

CURIO AUCTIONS

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A L I Y A H

Salvador Dali's iconic 'Aliyah : The Rebirth of Israel'

Portfolio #1 (New York, 1968)

Only one collector can enjoy pride of ownership of the most important set of the series from Dali's Aliyah. This treasure, although originally intended for the Israel Museum's collection, was possibly gifted to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

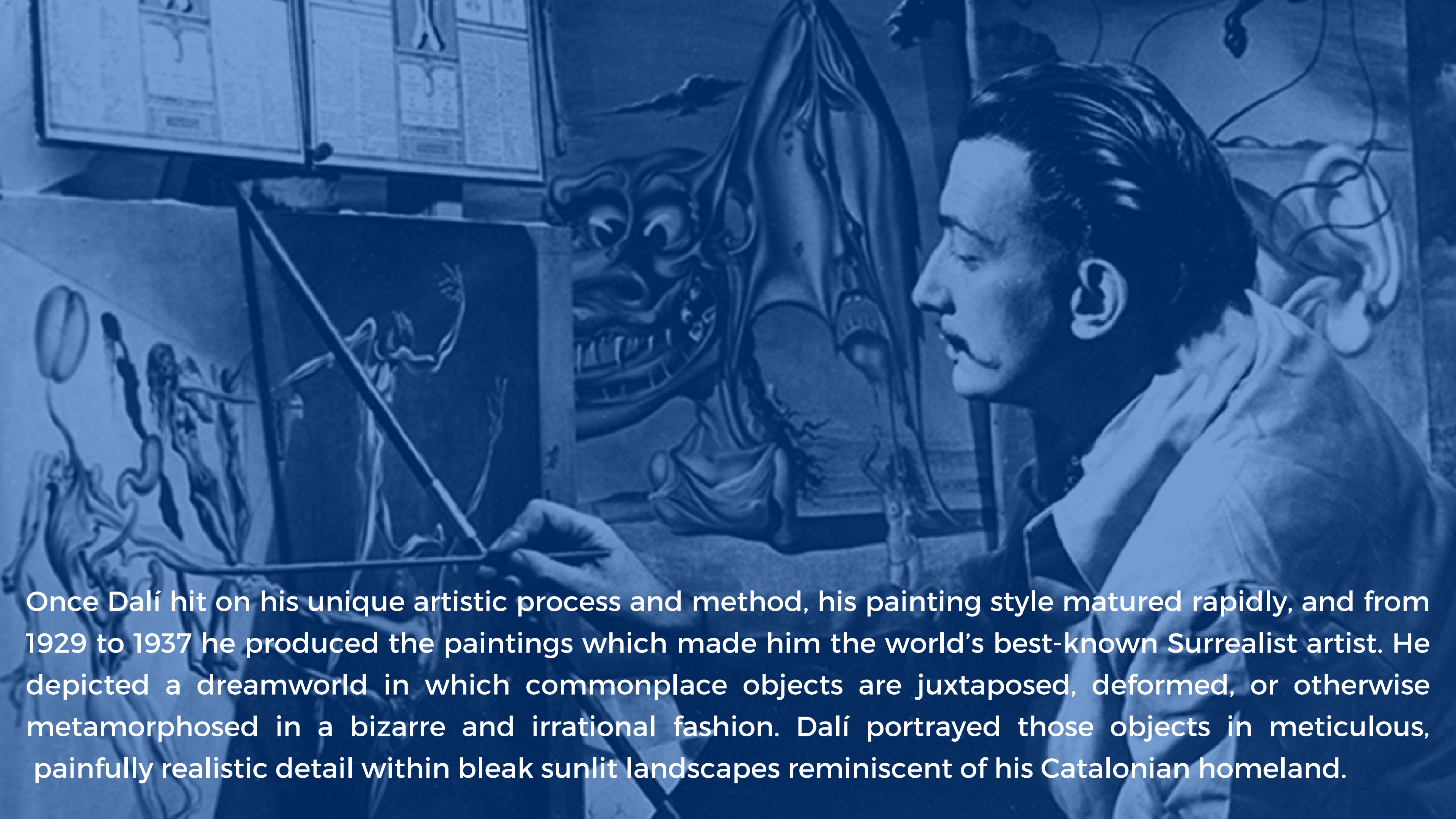





Salvador Dalí

Salvador Dalí was born May 11th 1904, in Figueras, Spain. He is considered the master of Surrealist painting, influential for his explorations of subconscious imagery.

As an art student, Dalí assimilated a number of artistic styles and displayed unusual technical facility as a painter. It was not until the late 1920s, however, that two events brought about the development of his mature artistic style: his discovery of Sigmund Freud's writings on the significance of subconscious imagery and his affiliation with the Paris Surrealists, a group of artists and writers who sought to establish the "greater reality" of the human subconscious over reason. To bring up images from his subconscious mind, Dalí began to self-induce hallucinatory states via a process he described as "paranoiac critical."



