



PRESS RELEASE

**Salvador Dalí, Jean Clemmer  
un incontro, un'opera**

**Opening**

Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
3.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**On view**

June 17<sup>th</sup> – September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Daily, 10.30 am – 7.30 pm  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 am – 9.00 pm

Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays

Entry ticket € 5 Reduced entry ticket (6-26 years) € 3

Free entry from Monday to Friday



The Sozzani Foundation presents "Salvador Dalí, Jean Clemmer, un incontro, un'opera" in collaboration with the Jean Clemmer Archives. The exhibition consists of two sections: forty unpublished prints with the enlargements of rare contact sheets and the photographs of the scenes from the short movie "Le Divin Dalí", which the archive Jean Clemmer, directed by Héléne Clemmer Heidsieck, collected and preserved over the years.

The encounter between Salvador Dalí (Figueres, 1904 - 1989) and the Swiss photographer Jean Clemmer (Neuchâtel, 1926 - Paris, 2001), took place in 1962 when they began to create together some series of photographs entitled "mises en scène" and "tableaux vivants".

These works were born in the house where Dalí lived with Gala, his muse and wife, at Port Lligat, a small fishing village on the Spanish Costa Brava. In August 1962, upon Dalí' suggestion, Clemmer brought Ginesta, a young girl just known, as the subject of a first shooting that marked the beginning of their long friendship and professional collaboration.

In this first series, Dalí dealt with the theme of "Levitation", and set a dreamlike scene between mythology, science and magic. He suspends the young Ginesta upside-down and pours over eight kilos of chickpeas to bounce off her body, simulating a chain reaction; a visual nuclear reaction. In another, Dalí disguises himself as Hermes Trismegistus, a legendary magus and author of hidden wisdom texts of Hellenistic age, and wraps Ginesta up in a dress made with silk recovered from abandoned parachutes of the American Air Force. Ginesta then performs a primal dance in the folds of the fabrics at "Hermes/Dalí" promptings.

In 1968 the Daily Telegraph invited Dalí to give an interpretation of Spanish fashion. Dalí chose Jean Clemmer as the assigned photographer. Dalí then designed a set at Cadaques where he staged a giant Christ represented by the wreck of a boat stranded among bones, trunks and abandoned tires.

In 1970 Dalí, always fascinated by the idea of death, asked Clemmer to represent him as an apparition. It would become the cycle of photographs known as Jean Clemmer's "Metamorphoses". From a *mises en scène* of paintings and silhouettes of nudes, the portrait of the "apparition" emerges. Through a continuous permutation of the physical setting, and the simultaneous effect of overlaying negatives on a print, we see the artist reborn from a female body.

Jean Clemmer, understood the extraordinary filmic potential of the performances, and introduced Salvador Dalí to his friend and independent director Claude Joudioux. In 1964 Dalí and Joudioux filmed the movie "Le Divin Dalí", a short film at the A.P.E.C. Studios in Paris, while Clemmer was commissioned to take the scene photos.

The central symbols of the film were described by Dalí as "Canibalism and Angelicism". Using a series of glass plates to "levitate" nude models, each represented ascending and descending angels. The angels devoured each other, consuming and regurgitating in a continuous cycle of renewal. The most striking of these images being the image of a young woman as the Minotaur, a favorite symbol of the surrealists. Dalí felt that consuming the love object, canibalism, came closest to the alchemy necessary for the artist to experience the transmutation and rebirth of divine matter. Tragically, the film was destroyed by fire shortly after being shot. These few "behind the scenes" images that Clemmer took are the only, precious testimony of a unique surrealist art film by the great surrealist artist Salvador Dalí.



**Jean Clemmer** was born in Neuchâtel in Switzerland in 1926. He attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts Chaux-de-Fonds. In 1946 after the War he established himself in Geneva as set designer of the Grand Theater. He moved to Paris in 1948, where he met Cocteau, Ossip Zadkine, Louise de Vilmorin, Jacques Fath and Marcel Rochas. He designed furniture, books, drawings and paintings, but was fascinated by photography and in 1962 opened his photography atelier. In 1964 Clemmer coincidentally met Salvador Dalí, and it followed a friendship, with photographs and the project of a short film "The Divine Dalí". In 1969 he met Paco Rabanne, a young couturier at that time, with whom he published the book "Nues" which included the most famous photographs by Jean Clemmer. In 1970 he won the Canon Award and exhibited his works in exhibitions in Paris, Amsterdam and Tokyo. In the Seventies he exhibited at the Espace Dalí in Montmartre, and in Washington. From then to the end of his life in Paris in 2001, Clemmer' works were always "metamorphoses" with overlapping images.

#### **Fondazione Sozzani**

The Sozzani Foundation was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported for the past 28 years.

[www.galleriacarlasozzani.org](http://www.galleriacarlasozzani.org)