

**'DALI'S TRILOGY  
OF THE DESERT:  
MIRAGE 1946  
WILL HAVE A  
LASTING IMPACT  
ON AUDIENCES  
FOR GENERATIONS  
TO COME.'**

DR TED GOTT SENIOR CURATOR, INTERNATIONAL  
ART, NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA



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**2018  
NGV ANNUAL  
APPEAL**



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Salvador Dalí was one of the most prolific and famous artists of the twentieth century. His works are iconic and his influence on art movements, artists and pop culture continues to this day.

Dalí was one of the leaders of the Surrealist movement, yet there are no paintings by him in the National Gallery of Victoria's Collection, nor any public collection in Australia. With your help, we can change this and welcome Dalí's *Trilogy of the desert: Mirage* 1946 into the NGV Collection.

*Trilogy of the desert: Mirage* was the centerpiece of a triptych commissioned by Shulton Cosmetics to promote a new perfume, *Desert Flower*. A blooming flower is set amongst a surreal landscape, complete with Renaissance architecture and a classical bust of the Apollo Belvedere.

The NGV has a strong Surrealist collection with works by artists including René Magritte, Sidney Nolan, Marcel Jean and James Gleeson. The addition of a painting by Dalí would be a defining acquisition for the Gallery and for Australia. We thank you for considering supporting the NGV's 2018 Annual Appeal and welcome donations of any amount to help make this important acquisition possible.

**Tony Ellwood** Director, National Gallery of Victoria

## SALVADOR DALÍ

Salvador Dalí was born on 11 May 1904 in the small town of Figueres, in Spain. In 1929, at age twenty-five, Dalí held his first solo show in Paris. He joined the Surrealist movement and soon became a leading figure. During this time Dalí created *The Persistence of Memory* 1931 one of the best-known Surrealist works in the world.

Dalí and his partner, Gala Éluard, escaped from Europe during the Second World War, spending 1940–48 in the United States. This period had a personally transformative effect on Dalí and reinvented his approach to art. He embraced Catholicism, American consumerism, and following the explosion of the atomic bomb in 1945, proclaimed his new theory of Nuclear Mysticism. *Trilogy of the desert: Mirage* encapsulates all these developments in Dalí's art, proving it as a key work from his middle period.

In 1974 Dalí opened the Teatro Museo in Figueres. This was followed by retrospectives in Paris and London at the end of the decade. In the early 1980s Dalí's health began to fail and after being burned in a fire in his home in Púbol in 1984, much of the remainder of his life was spent in seclusion. Dalí died on 23 January 1989.



Salvador Dalí, Spanish, 1904–89, *Trilogy of the desert: Mirage* 1946, oil on canvas, 35.6 x 60 cm. Proposed acquisition

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