Once Dalí hit on his unique artistic process and method, his painting style matured rapidly, and from 1929 to 1937 he produced the paintings which made him the world's best-known Surrealist artist. He depicted a dreamworld in which commonplace objects are juxtaposed, deformed, or otherwise metamorphosed in a bizarre and irrational fashion. Dalí portrayed those objects in meticulous, painfully realistic detail within bleak sunlit landscapes reminiscent of his Catalonian homeland.

A portrait of Salvador Dalí, the Spanish surrealist painter, with his characteristic wild, upturned mustache. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. His eyes are wide open, and his expression is one of surprise or intense focus. The background is a light, textured wall with some faint architectural lines. The entire image has a uniform green color overlay.

In the late 1930s Dalí switched to painting in a more academic style influenced by the Renaissance painter Raphael. His ambivalent political views during the rise of fascism alienated his Surrealist colleagues, and he was eventually expelled from the group. Thereafter, he spent much of his time designing theatre sets, interiors, and jewelry all while exhibiting his genius for flamboyant self-promotion in the United States, where he lived from 1940 to 1955. From 1950 to 1970, Dalí painted many works with religious themes, though he continued to explore other subjects, to represent childhood memories, as well as his beloved wife, Gala.

It was late in his life that Dalí became inspired by the story of the Jewish People and visions of the Bible.



ALIYAH : THE REBIRTH OF ISRAEL PORTFOLIO #1 OF 250 25 IMAGES BY SALVADOR DALI

**NEW YORK | SHOREWOOD PUBLISHERS | 1968
69 x 52cm; In Very Good Condition**

Published in 1968 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence, Dali's 'Aliyah : The Rebirth of Israel' dramatically portrays via stunning imagery the history of the Jewish People's return to their Homeland.

Curio Auctions is proud to offer for sale Portfolio #1 of 250, the most important set of Dali's Aliyah. The portfolio includes the full suite of 25 original color lithographs printed on Arches paper, each hand-signed by Dali and numbered in pencil, an introduction by David Ben-Gurion, title, text and justification pages, all contained in the original linen-covered portfolio box with cover image.

This is truly a museum-worthy historic and artistic treasure. Many of the remaining portfolios are featured in collections of major institutions; but there exists only one Portfolio #1.

The Images



"Arise, Barak, and Lead..."

"The Land Come to Life..."

"Victory: a Song of Thanksgiving"

"The Battle of the Jerusalem Hills"

"The Land of Milk and Honey"

"Let Them Have Dominion..."

"On the Shores of Freedom..."

"The Pioneers of Israel..."

"Return, O Virgin of Israel..."

"We Shall Go Up at Once..."

"A Voice is Heard in Ramah..."

"Covenant: Eternal Circumcision"

"I Have Set Before Thee Life and Death..."

"The Land at the Start of Jewish Settlement..."

"Aliyah"

"The Wailing Wall"

"Orah, Horah..."

"Hatikvah..."

"Out of the Depths"

"A Moment in History..."

"Angels of the Rebirth"

"Thou Hast Laid Me..."

"The Price - Bereave"

"For That is Thy Life..."

"Yea Though I Walk..."



The Background

Sam Shore, owner of the New York-based art publishing firm of Shorewood Publishers, wanted to honor Israel's 20th anniversary. Inspired by the example of the Chagall Windows displayed in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, Shore decided to approach another famous contemporary artist to create a set of paintings on the theme of the renewal of the Jewish People.

Once Dali agreed to take on the historic project, Shore invited David Ben-Gurion, the recently-retired Prime Minister of Israel, to write the introduction to the portfolio. He also solicited the support of Israel Bonds to display the originals at the Huntington Museum in New York City.

Drawing on inspiration from the Bible and contemporary history, Dali successfully captured the spirit of the rebirth of the Jewish People in their homeland with remarkable skill and passion. The 25 works he created exude a palpable emotive Zionist energy and inspirational fervor.

The Adventure

Sam Shore considered Portfolio #1 the most important set of the Aliyah edition. Therefore unsurprisingly, his original vision was to donate it to the recently-founded Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

This intent was announced via a September 1967 press release published jointly by Shorewood and the Israel Museum. The message was repeated in an article in the April 1968 issue of the American-Jewish monthly 'Hadassah Magazine,' in which the Aliyah portfolio was announced: "Portfolio No. 1 will be presented as a gift to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem where an exhibit of all the originals is slated to coincide with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Israel's independence."

Ultimately, however, Shore gifted the Israel Museum a different Aliyah set, which is listed today in the Israel Museum Collection Catalog as having been donated by him.





The Mystery

Given that Aliyah Portfolio #1 did not go to the Israel Museum, the question is who did Shore gift it to? The obvious 'next in line' would almost certainly have been David Ben-Gurion himself. After all, Ben-Gurion not only wrote the introduction to the Aliyah portfolio, he was at the time the most well-known, important and admired Israeli in the world.

Sam Shore was a very astute businessman and he knew full well that having Ben-Gurion associated with the Aliyah project in as many ways as possible would generate exactly the type of publicity he needed to enhance the project's chances of global success. Moreover, it is common practice that the first copy of a limited edition art series is gifted to the author of the introduction; this for reasons of both gratitude and publicity.

