

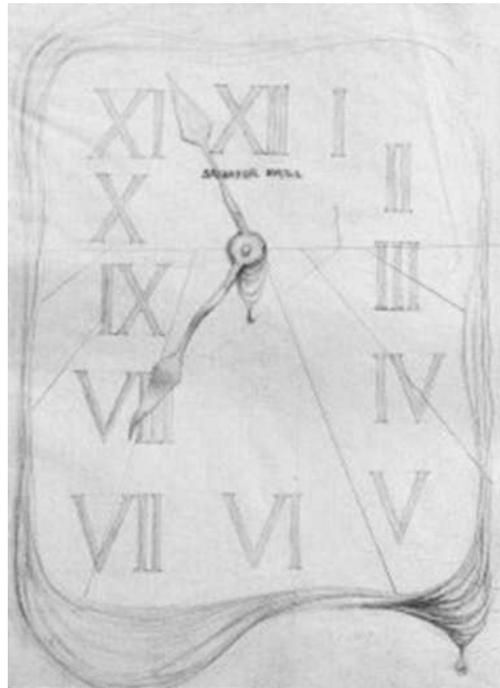
Chapter Eleven

The Dali Melting Clock Hologram

In the winter of 1975, Dali made what turned out to be one of his last trips to New York. I joined him once again in his suite at the St. Regis. He said he wanted to create a holographic clock. In the weeks that followed, we discussed many ideas about how the clock should look, such as how large and how deep the hologram should be and how far the hands should project through the image plane. That the hands would appear to be melting, and it would be signed holographically. The placement of Dali's signature would be on the face of the clock, where typically the makers name would be. Roman numerals were chosen for the numbers, so that it would have a classical look and feel.

DALI WORKING DRAWING

To communicate what he was mentally entertaining, Dali sat down with pencil in hand



and drew a full blueprint of the 18" X 24" clock to scale.

In Dali's surrealist approach the twisted clock hands and the sculptured frame, with one drop dripping off the bottom right side, appears to be melting.

To create perspective, he drew his familiar construction lines joining up with the horizon. On the horizon is a crutch, which was used to symbolically support the melting of time. To give an even more perspective to the drawing, the crutch has a long shadow which crosses the perspective lines.

Dali, then symbolically, created Roman numerals that were untouched by time. His signature was placed where the name of the clock would normally be.

DALI TIME

Dali had always been intrigued by the exploration of time and its influence in the universe. When he went through his Freudian phase he developed a theory of hardness and softness, which for Dali was central to time. Some people think that Dali was inspired by Albert Einstein's theory of relativity symbolizing the warping of space time by gravity. Dali did become obsessed with Einstein's equation that time is fluid and not fixed, but the truth is Dali would change his explanations, depending on whom, he was talking to and what their perceptions were. One time he said that some of his images were symbolic for his ideas, but most of them are just images that are pleasing to Dali, like a piece of melting camembert cheese melting in the hot sun.

Unrealized Time

The Melting Clock was, natural progressions of Dali's work in holography and exploration of time and space.

Unfortunately in his Dalinian way, Dali's ideas were ahead of his time. Dali's Melting Clock hologram could not be constructed because the playback system did not lend itself to the final design. The obtrusive mercury arc lighting system which was used for the playback would get very hot. I explained to Dali, that he had reached the limitations of current holographic technology for his composition and it would take many years before a suitable single wavelength LED play back system was developed.

WITH REGRET

With regret, but with hope and a vision for the future, Dali handed the blue print to me and said that time would bring the technology and that he was entrusting me to see that the project was completed.

A PROMISED FULFILLED

Almost three decades were to pass before the holographic technology was significantly advanced, to realize *The Dali's Melting Clock Hologram*. In 2003, with the assistance of a modern holographic lab, Laser Reflections I was able to honor my promise to Dali and create, *The Dali Melting Clock Hologram*, to the minute detail. To make this hologram a G2J 526 Pulsed ND, YLS/ND -glass Laser was used.

THE SET UP OF THE MELTING CLOCK HOLOGRAM

The images were divided into three separate parts. Each part had its own separate plane of glass, which were 5" apart. The Roman numerals and the signature were on the center image plane and the Dali art work was on the back virtual plane. The twisted melting hands were placed on the front real image plane, of clear glass to suspend them 5" out in front of the clock face floating in space.

A VISION IN TIME

I am honored to present the last of Dali's holographic works, *The Dali Melting clock*. Sculpting the melting frame was a labor of love, following every curve and fold of Dali's instruction. It is realized in homage to Dali's genius and ability to see beyond the limits of time. He embraced holography as he did his life; his perceptions were surreal and challenged the imagination. Always pushing the boundaries, Dali's talent and genius would surpass the technology of the current day holography. He worked on the cutting edge of technology to create his first six holographic works of art using 20th century holographic techniques. In his final holographic effort to create a large reflection hologram in a sculptured frame that was melting and could hang on the wall as if it was real, he envisioned 21st century technology. *The Dali Melting Clock*, Dali concept of recycled molecules of a moment in time, conceived in the past, frozen in a present reality, to be reproduced in the future, a vision in time that had at last come true.

DALI'S IMMORTALITY

In a cosmic reference to Dalian Time, it is interesting to note that Dali's final work is a post-homage acknowledgment of his art and although conceived before he had died, it was not shown publicly until decades later after he had passed on.

This is where my adventure of working in holographic space with the great Salvador Dali comes to a conclusion, but not the end. It was an amazing experience to have Dali as a teacher, a wondrous, challenging, and extraordinary learning experience that I shall always cherish.

DIGITAL HOLOGRAPHY

I know he would be proud and excited to know that I have picked up the gauntlet, to pursue and explore the boundaries of the third and fourth dimensions of space.

A new process called Digital Holography is now available. With this technique, one can plot a synthetic hologram on a computer and render anything that one can imagine, and

then print it out in full color with clean smooth motion, with more than 20" of depth.

Dali would have had reveled in this new art medium. When I first talked to him about holography he told me we were only limited by our imaginations. He would have been trilled to work in the digital world, creating new and interesting views of the landscapes of our reality.

Holography has come a long way since that epic moment when Dali ventured into holographic space, opening the doors for all future holographic artists.

Dali's relation to his art on one level was that it should outlast him, in effect becoming a vehicle for his immortality. In a sense melting time around him, so he would be remembered forever. And so it came to be, he became immortalized not only for his art, but also by a single word, his name:



1904 - 1989



Selwyn Lissack and Salvador Dali