



## Dalí / Duchamp

7 October 2017 – 3 January 2018

Galleries 1, 2 & Weston Rooms

Supported by

### WHITE & CASE

*Dalí / Duchamp* is the first exhibition to present the art of two of the twentieth century's most famous artists in exclusive dialogue. Marcel Duchamp (1887–1968) and Salvador Dalí (1904–1989) are usually seen as opposites in almost every respect, yet they shared attitudes to art and life that are manifested in their respective *oeuvres* on many levels. Taking their friendship as its starting point, the exhibition will demonstrate the aesthetic, philosophical and personal links between them. Over 80 paintings, sculptures, 'readymades', photographs, drawings, films and archival material will bring to life the myriad of connections between the works of these two very different creative and intelligent minds. *Dalí / Duchamp* will be located in Galleries 1, 2 and the Weston Rooms in Burlington House and will include loans from public institutions and private collections across Europe and the US.

Duchamp and Dalí met in the early 1930s through mutual contacts in the Surrealist group. Their friendship was consolidated in 1933 when Duchamp made his first visit to the fishing village of Cadaqués, just a short walk from Dalí's home in Portlligat. From the late 1950s Duchamp rented a house there each summer, and the two artists remained close until Duchamp's death in 1968. At first glance, they seem like opposites, Dalí was the self-professed genius and notorious Surrealist showman whereas Duchamp was a quieter character. Despite their differences, they recognised each other as a fellow traveller, both profoundly committed to individual freedom. They shared a number of core artistic interests such as optics and language, they were pioneers in the use of found objects and admired and publically supported one another's work. Fundamentally, the two men were united by a shared humour and scepticism which led them to challenge conventional views of art and life.

*Dalí / Duchamp* will be organised in three main thematic sections focusing on specific points of contact between the artists and capturing the energy and spirit of their friendship and artistic exchange.

*Identities* will explore Duchamp and Dalí as personalities and artistic identities. While Duchamp was 17 years Dalí's senior, as young artists both followed similar trajectories, initially experimenting with the artistic movements of their day: Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism and Futurism. It was as a painter that Duchamp came to public attention, however he was to categorically reject the medium, making his last oil painting on canvas in 1918. This section will show the diversity of the canvases painted by both artists, and reveal photographs that examine a conscious play with their public personae and a shared desire to question the role of the artist.



## **Admission**

£16.50 full price (£15 without Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

## **Tickets**

Tickets for *Dalí / Duchamp* are available daily at the RA or online at [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk). Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email [adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk).

## **Images**

Publicity images for *Dalí / Duchamp* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public [the historic treasures in its Collection](#), the work of its [Academicians](#) and [the RA Schools](#), alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video)

**For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)**

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**18.07.17**