These facts lend rational authority to the theory of original Ben-Gurion ownership of Portfolio #1, but nonetheless this provenance chain is only a reasoned assumption.



The Provenance

Curio Auctions represents the current owner, an Israeli art collector who purchased it from the previous owners, heirs of a deceased Israeli art collector. One possibility is that the previous owner purchased the portfolio in 2011, when items from the Ben-Gurion estate were offered for private sale by Orit Etzioni, David Ben-Gurion's granddaughter.

Unfortunately, when news about the sale were made public, Ms. Etzioni received extensive backlash, with her brother stating, "This sale is a perversion of our grandfather's memory... Some of his personal items were willed to our mother, who then willed them to my sister... One can inherit objects but one cannot inherit sensitivity."

To date, the Etzioni family has refused to discuss any detail of the sale. Nonetheless, despite the lack of hard proof of provenance, there is a rational basis to the theory that Portfolio #1 was gifted to David Ben-Gurion by Sam Shore.



The Scarcity

The Aliyah portfolio was published in only a small number of copies. Seemingly, only approximately 20% of the original number still exists as complete sets, and of those, no more than about half are in private hands.

Over the past 30 years around 30 complete sets have sold at auction, however the number of sets offered is dropping over time. In the five years from 2010 - 2014 eleven sets were sold at auction, in the years 2015 - 2019 the number dropped to only six, and for 2020 - 2022 only two sets were offered.

The reason for this trend is that existing sets are being broken up by dealers to be sold as individual prints. Complete Aliyah sets are therefore uncommon, and they are becoming scarcer as time goes by, with prices trending upwards.

In recent years, Aliyah sets have sold at Sotheby's, Christie's and offered at private galleries for \$35,000 - \$50,000+.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALVADOR DALI COMPLETES
25 MONUMENTAL WATERCOLORS
ON "ALYAH," REBIRTH OF
ISRAEL.

Jerusalem, September 4, 1967.----In a press conference held yesterday in Jerusalem, it was announced by Theodore Karr, Editor and Executive Director of Art Projects for Shorewood Publishers, Inc., of New York City, that the great surrealist master Salvador Dali had completed his series of twenty-five watercolors on the theme of "Aliyah," the return to and rebirth of Israel. These watercolors will serve as the basis for a set of color lithographs that will comprise a limited edition portfolio.

Dali spent more than two years completing this inspiring series of masterpieces, which had been commissioned by Shorewood, an internationally established firm known for its publications of importance to art history. The twenty-five paintings cover a wide spectrum from gaiety through deep drama to tragedy, culminating in the ultimate victory of justice and the rebirth of Israel. They show the national spirit, the aspirations, and the devotion of the Jewish people in exile for the nearly 2,000 years in the Diaspora. They show the happy rebirth of their nation, the State of Israel, after great and long suffering. They show Israel, alive again, a free nation, with Jerusalem now and forever its capital.

**Dali's
Aliyah**

**Israel
Museum
Press
Release**

**September
4th
1967**

For nearly 2,000 years, Jews all over the world had a dream of "Next year in Jerusalem." It took the master painter of dreams and the dream world to portray superbly these centuries of Jewish dreams of "Aliyah" and to show the steps which turned these ancient dreams into reality. Dali intermingles the history of this ultimate victory with a deep sense of poetry, as only he can. Some of his paintings are extremely lyrical, others epic. All are full of symbolism and surrealism. The mood varies from the pastoral feeling of long ago; to the depressing reality of persecution, war, and slaughter; to the gallantry of battle scenes that evoke the spirit of General Moshe Dayan, General Rabin, and the other gallant Israeli fighters for liberation; to the joy of the ultimate Israeli victory.

Dali's masterly genius portrays not only "Aliyah," the rebirth and reconstruction of Israel, but also all that made it possible: the aspirations and heartbreaks, the sweat, blood, and tears, and the immense and tragic loss of Jewish lives. (The subjects of the twenty-five watercolors are listed on the attached sheets.)

Europe's two great studios specializing in fine-art lithography, Fernand Mourlot's of Paris and Wolfensberger of Zurich, have put their facilities at Dali's disposal for the conversion of these paintings into lithographs. After the stones necessary for each subject have been prepared (as many as twenty-four for each), Europe's finest technicians will pull the required number of impressions of each picture, every one of them subject to Dali's approval. The stones will then be destroyed, thus insuring that these lithographs will never be reprinted.

The regular edition of the "Aliyah" portfolio will consist of only 250 sets, each containing the twenty-five lithographs (two of them combined as a double spread) printed on Arch Vellum; each of the lithographs has an image measuring approximately 16 x 20 inches. In addition, a special edition of fifteen sets will be printed for non-commercial distribution. No additional sets will ever be printed. Many of the sets have already been subscribed to in advance by leading museums and individual collectors all over the world.

Every lithograph in every set of "Aliyah" will be numbered. And-- although it has become current practice among the great artists of our time to sign a portfolio of prints only once, on the flyleaf of the set--Dali has consented to sign every lithograph in every set, thus attesting to their authenticity and enhancing their value.

