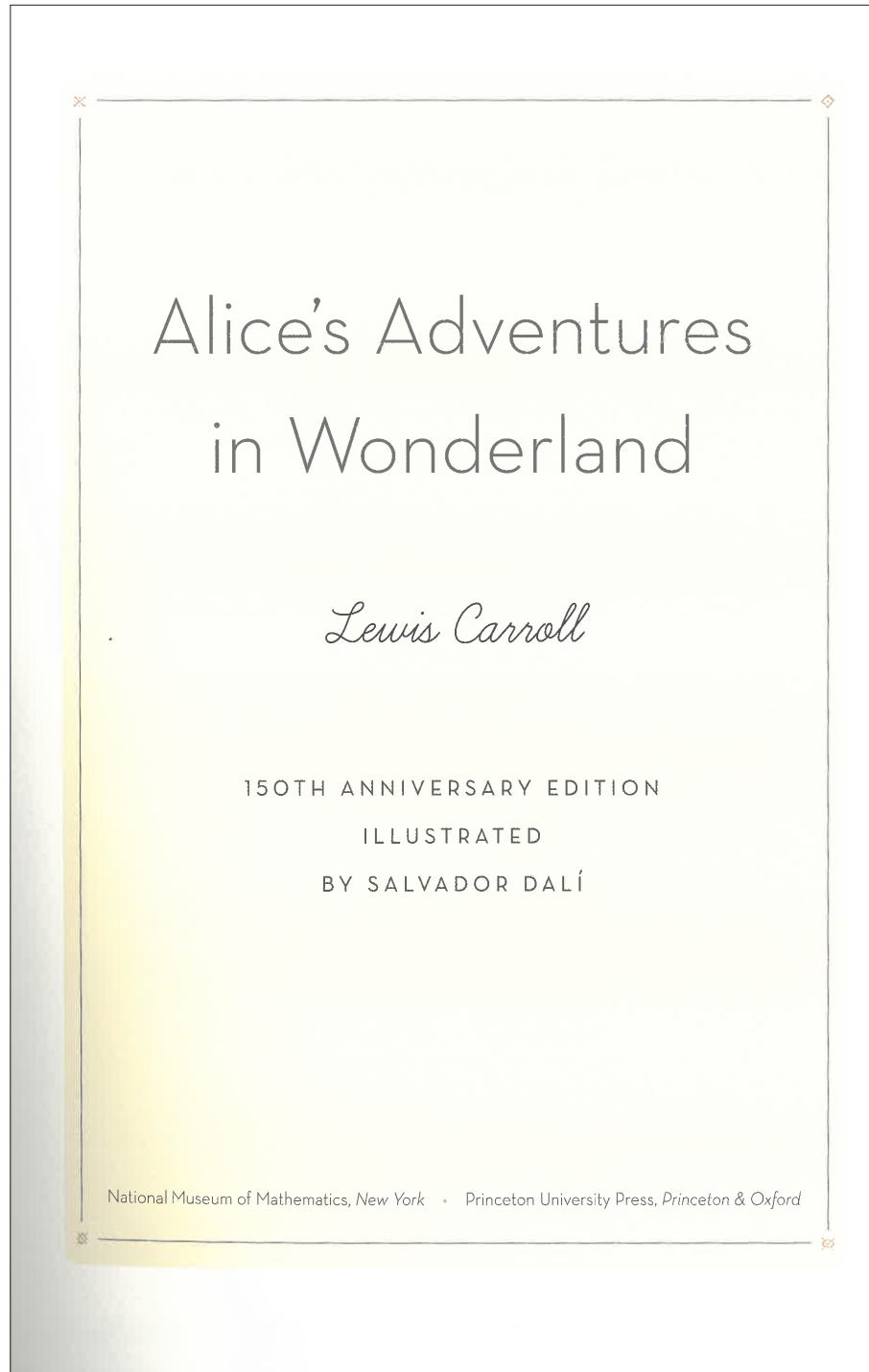
ARCHIVES  
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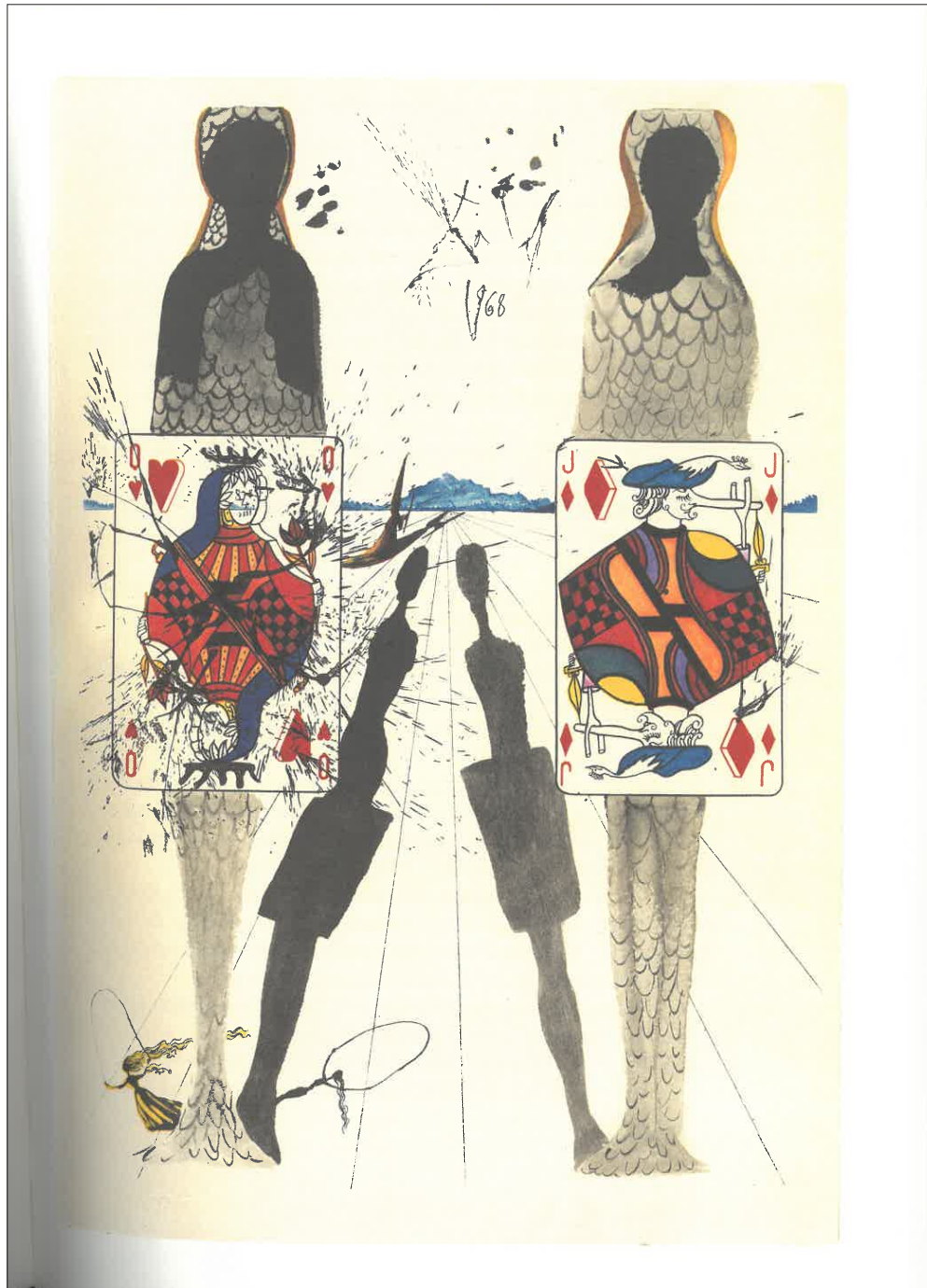
Lewis Carroll, edited by Mark Burstein & Thomas Banchoff, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: 150th Anniversary Edition*, 2016 (illustrated)





