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GALA-SALVADOR DALÍ



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Visage paranoïaque (Paranoiac Face)

Date:	c. 1935
Technique:	Oil on wood panel
Dimensions:	18.5 x 22.5 cm
Signature:	Unsigned and undated
Location:	Private collection



Provenance

- Edward James
- Auctioned at Christie's, West Dean Park, Chichester, West Sussex, June 5th, 1986

Observations

In the text "Communication: Visage paranoïaque" Dalí explains the origin of this double image, a common technique in works of this period: " After a study, when I was obsessed in a deep reflection on Picasso's faces, in particular those of the black period, I looked for an address in a pile of papers and suddenly I saw myself altered by the reproduction of a face I believe corresponded to Picasso, a face absolutely unknown. Suddenly, this face disappeared and I realized the illusion (?). The analysis of the paranoiac image in question allowed me to recover, using a symbolic interpretation, all the ideas that preceded the vision of the face. André Breton has identified the face with that of Sade, which matches the particular preoccupation Breton has about Sade. In the hair of the face in question, Breton saw a powdery wig, while I saw an unpainted fragment of the canvas, which is often found in Picasso's style." ("Le Surréalisme au Service de la Révolution", number 3, December 1931). Moreover, in the "La Conquête de l'irrationnel" (1935), Dalí states that this painting can be contemplated both horizontally and vertically (image 2).

Exhibitions

- 1936, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, *Fantastic art dada surrealism*, 09/12/1936 - 17/01/1937, cat. no. 320
- 1936, London, New Burlington Galleries, *International Surrealist Exhibition*, 11/06/1936 - 04/07/1936, cat. no. 62
- 1999, New York, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, *Surrealism: two private eyes, the Nesuhi Ertegun and Daniel Filipacchi collections*, 04/06/1999 - 12/09/1999, cat. no. 55

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- Ignacio Gómez de Liaño, *Dalí*, Polígrafa, Barcelona, 1983, p. 15
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