Mr. Karr announced, on behalf of Mr. Samuel Shore, President of Shorewood Publishers, that Portfolio Number 1 of "Aliyah" will be presented as a gift to the Jerusalem Museum, where the first "Aliyah" art show (consisting of the lithographs and the original paintings) will be held to coincide with, and thus honor, the twentieth anniversary of Israel's Independence.

Mr. Karr expressed his gratitude to the Honorable David Ben-Gurion, Israeli Citizen Number One, for his beautiful preface to the portfolio.

He also said that Dali's "Aliyah" is dedicated to all of the men and women who so gallantly sacrificed their lives in the wars of liberation, and to the memory of the millions of Jews who were victims of the Nazi persecution.

At the press conference, Mr. Karr exhibited a number of the original lithographs that have already appeared, and showed photographs of the others. He showed how the combination of symbolism, abstraction, surrealism, and futurism with the technical virtuosity of the great master brought to vibrant life such pictures as Hatikva, Perpetuation of the Israeli Nation, Pathos, Victory, and The Wailing Wall, to name a few.

Mr. Karr stated that, besides the lyric quality and style which could immediately be recognized as that of Dali, these paintings were extraordinary in other respects. Some were done exclusively in the colors predominant in the Judaic culture of 2,000 years ago. Others, portraying the Israel of today, use the colors of Israeli flowers, plants, and birds. Still others were painted in the styles of other great artists whom Dali admires, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt, Velasquez, and Picasso.

On his current trip to Europe, Mr. Karr is arranging for "Aliyah" shows at museums and galleries in Europe's major capitals. He announced that all of the proceeds from these exhibits would be donated to the United Jewish Appeal's Israel Emergency Fund. Mr. Karr concluded by adding that several of the pictures from the series will later be adapted as posters for the Israel Emergency Fund with the permission of the publisher.

Subjects of the paintings by Salvador Dali for "ALYAH"

- ✓ 1) The Declaration of Independence. Ben-Gurion proclaims the establishment of the State of Israel. (Hakhrizat Ha'atzma'ot)
- ✓ 2) Israel before the Jewish Resettlement. A land as dry as desert. (Yisra'el Lifnei Ha'hityash'vot Ha'yehudit)
- ✓ 3) Israel after the Jewish Resettlement. "Sde Boker." A land turned into a garden, symbol of Israeli accomplishment. (Yisra'el Le'akhar Ha'hityash'vot Ha'yehudit)
- ✓ 4) The Pioneers of Israel. (Chalutzim V'shomrim)
- ✓ 5) The Rebirth of Israel. Repayment for the oceans of Jewish blood shed in the greatest national grief in mankind's history. (Holadeta Mekhadesh Shel Yisra'el)
- ✓ 6) Against the Storm. The first pioneer to fall in the "Aliyah" movement is a Christian hero, one of many great souls who helped the Jews in their determination to regain their homeland. (Neged Hase'arah)
- ✓ 7) The Spirit of Israel. The new state will be judged by its moral worth, its human values, its spirit, and its technology; not by its wealth or its army. (Ruach Yisra'el)
- ✓ 8) Hora. The Israeli national dance. The Menorah seen in the center is the symbol of the independence of the State of Israel, past, present, and future. (Hora, Harikud Hale'omi Shel Yisra'el)
- ✓ 9) Hatikvah. Israel's national anthem, symbol of the great perpetual hope of the Jews and its fulfillment: the rebirth of Israel. (Shir-Hatikvah)

- ✓ 10) Israeli Fishermen Catch a Monstrous Fish. This is symbolic of the hardships and struggles faced by the Jewish pioneers in rebuilding a healthy economy. (Da'ya'gay Yisra'el--"Mitun")
- ✓ 11) War of Independence: Battle of the Jerusalem Hills. Many thousands of heroic Jewish men and women fell in this battle. The nation of Israel was born out of their blood offering. In June, 1967, Israeli heroes regained a united Jerusalem. (Milkhemet Ha'atzma'ot--"Yerushalaym Shel Zahav")
- ✓ 12) An Israeli Woman Pioneer. Symbol of creation, against all odds she brought new life to her new country. (Chalutzot)
- ✓ 13) Land of Milk and Honey. The prophecy of Amos IX, 13-15. (Eretz Chalav V'Dvash--Nevo'ote'hem Shel Amos):

13A-
13-B

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord,
"when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.
I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
I will plant them upon their land,
and they shall never again be plucked up
out of the land which I have given them,"
says the Lord your God.

