

## PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL

### The Dali Dimension: Decoding the Mind of a Genius

(Music Video Distributors)

I have a big, thick book of Salvador Dali's stuff. It's not only big thick-wise, it's big all around. Coffee table book size dimensions, plus thick. You get the idea. Huge. Frickin' paintings everywhere.

I'm not the biggest fan of the painted/drawn/etc. arts, though I appreciate them. But certain artists — Pat Nagel, M.C. Escher and Dali, for example — do grab me. Dali in particular mesmerizes me. His surrealist and frequently disturbing imagination-scapes fascinate me, rivet me.

Before watching this DVD, I'd have been hard-pressed to tell you why, other than to simply point out that I like odd stuff. But now I'm a little more prepared to understand why I am compelled by Dali.

Imagination-scapes? Not only is that the invention of an ungainly word you won't find in the dictionary — leave it to me to do that — but it's also not entirely true. Sure, tons of imagination went into this, how else could Dali translate such ideas into such visual ... But, wait, do you see?

He's translating ideas, at least sometimes, or all the time, on some level — all of the time, some of the time, it doesn't matter. What matters is that something real — if intangible or beyond or whatever — is manifesting here. Hence, not entirely imagination.

Dali, it seems, was fascinated with

psychoanalysis and science. Freud's ideas compelled him the way Dali compels me — even more so, really. Einstein fueled his mind. And others. Dali keenly followed scientific publications and the development of science. Relativity. Psychology. Quantum physics even.

Dali found a way to express truths about the deeper levels of reality in ways that bypass strict, rational thought and made a visceral direct assault on our ability to comprehend. His paintings are not beyond us, just beyond our logical side — though scientific inspiration can be seen to lurk behind many of his paintings.

Much like koans ("What is the sound of one hand clapping?") are used in some Buddhist traditions to short-cut past the rational and hit more profound grasping of supra-rational truths, Dali seems to have been bypassing portions of our thought methodology.

Of course, much subjectivity is at work here. Some scientists believed that Dali's melting clocks were a reflection of Einstein's relativity theory. Not so, said Dali. That painting was more general than that. Yet there you have it. Eye of the beholder, and all ...

And other works of his can be seen to bear the influence of scientific ideas that affected Dali. Whatever the case, this documentary has only deepened my appreciation of Dali — and the ideas that can be seen to emanate from his works, intentional or not.

—Kristofer Upjohn