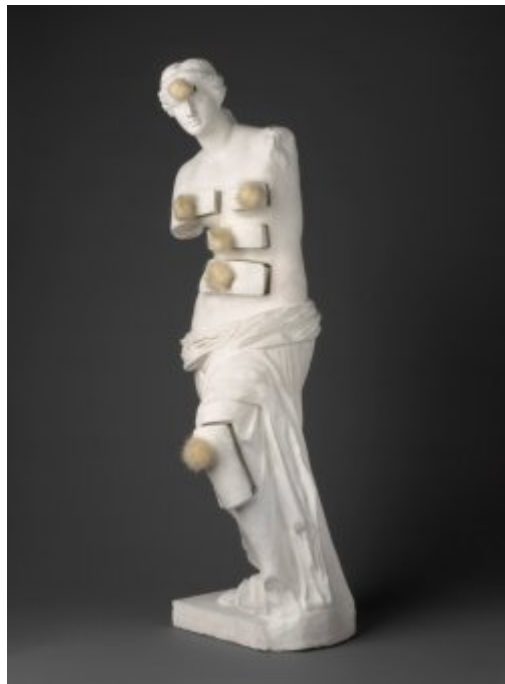


Cat. no. OE 24

Vénus de Milo aux tiroirs
Venus de Milo with Drawers

Unique Original Work



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Date:	1936
Technique:	Painted plaster with metal pulls and mink pompons
Dimensions:	98 x 32,5 x 34 cm
Location:	The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago. Through prior gift of Mrs. Gilbert W. Chapman 2005.424



Description

This plaster sculpture, created by Dalí in 1936, takes as its reference the *Venus de Milo* in the Musée du Louvre. This icon of antiquity had fascinated the artist from childhood. In *The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí* he relates that as a boy he made a copy of this sculpture in clay, and how this first attempt at sculpture produced in him 'an unmistakable and delightful erotic pleasure'. Later, in an interview he gave to *Playboy* magazine in 1964, Dalí explained that 'With the addition of the drawers it is possible to look inside the body of the *Venus de Milo* to the soul: Thus Dalí creates a Freudian and Christian appearance in the Greek civilization.' It is likely that this same plaster sculpture was part of an ephemeral installation at the exhibition *Salvador Dalí 1939* held at the Julien Levy Gallery in New York.

Provenance

- Salvador Dalí, 1936-c. 1964
- Max Clarac-Sérou, Paris, c. 1964-1990
- Patrick Derom, c. 1990-2005

Observations

It is not certain that the pompoms correspond to the original creation of 1936; it is possible that Dalí himself added them later.

Exhibitions

- 1979, Paris, Galerie du Dragon, *Objet surréaliste 1931-1937*, 20/10/1979 - 20/12/1979, cat. no. 10
- 2000, Paris, Musée du Louvre, *D'après l'antique*, 15/10/2000 - 15/01/2001, cat. no. 259
- 2001, St. Petersburg, Florida, Salvador Dalí Museum, *A Disarming Beauty: The Venus of Milo in 20th Century Art*, 28/04/2001 - 09/09/2001, no reference
- 2001, London, Tate Modern, *Surrealism desire unbound*, 20/09/2001 - 01/01/2002, no reference
- 2002, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Surrealism desire unbound*, 06/02/2002 - 12/05/2002, no reference
- 2004, Venezia, Palazzo Grassi, *Dalí*, 12/09/2004 - 16/01/2005, cat. no. 156
- 2005, Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, *Dalí*, 16/02/2005 - 15/05/2005, cat. no. 156

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