- 14) Shalom. The prophecy of Isaiah. (Nevo'ote'hem Shel Yesha'yaho)
Isaiah II, 2-4:

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the Lord
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many people shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth his law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

✓ 15) Psalm 137, 5-6 (Nevo'ote'hem Veshir Hashirim):

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
If I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

✓ 16) Perpetuation of the Israeli Nation. Circumcision is the symbolic ritual performed on the male child's eighth day of life to perpetuate Judaism and Zionism from the cradle to the end of life, and to carry them over to the next generation. Dali has used a Rembrandtesque style to portray the figures in the background. The figure in the foreground is an Israeli paratrooper who gave his life for his country one month before this painting was completed. The child is symbolic of the replenishment of Israel's manpower. (Nitz'khyot am Yisra'el--Brit Mila)

✓ 17) Ship Carrying Illegal Immigrants. It was doomed to be sunk, after its passengers had survived Nazi concentration camps, by the British rulers. "So near and yet so far!" (Oni'yat Ma'apilim)

✓ 18) Pathos. A mother sits with her daughter kneeling at her feet, symbols of complete despair and hopelessness. They are doomed, as indicated by the smoke pouring out of the chimneys of the extermination camp. The mother carries in her heart the tragedy for which the Nazis will never be forgiven by the human race. (Pathos)

✓ 19) An Israeli Scholar Records the History of Israel. (Histor'yon Yisra'eli)

20) Portrait of Despair. An Israeli woman who has just lost her husband and brother in a battle to defend the borders of Israel. (Di'yukano Shel Ye'osh)

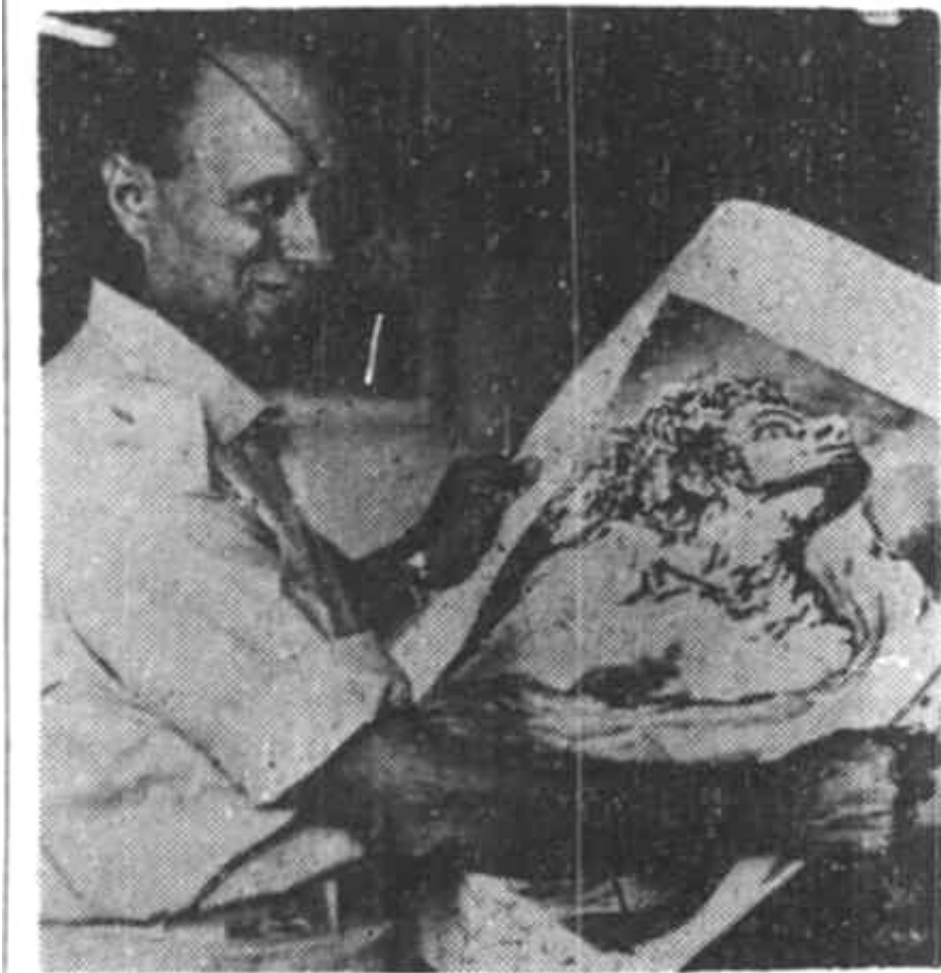
21) Illegal Immigrants Break away from Barbed Wire, symbol of slavery and indignity. They struggle against monumental odds to get to Israel, their promised land. (Ma'apilim Bor'kchim Me'avdot Le'kherot)

22) Victory. No force of human endeavor--not even the monstrosity of Hitler and his devilish forces of the great masses of the Nazis--had the power to destroy the Jewish nation or to subjugate the world's morality and decency. The flags above the masses of people are symbols of the victory of justice and the rebirth of the Israeli nation and homeland. (Nitz'khon Ha'am)

23) The Wailing Wall. Symbol of the old Jewish state of Israel, which the Jews have never forgotten and will never abandon. Thank God that it is now in the hands of Israel and will remain there and in Jewish hearts forever! (Hakotel Ha'ma'arvi)

24) Sacrifices Were Not in Vain. The upper half of this futuristic tableau represents, according to Dali, the carcass of the dead Jewish heroes, with a vulture flying after it. But the sacrifice was not in vain, for masses cheer freedom, justice, and the rebirth of the Israeli nation. With its borders as of September, 1967, it is truly the Promised Land. (Hak'rava Shelo Lashav)

Hadassah, Jewish Center Sponsor Art Exhibition



MOSHE DAYAN, General of the Israeli Armies, is shown looking at one of 25 "Aliyah" lithographs created by Salvador Dali. This graphic monument to the rebirth of Israel—the return of the Jewish people to their homeland—will be presented at the Jewish Community Center in co-sponsorship with Milwaukee Chapter of Hadassah.

