

# Dali and His Art Attract Throng to Preview at Hartford Gallery

## Painter Brings Wife and Ocelot to Pen Pal Unit Benefit

By RUTH ROBINSON

Salvador Dali packed them in at Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern Art last night. Close to a thousand persons were on hand to preview a retrospective exhibition of the Spanish-born artist's work and to see the man himself.

Wearing the long, thin, heavily waxed mustache that is his trademark, the man of the hour made his royal progress through the galleries greeting friends and admirers. He was accompanied by his Russian-born wife, Gala, whose name he sometimes signs to a painting along with his own. A member of his retinue carried his snarling ocelot. The Dalis and their party spoke in French.

Although the invitations read 9 P.M. until midnight, guests were slow in arriving, delayed by the inevitable cocktail and dinner parties. New arrivals were still in line at the check room after 11.

About half of the guests had bought tickets at \$20 each for the benefit of Letters Abroad, Inc. The others were invited by the gallery, by Mr. Hartford or by the Dalis.

After checking in at the gallery's entrance on Columbus Circle, the guests—the men mostly in black ties, many of the women in long gowns—were whisked by elevator to the fifth floor. From here they made their gradual way down the stairs to the fourth, third and second floors. Only then were they allowed to take another elevator to the eighth and ninth floors, where the bars were thrown open at 10 P.M. Mr. Hartford was determined that patrons see the art before they attempted to slake their thirst.

### A Salute to Spain

The evening, suitably enough, was planned as a salute to Spain, one of the 145 nations participating in the "adult pen pal" program run by the beneficiary, The Marquis de Merry del Val, Spanish Ambassador to the United States, was honorary chairman, and John Davis Lodge, former United States Ambassador to Spain, and his wife took an active hand in plans for the benefit.

A string trio engaged by Letters Abroad played Spanish music in the galleries while a jazz combo engaged by Mr. Hartford played on the eighth floor. Here and in the Gauguin Room on the ninth floor tiny anchovy sandwiches and Polynesian pork sandwiches that could hardly be described as Spanish were served with ice drinks.

Not all the Dali works were on stationary display in the galleries. Mrs. Owen R. Cheatham,



Some of the nearly 1,000 persons who attended the exhibition of Salvador Dali's work gather at cocktail reception at Huntington Hartford's Gallery of Modern Art. The event benefited Letters Abroad, Inc.



Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Graaff view the Dali painting "The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus."

wife of the chairman of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation, wore two. They were the "Fountains of Heraclitus," a necklace of diamonds, gold and pearls, and a watch with a bracelet made of clinking hands in diamonds, gold and rubies. Her strapless gown of green chiffon was designed by Sarni as a background for them.

### 'Angel' Between Floors

The Cheathams, through their Owen Cheatham Foundation, were also responsible for "The Falling Angel," a sculpture in jewels, which was displayed between the third and fourth floors. The foundation lends its collection of Dali jewels out to raise money for charities.

A number of out-of-towners were at the preview. Mr. and Mrs. A. Reynolds Morse led the Cleveland contingent. Their Dali collection occupied the entire fourth floor and overflowed to one room on the third. The Morses have known the Dalis for 20 years. Mr. Morse, an industrialist who has written a glowing biography of the artist, has been commuting between the Lombardy Hotel and the gallery the last few days supervising the hanging of the collection. "We're very fond of them. We don't want anything to happen to them," his wife explained.

Mrs. George Vanderbilt, widow of an heir to the railroad fortune of Commodore Cor-



The painter and his Russian-born wife, Gala, with one of his portraits of her.

nelius Vanderbilt, was chairman for the Letters Abroad benefit. She wore a pink gown by Sophie with a satin stole with paillettes.

Mrs. Chester Dale, whose late husband gave Dali's "Crucifixion" to the Metropolitan Mu-

seum of Art, didn't decide what to wear until the last minute, but she knew all along it would be full-length ("It's a winter of long dresses") and "something rather plain because the gallery is a public place."

Mrs. Frederick C. Havemeyer, whose art collection doesn't include any Dalis, wore a short, beige satin gown. She went to the preview because she is a friend of Mrs. Vanderbilt and of Frederick M. Van-ship, president of the beneficiary.



Miss Anne Harabin with "Portrait of Paul Eluard."

Lamont du Pont Copeland, president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., and Mrs. Copeland of Greenville, Del., Mr. and Mrs. Cunamms Gatherwood of Philadelphia, Mrs. Searle Whitney, Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. L.

Gardiner and Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney. Mrs. Carl Ulrich, a board member of Letters Abroad, thought the evening would not "research to keep us going for a few months."

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