Early Life and Talent: Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domènech, Marquis of Dalí de Púbol, was born on May 11, 1904, in Figueres, Catalonia, Spain. He showed great talent in art from an early age and attended drawing school at the age of ten. Dalí's mother encouraged his artistic endeavors, and his father, a notary, supported his son's talent, although he had a strict disciplinary approach.

Academy Expulsion: Dalí attended the prestigious Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid, where he developed his eclectic style. However, he was expelled shortly before his final exams for stating that no one on the faculty was competent enough to examine him, showcasing early on his notorious blend of arrogance and genius.

The Persistence of Memory: Dalí's most iconic work is "The Persistence of Memory," completed in 1931. This masterpiece of Surrealism, with its soft, melting pocket watches in a desolate landscape, explores the concept of softness and hardness, which Dalí identified as "the camembert of time," and is a symbol of the relativity of space and time in a dreamlike atmosphere.

Paranoiac-Critical Method: Dalí invented a process he called the "Paranoiac-Critical Method," which was a surrealistic technique that involved inducing a paranoid state that could help an artist tap into their subconscious to find artistic inspiration and increase the creative process.

Surrealist Expulsion: Despite being a significant figure in the surrealist movement, Dalí was formally expelled from the group in 1934, due to disagreements with the founder of the movement, André Breton, and due to Dalí's controversial political views and fascination with Hitler, which members of the surrealist movement found to be at odds with their ideals.

Gala, the Muse: Gala Éluard Dalí, born Elena Ivanovna Diakonova, was Dalí’s wife, muse, and business manager. She was previously married to the poet Paul Éluard. Gala and Dalí met in the 1920s and their partnership, both personal and professional, was pivotal in Dalí's career. She appeared in many of his works, and he even bought her a castle in Púbol, Spain, where she spent time every summer from 1971-1982.

Hollywood and Film: Dalí was involved in a number of film projects. He is known for his collaboration with Alfred Hitchcock, creating a dream sequence for the movie "Spellbound," and also worked with Walt Disney on a short animated film called "Destino," which was eventually completed and released by Disney Studios in 2003, long after both men had passed away.

Diverse Artistic Pursuits: Beyond painting, Dalí was involved in various art forms, including sculpture, photography, and writing. He wrote several books, like "The Secret Life of Salvador Dalí" (1942). He also dabbled in fashion, jewelry, and set designs for theatrical productions, bringing his surreal visions into different mediums.

Mysticism and Science: Later in his career, Dalí's work was influenced by his interest in science and religion. He was fascinated by the DNA molecule, nuclear physics, and holography, which were all reflected in his later paintings. The series of 19 paintings "Dalí's Mustache" show different views of the artist's distinctive mustache, which he claimed was an antenna for receiving outer-space signals.

Dalí Theatre-Museum: In his hometown of Figueres, Dalí created the Dalí Theatre-Museum, which houses the broadest range of his work and is itself considered the last piece of art from Dalí. He lived in the museum in his later years, and it is also his final resting place; he is buried in a crypt below the stage of the museum.