The community is invited to attend the opening tea sponsored by the Center Art Exhibit Committee under the co-direction of Mrs. Saul Kittower and Mrs. Charles Peckarsky on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 2 to 5 p.m.

A New Year Gift for Eban



Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban receives Jewish New Year present from Theodore Karr (right), arts projects director for Shorewood Publishers. The watercolor is one of 25 in a collection by Salvador Dali and portrays "Aliyah," the rebirth of Israel. The watercolors were just completed for the Holy Days and will soon become a limited edition portfolio of color lithographs.

Dali's 'Rebirth of Israel' To Open at Jewish Center

The Jewish Community center of Bridgeport will open its 1968-69 art series on Saturday with a gala invitation reception-preview of Salvador Dali's recent master-work, the "Aliyah" honoring the 20th anniversary of Israel's statehood.

The exhibition co-sponsored by the Carlson Foundation and the Jewish Community center, will include all of the signed lithographs and many of the original paintings previewed last May at the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art in New York and subsequently exhibited in Tel Aviv in July.

The reception-preview for invited guests will open with the Havdalah service — signifying the close of the Sabbath — conducted by Rabbi Isaiah Rackovsky, of Congregation Shaare Torah.

2 Years of Research
Dali, the renowned Spanish painter, was commissioned for this work by Samuel Shore, president of Shorewood Publishers, New York, noted for their publications of art works. In accepting this commission, Dali has created a graphic monument to the stirring history of the "Aliyah," — the Rebirth of Israel.

To prepare for this, Dali spent two years researching and working on the theme of the return of the Jewish people to their homeland. He executed an extensive series of drawings,

sketches and water-color paintings on every aspect of the "Aliyah" and, of the finished paintings, 24 were finally selected for re-creation in the lithographic medium.

Lithograph Stones Destroyed
Europe's two great studios specializing in fine art lithography, Fernand Mourlot's of Paris and Wolfensberger of Zurich, put their facilities at his disposal. After the stones necessary for each subject had been prepared, all stones were destroyed, thus insuring that these lithographs will never be reprinted. Each brilliantly colored lithograph is numbered and unlike most others, each has been signed by the artist himself.

The fame of Salvador Dali has been an issue of particular controversy for many decades. His admirers as well as his detractors have sometimes regarded him as a master of more playfulness of art; an odd kind of practical joker. Yet Dali has never lost sight of the seriousness of his purpose and his art. Represented in the major art museums throughout the world Dali has continued to enchant art lovers.

'Conveys Miracle'
Of the "Aliyah," David Ben Gurion has said, "The great painter, Salvador Dali, has succeeded with the strength of inspirational art in conveying through a few pictures, the miracle of the "Aliyah" which brought to life a renewed na-

Original Press Articles '67 - '68

tion, a renewed land, a renewed and renewing state."

"One painting, "A Moment in History," is of David Ben Gurion as he reads the Declaration of Independence May 5, 1948. Others are "The Land of Milk and Honey," "The Wailing Wall," "On the Shores of Freedom: the Elihu Golomb (ship) brings 'illegal' immigrants," "The Land at the Start of Jewish Settlement: I will make the wilderness a pool of water (Isaiah 41.18)" and "Oran, Horah-Light, Joy (The Menorah, the seven-branched candelabrum is part of the official symbol of the State of Israel. The horah is the traditional Israeli folk dance.)"

Also, "The Price — Bereavement," "Victory: A Song of Thanksgiving," "The Land Come to Life: The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isiah 55.12)," and many, many more.

Open to Public
All arrangements for this exhibition have been under the guidance of Jack H. Cohen, executive director of the Jewish Community center, and Ruth Carlson Horn, director of the Carlson Foundation Art Series; assisted by Mrs. Rudolf Braun and Mrs. Paul Foxman, co-chairman of the center's Art committee, and Mrs. Milton Wettstein, publicity chairman.

The exhibit will be on display through Nov. 10, in the main lobby of the Jewish Community center, 4200 Park avenue, and will be open to the general public at no charge. Gallery hours are Sunday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



DALI AND ISRAEL ART—Salvador Dali's lithographs and original paintings for them of "Aliyah, the Rebirth of Israel" will go on display Saturday through Nov. 10 at the Jewish Community center, 4200 Park avenue. The exhibition, which was previewed last May at the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art in New York, is co-sponsored by the Jewish Center and the Carlson Foundation.



Salvador Dali's conception of David Ben-Gurion reading Israel's Declaration of Independence.