Lewis Carroll, edited by Mark Burstein & Thomas Banchoff, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: 150th Anniversary Edition*, 2016 (illustrated)





Lewis Carroll, edited by Mark Burstein & Thomas Banchoff, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland: 150th Anniversary Edition*, 2016 (illustrated)





# AUCTION COMPARABLES



**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**  
*Vase de fleurs*  
gouache and watercolor  
Height 101.6 x Width 76.2 cm.  
Height 40 x Width 30 in.  
1956

**05 February 2004** *about 21 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 00391]*

est. 75,000 - 100,000 GBP **195,650** GBP   
est. 137,842 - 183,789 USD **359,584** USD   
**↑ 96% 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** *almost 7 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**  
*L'Épreuve de l'arc*  
gouache, watercolour and pen and ink on paper  
Height 45.1 x Width 38.4 cm.  
Height 17.756 x Width 15.118 in.  
1970

**05 February 2015** *about 10 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist/Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 00251]*

est. 80,000 - 120,000 GBP **182,500** GBP   
est. 122,342 - 183,514 USD **279,094** USD   
**↑ 52% est**



**Salvador Dalí**  
*Gala tenant une tapisserie*  
ink, watercolor and gouache on paper  
Height 98 x Width 57 cm.  
Height 38.583 x Width 22.441 in.  
1970

**14 November 2023** *over 1 year ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**  
*Modern Day Auction – [Lot 00248]*

est. 120,000 - 180,000 USD **254,000** USD   
**↑ 41% est**





**Salvador Dalí**  
*Le Roi-Soleil*  
 gouache, watercolor and pen and ink on paper  
 Height 55 x Width 44 cm.  
 Height 21.654 x Width 17.323 in.  
 1971

**06 February 2013** *about 12 years ago*  
**Sotheby's London**  
*Impressionist and Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00303]*  
 est. 60,000 - 80,000 GBP **157,250** GBP Ⓟ  
 est. 93,911 - 125,215 USD **246,126** USD Ⓟ  
 ↑ 97% est



**Salvador Dalí**  
*Deux faucons et la figure d'éléphant*  
 gouache, watercolor and pen and india ink on paper  
 Height 38.4 x Width 28.6 cm.  
 Height 15.118 x Width 11.26 in.  
 1966

**03 February 2016** *about 9 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist & Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 00205]*  
 est. 40,000 - 60,000 GBP **158,500** GBP Ⓟ  
 est. 58,292 - 87,438 USD **230,982** USD Ⓟ  
 ↑ 164% est



**Salvador Dalí**  
*Dahlia Unicornis*  
 gouache, watercolor and pen and ink on paper  
 Height 54 x Width 36.5 cm.  
 Height 21.26 x Width 14.37 in.  
 1967

**08 May 2013** *almost 12 years ago*  
**Sotheby's New York**  
*Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00281]*  
 est. 100,000 - 150,000 USD **221,000** USD Ⓟ  
 ↑ 47% est



**Salvador Dalí**  
*PROJET POUR UNE CONFÉRENCE SURREALISTE*  
 gouache on paper  
 Height 45.5 x Width 49.7 cm.  
 Height 17.913 x Width 19.567 in.  
 1937

**04 February 2016** *about 9 years ago*  
**Sotheby's London**  
*Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale – [Lot 00358]*  
 est. 120,000 - 180,000 GBP **149,000** GBP Ⓟ  
 est. 174,901 - 262,352 USD **217,169** USD Ⓟ



**Salvador Dalí**  
*Ulysse et Télémaque*  
 gouache and watercolor on paper  
 Height 45 x Width 38.5 cm.  
 Height 17.717 x Width 15.157 in.  
 1969

**21 June 2012** *over 12 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist/Modern Works on Paper – [Lot 00258]*  
 est. 60,000 - 80,000 GBP **121,250** GBP Ⓟ  
 est. 93,808 - 125,078 USD **189,571** USD Ⓟ  
 ↑ 52% est



**Salvador Dalí**  
*Venise*  
 gouache, watercolour and pen and india ink on paper  
 Height 58.5 x Width 73.5 cm.  
 Height 23.031 x Width 28.937 in.  
 1949

