1. Presentation

The Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí is pleased to announce that today at 12 o’clock the temporary exhibition at Púbol Castle was officially inaugurated. Attending on behalf of the Foundation were its chairman, Ramon Boixadós and the director of the Dalí Museums, Montse Aguer. Also participating as this year’s guest was the Catalan Government’s Minister of Culture, Santi Vila. The guided visit to the exhibition was provided by Lucia Moni, coordinator at the Centre of Dalinian Studies (CED) and curator of this display, under the scientific direction of Montse Aguer. The exhibition has been created with the collaboration of “La Caixa” banking foundation which was represented by its deputy director general, Elisa Durán. Also attending the inauguration was the Dalí Foundation’s general secretary, Lluís Peñuelas.

This year the temporary exhibition at Púbol is dedicated to Salvador Dalí’s involvement in the theatre production of Shakespeare’s As you like it directed by Luchino Visconti at the Teatro Eliseo in Rome in 1948. It will be open to the public from Tuesday 15 March, when Púbol Castle reopens its doors, until 6 January 2017.

2. Concept and content

With the Dalí, Shakespeare, Visconti exhibition, which delves into Salvador Dalí’s relationship with the performing arts, we have sought to take part in the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare and, at the same time, we wanted to remember an important moment in the history of western theatre.

A great deal of research and documentation work went into creating this exhibition, which included contacting the Fondazione Istituto Gramsci in Rome, the Fondazione Franco Zeffirelli in Florence and the Museo dell’Attore in Genoa. By studying Shakespeare’s text we have been able to sort the different acts and scenes in the play and identify the characters and actors who appear in As you like it.
Dalí, Shakespeare and Visconti

*As you like it* is a pastoral comedy by William Shakespeare written between 1599 and 1600. In 1948, the Italian director Luchino Visconti decided to stage a production of the play and sought the collaboration of Salvador Dalí to give the project greater visibility. Dalí was commissioned to create the set design, which also involved a young Franco Zeffirelli as art director, and also the costume design.

![Rosalind, the fool and Celia before a backdrop reminiscent of the basilica of Santa Maria della Salute in Venice](image1)

**Project for 'As you like it', 1948**
© Salvador Dalí, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí/VEGAP, Figueres, 2016

Historical context

In July 1948 Salvador Dalí returned to Portlligat after eight years of exile in the United States to escape the war. The artist announced his desire to rediscover Italian classicism. In Venice, in front of the basilica of Santa Maria della Salute, he noticed a stone hemisphere surrounded by four rectangles. For Dalí, it was the confirmation that he was on the right path towards his work assuming the logic of classical perfection. Later he travelled to Rome, where he met Luchino Visconti. The director had finished *La terra trema*, a film commissioned by the Italian Communist Party. Afterwards, he presented the project *Rosalinda o Come vi piace* as “an uncomplicated show, a game, musical entertainment that evokes calm thoughts. [...] Then came Dalí. I was looking for an eccentric stage designer, a wizard”. With this commission, Dalí immersed himself for a month with total freedom to create the set design and costumes.

Set and costume design for *Rosalinda o Come vi piace*

Visconti wanted his theatre to be the expression of a visual fact. Dalí decided to attract attention by creating a structure that would frame the stage. This frame was the geometric motif the artist had seen on the basilica of Santa Maria della Salute in Venice. In addition, he also gave precise instructions for the lighting.

The costumes were made by Eva Mangili Palmer. Dalí himself referred to them in the text *Bonjour*! that was included in the programme: “my costumes are morphological and, in order to better serve my audience, they are even prophetic”.

![Project for 'As you like it', 1948](image2)
3. Areas of the exhibition

In this year’s temporary exhibition at Púbol Castle there are three original works by Salvador Dalí on display: the drawing *Elephant with obelisk* from c. 1946, the oil painting *Project for ‘Romeo and Juliet’* from 1942, and the wash drawing *Study for the set of ‘Romeo and Juliet’* from 1942 (this last work is on display in the Castle library), 29 photographs taken by different authors, including Pasquale de Antonis and Tommaso Vasari, and seven documents. The two works from 1942 are not linked to Dalí and Visconti’s project, but they do complete the homage to Shakespeare on the 400th anniversary of his death.

The seven documents in the display case are: one copy of the luxury edition of the programme from 1948, two period leaflets about the play, a photocopy of a handwritten letter from Dalí giving Visconti instructions about the staging, and three specialised theatre magazines which covered the premiere. There is also a screen showing an audiovisual of the programme’s pages being turned one by one. In the middle of the room a sofa has been placed to serve as seating and as a screen. Projected onto it is an excerpt from the television series *Per Luchino Visconti* broadcast by Rai 3 in 1987, in which the actors Vittorio Gassman and Marcello Mastroianni relate anecdotes about 1948.

The production company DocDoc Films is responsible for these two projections.
4. Staging

The staging of the exhibition was designed by Pep Canaleta from 3carme33 and the graphic design is by Alex Gifreu. Through the use of special lighting in the rooms, all the walls are washed in a faded red that reminds us of one of Dalí’s set designs. The aim was to add a theatrical effect to the staging of the exhibition. The red colour is inspired by Salvador Dalí’s Project for ‘As you like it’ from 1948. The display case has been designed to look like an old stage. And, finally, the button-tufted white sofa in the centre of the room is reminiscent of the ‘sheep couch’.

5. Catalogue

The catalogue includes texts by Salvador Dalí and Luchino Visconti, with an introduction by Montse Aguer, director of the Dalí Museums, and an article by Lucia Moni, CED coordinator and curator of the exhibition. The catalogue was coordinated by Rosa Maria Maurell, from the Centre for Dalinian Studies.

The exhibition Dalí, Shakespeare, Visconti will be open to the public from 15 March, when the Castle reopens its doors, until 6 January 2017.

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