(NEWS photo by Frank Russo) Flamboyant surrealist artist Salvador Dali shows one of his 24 watercolors depicting modern Israeli history which will be exhibited throughout the world.

Aliyah! Israel Reborn, by Dali

By LESTER ABELMAN

"The great painter Salvador Dali succeeded with the strength of his excellent belief to create in a few paintings the miracle of the Aliyah that created in a short time a renewed nation, a renewed country, a renewed and renewing state."

—David Ben-Gurion, Former Premier of Israel

THE "ALIJAH"—the return to and rebirth of Israel! Foretold in the Bible and bursting into vital reality with the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, Israel, promised homeland of the Jews, became a free nation and the Diaspora, dispersion of the Jews throughout the world, was officially at an end.

The rebirth of the tiny embattled nation was a great and dramatic historical theme. Samuel Shore, publisher, art patron and collector had a dream—to capture the essence of Israel's rebirth in all its drama, excitement, heartbreak, tragedy and ultimate victory.

The project required a disinterested objectivity. Any artist who had lived the dream of the Aliyah most of his life would be too close to the large-scale canvas. Caught up in his own subjectivity, he would, in effect, lose sight of the forest because of the trees.

To Shore, head of Shorewood Publishers, there was only one artist in the world who was completely right to fulfill his vision.

That artist was Salvador Dali, 62, the flamboyant surrealist whose genius for self-promotion

has always matched his talent for turning out controversial and exceedingly remunerative works of art.

Early in 1966, Shore commissioned Dali to execute 24 watercolors on the rebirth of Israel. Dali says his fee is confidential but it was learned that he will harvest about \$150,000 for the paintings.

Only a Prelude to the Theme

The watercolors, now completed, are only a prelude to the main theme. The paintings are being reproduced by Mourlot's of Paris, one of the world's finest lithographers. A limited edition portfolio will be produced for private sale by the end of this year.

Each portfolio will be numbered and signed by Dali. After the limited edition has been run off, the stones or plates from which the lithographs are pulled will be destroyed.

The original 24 watercolors will be exhibited throughout the world. At the conclusion of the tour, they will be sold to private individuals.

Theodore Karr, art projects director for the publishers, said that the limited edition portfolios would go to museums at a starting price of \$2,500.



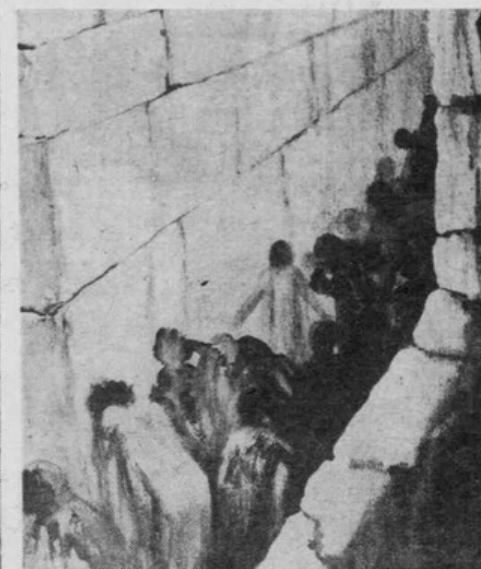
Israeli pioneer.



Israeli fishermen in action.