**24 June 2015** *over 9 years ago*  
**Christie's London**  
*Impressionist & Modern Art Works on Paper Sale – [Lot 00140]*  
 est. 40,000 - 60,000 GBP **116,500** GBP Ⓟ  
 est. 62,725 - 94,088 USD **182,687** USD Ⓟ  
 ↑ 94% est

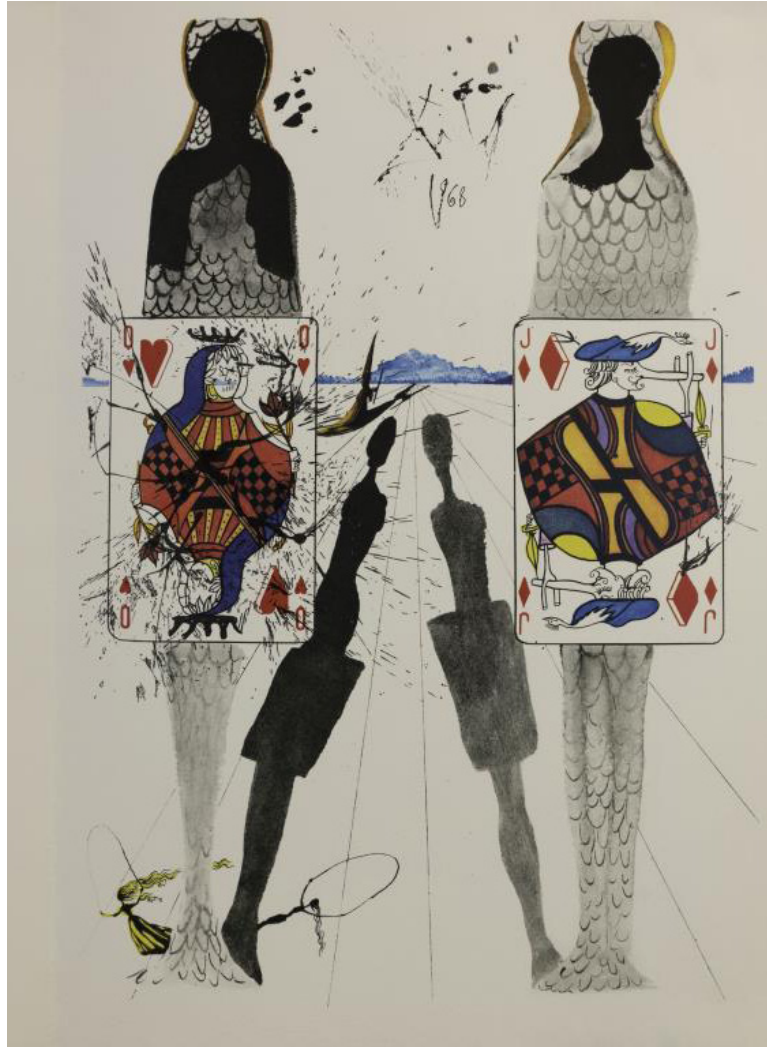


## Salvador Dalí | *The Queen's Croquet Ground*

1969

**Medium:** Etching, 12 heliogravures and woodcut remarque on paper

**Dimensions:** 15<sup>5/8</sup> x 10<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 39.6 x 26.6 cm



## Salvador Dalí | *The King and Queen*

1976

**Medium:** Drypoint etching with lithography

**Dimensions:** 30 x 22 inches | 76.2 x 55.88 cm





## Salvador Dalí | *The Elephants*

1960-61

**Medium:** Pencil and watercolor on paper

**Dimensions:** 27<sup>1/2</sup> x 27<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 69.85 x 69.85 cm



Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields  
Indianapolis, IL, United States



## Salvador Dalí | *The Language of the Bird*

1950

**Medium:** Watercolor and ink on paper

**Dimensions:** 16 x 11<sup>5/8</sup> inches | 40.64 x 29.52 cm



## Salvador Dalí | *Illustration for "Tres Picos"*

1955

**Medium:** Watercolor and ink on print

**Dimensions:** 9<sup>3/8</sup> x 6<sup>1/2</sup> inches | 23.6 x 16.5 cm



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