

Cat. no. OE 28

She Was a Surrealist Woman - She Was Like A Figure in a Dream

Unique Original Work - Installation See Cat. no. OE 29, 30, 31



© Salvador Dalí, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, VEGAP, Figueres, 2019. Worsinger Photo / Museum of the City of New York. 37.67.8

Date:	1936
Technique:	Unknown
Dimensions:	Unknown
Location:	Lost / Ephemeral work



Description

In *The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí*, the artist recalls the commission to create this window display for the famous department store on New York's Fifth Avenue: 'By way of demonstration, I accepted an offer to dress one of the windows of Bonwit-Teller's [*sic*] shop with a surrealist display. I used a manikin whose head was made of red roses and who had fingernails of ermine fur. On a table, a telephone transformed into a lobster; hanging on a chair, my famous "aphrodisiac coat".' Many years later, in *The Unspeakable Confessions of Salvador Dalí*, the artist acknowledged these elements as the three characters of the *mise-en-scène*. In the window display, both the female mannequin and the table can be related to the iconography of the 1935 painting *Woman with Head of Roses*, while the telephone and the jacket are identified as sculptural works. The floor was covered with spoons and various objects and fashion accessories hung from the elongated arms projecting through the side walls. This window display is a good example of Dalí's involvement with the world of fashion during the 1930s.

Bibliography

- "Surrealist windows", New York Times, 20/12/1936, New York, NY, p. 30
- A. Hugues, "Dali Does A Surrealist Shop Window", New York American, 20/12/1936, New York, NY
- "Newest art sensation inspires Bonwit's to do «surrealist» windows", Retailing, 28/12/1936, New York, NY, ill.
- "This Crazy World ! Surrealism is Proving Contagious", *Indiana Evening Gazette*, 06/01/1937, Indiana, PA, p. 9, ill.
- "This Crazy World Surrealism Is Proving Contagious", *The Rhinelander Daily News*, 08/01/1937, Rhinelander, WI, p. 6, ill.
- "Surrealist Episode", The New Yorker, vol. 12, no. 48, 16-22/01/1937, New York, NY, p. 13
- Marcel Zahar, "Le surréalisme et New-York", Marianne, 5e année, num. 232, 31/03-06/04/1937, Paris, p. 4
- Frank Caspers, "Surrealism in overalls", *Scribner's Magazine*, vol. 104, no. 2, 08/1938, New York, NY, p. 18, ill.
- "Fifth Ave. Crowd Stops to View Dali Window", New York Telegraph, 23/12/1939, New York, NY
- Salvador Dalí, The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí, Dial Press, New York, 1942, p. [344]
- Ian Gibson, The Shameful life of Salvador Dalí, Faber and Faber, London, 1997, pp. 367-368
- Salvador Dalí, *Obra completa : Textos autobiogràfics 2*, Destino, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Barcelona, [Figueres], 2003, pp. 547-548
- Salvador Dalí, *Obra completa : Textos autobiogràfics 1*, Destino, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Barcelona, [Figueres], 2003, p. 809
- Frédérique Joseph-Lowery, *La Vie secrète de Salvador Dalí : suis-je un génie?*, L'Âge d'Homme, Lausanne, 2006, p. 640
- Surreal things : surrealism and design, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2007, p. 157, ill.
- *Cosas del surrealismo : surrealismo y diseño*, Victoria and Albert Museum, Guggenheim Bilbao, London, Bilbao, 2007, p. 157, ill.
- Ghislaine Wood, The Surreal body : fetish and fashion, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2007, p. 59, ill.
- Shûzô Takigushi, Dalí : Tokio, 1939, Notari, Genève, 2012, fig. 48, ill.
- Valerie J. Fletcher, *Marvelous objects : surrealist sculpture from Paris to New York*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Delmonico Books, Prestel, Washington, DC, Munich, London, New York, 2015, p. 55, ill.
- Torsten Otte, *Salvador Dalí & Andy Warhol : encounters in New York and beyond*, Scheidegger & Spiess, Zürich, 2016, p. 163
- Dalí / Duchamp, Royal Academy of Arts, The Dalí Museum, London, St. Petersburg, FL, 2017, p. 198, ill.
- Gek van surrelisme, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, 2017, pp. [182]-183, ill.



Reproduction Rights

The copyright on Salvador Dalí's works, included those that are reproduced in this Web page, is held by the Spanish State and has been granted in exclusivity to the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí.

Pursuant to intellectual property laws in force, the total or partial reproduction, distribution, transformation, public communication, interactively making available to the public, as well as any other exploitation, by any means, of the works included in this Web page is prohibited.

Any exploitation of Salvador Dalí's works is subject to the prior application and clearance of the relevant licence issued by VEGAP (tel. 91 532 66 32 and 93 201 03 31 ; www.vegap.es). Copyright infringement will be prosecuted according to Laws.