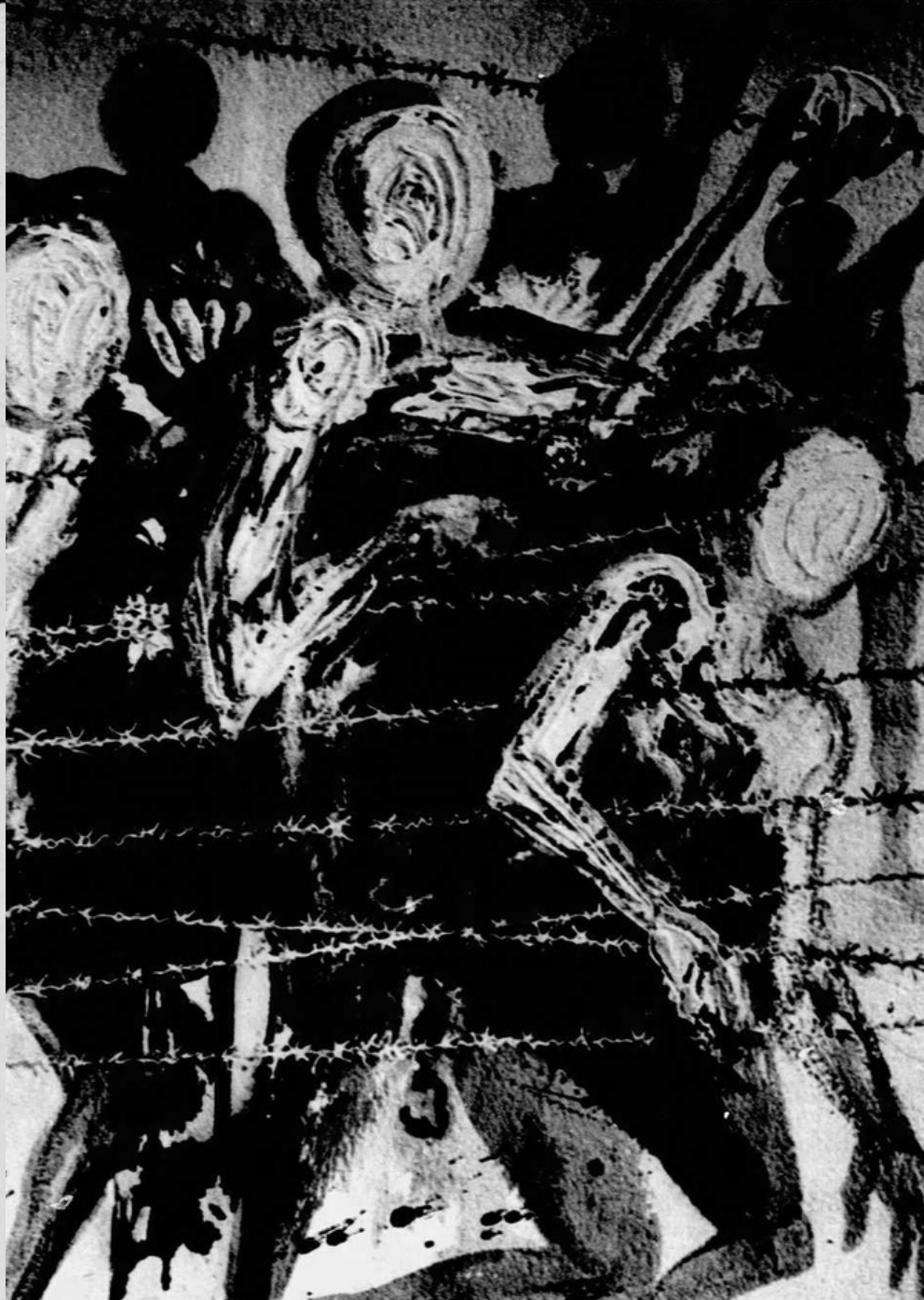


Breaking away from slavery.



Prayers at ancient wall.

the Aliyah in art



This watercolor represents the Jews breaking away from their barbed-wire bonds in the struggle to get to Israel.



(NEWS COLORPHOTO BY WILLIAM KLEIN) Israel's David Ben-Gurion says Salvador Dali (holding an original) re-created in this art the miracle of the Aliyah.

Salvador Dali Paints the Story of Israel

By David Schwartz

WHEN BEN GURION first visited the United States, the Spanish painter, Salvador Dali, traveled to Kennedy airport to meet him on his arrival. The two shook hands and then B.G. began to wonder at the curious way Dali was looking at him.

Finally Dali explained. "Really, Mr. Ben Gurion, I came here for a special purpose."

"Yes," said Ben Gurion, "what is it?"

"To look at your eyes."

Dali was engaged in painting a picture of the great event of 1948 when Israel proclaimed its independence.

It is one of a series of 25 lithographs, which he has been painting for two years, telling the story of aliyah or the rebirth of Israel. The premier world exhibit will be held April 1 at the Gallery of Modern Art.

A picture, it is said, is worth a thousand words. We have millions of words written about the Declaration of Independence or Washington's crossing of the Delaware but the only pictures of these were made long after the death of its participants.

We do have some paintings of the individual leaders. There are the Gilbert Stuart portraits. Stuart used to call his painting of Washington his "hundred dollar bill." If he was short of money, he made a copy of it.

* * *

THE DALI paintings of Israel will cost more than a hundred dollars. The album of 25 litho-

graphs with an appreciative preface by Ben Gurion, is priced at four thousand dollars a copy. If you can't pay that much, you can see the paintings at the exhibit by buying a thousand dollar Israel Bond. That is the price of admission.

Ben Gurion was not too well versed in modern painting for a long time. Mani Katz once gave him a couple of paintings. Said B.G. "Mani, I couldn't understand Plato in Greek. I studied and now I understand. I couldn't understand Don Quixote but I studied Spanish and now I understand, but your paintings, I study and study and can't understand."

No doubt since that B.G. has studied Dali and now understands him.

* * *

BOTH DALI AND B.G. have one thing in common—they have independent minds.

Once Dali saw something in a Fifth Avenue store window that he didn't like. He hurled a stone at it through the window. The incident might lead one to think that Dali is a man of violence, but those who know him tell me he is quite orderly and generally leads a very disciplined life. Dali spends six months in New York and six months in Europe yearly. When in New York, I am told, he gets up early, works until noon and then, almost invariably goes to the St. Regis Hotel, where he has tea and English muffins with honey. He attributes much of his good health to honey.

A L I Y A H



ABOUT US



Curio Auctions is a boutique auction house curating mission-based art, artifacts and antiques for non-profits around the world.

Our highly specialized team works with non-profits to create customized online auctions featuring exclusive and unexpected items which best reflect the purpose, passion, and values of our partner organizations.

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