

## Lesson 4

## READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

## Salvador Dali

When Europe was emerging from the chaos created by World War I, Paris became the cultural center of the western world. Artists and writers flocked to Paris to experiment with new ideas and techniques.

An art movement developed that was called Surrealism. It was based on the idea that reality was not orderly, and that true knowledge could only be attained by liberating creative powers hidden in dreams and visions.

A Spanish painter named Salvador Dali was a leading proponent of this movement. One would never characterize his paintings as being picturesque. Instead, his paintings are filled with grotesque images whose meaning seems obscure. Many of his paintings are decorated with limp watches or melting clocks. Some are based on religious themes.

Although critiques by art experts state that Dali is not the greatest of the Surrealist painters, he is certainly the most famous. Perhaps that's because of his flamboyant personality and his flair for publicity. Some thought his behavior was as eccentric as his paintings. Dali wasn't humble. In fact, his autobiography is entitled, "The Diary of a Genius."

In addition to painting, he wrote and illustrated books, produced films, and even made TV commercials. In his hometown, Dali built his own museum, which later became his mausoleum.