

New Highlight in SURREAL! Imagining New Realities

Salvador Dalí's *The Metamorphosis of Narcissus* in the special exhibition, which was extended to April, at the Sigmund Freud Museum

A new exhibit was obtained for the exhibition SURREAL! Imagining New Realities: a sketch for Dalí's famous painting *The Metamorphosis of Narcissus*. Formerly the property of Edward James, who not only collected Dalí's works but also was involved in the Surrealist's activities as a creative mind and patron, this sheet was recently acquired by the Klewan Collection, and will be shown at the Sigmund Freud Museum until the end of the special exhibition. During the handover, the Museum agreed an extension of the successful exhibition until April 10, 2023 with Helmut Klewan.

The drawing was created in 1937, the same year that Salvador Dalí yet again unsuccessfully attempted to meet Sigmund Freud in Vienna. It was not until a year later that the artist finally managed to visit Freud, together with Stefan Zweig and Edward James, in his London exile. The young Catalan who had already studied Freud's writings since the 1920s, was determined to convince the "Father of Psychoanalysis" of the scientific and particularly the psychoanalytical qualities of his so-called "paranoiac-critical" art production – which is why he also brought the recently finished painting *The Metamorphosis of Narcissus* with him. Although Freud continued to have fundamental doubts regarding the surrealist intentions, after this celebrated meeting he at least showed an interest in an analytical exploration of the creative process of such an artwork.

Possibly it would have been easier for Dalí to gain Freud's understanding with the present study. The autobiographical references to the artist are far clearer than in the painted version – at first glance, the work appears to be the visual documentation of an introspection: figures we can connect to different stages in the life of the artist surround the central surrealist form finding of hand and egg, which formally as well as regarding its content represents the key message of the composition: the mutability of the artistic genius Salvador Dalí.