



PRESS RELEASE

**Salvador Dalí, Jean Clemmer
An Encounter, a Work**

**Jean Clemmer Archive
and Fondazione Sozzani**

Opening

Thursday November 15, 2018
From 6:00pm to 8:00 pm

On view

November 16, 2018 – February 3, 2019
Monday to Saturday: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm

10 Corso Como Gallery presents "Salvador Dalí, Jean Clemmer. An Encounter, a Work" curated by Fondazione Sozzani in collaboration with the Jean Clemmer Archive, directed by Hélène Clemmer Heidsieck.

On view for the first time in New York the exhibition of photographs represents a long-term creative collaboration and friendship between Swiss photographer Jean Clemmer (Neuchâtel, 1926 – Paris, 2001) and surrealist artist Salvador Dalí (Figueres, 1904 – 1989).

Separated into two sections, there are forty-two prints from among Dalí's "Mises en scène" (1962 – 1967) and "Metamorphoses" (1970 – 1995) series, as well as photographs taken during the filming of "Le Divin Dalí" (1964), a short film which was tragically destroyed.

Clemmer, who worked with some of the most prominent fashion figures and artists of his time, including Paco Rabanne, with whom he published the book "Nues", met Dalí in 1962. They began to create series of photographs together in the house where Dalí lived with Gala, his muse and wife, at Port Lligat in Spain.

This exhibition includes one of their earliest collaborations entitled "Mises en scène". Dalí often set dreamlike scenes that explored themes of mythology, science and magic for Clemmer to capture. The Crucifixion, Levitation, the nuclear explosion, and eroticism were prominent motifs. For a piece entitled "Les Pois chiches" Dalí suspended a young girl called Ginesta, the levitation would become a frequent subject, upside-down and poured chickpeas over her body, which bounced off in a way that simulated a nuclear chain reaction. For another work, Dalí disguised himself as Hermes Trismegistus, a legendary magus and author of hidden sacred texts of the Hellenistic age.

In 1970 Jean Clemmer conceived his first series "Metamorphoses", representing Dalí as an apparition. By overlapping diapositives on a single print Clemmer was able to create the illusion of a constant flow of rebirth: from silhouettes of nudes emerge paintings ("La pêche au thon"), cutting up from the architecture of Gala and Salvador Dalí Foundation, portraits of Dalí and the *Mises en scène*.

The exhibition also features rare "behind the scene" unpublished prints taken on the set of the short film "Le Divin Dalí", which was tragically destroyed in a fire shortly after being shot. Clemmer, understanding the extraordinary cinematic potential of Dalí's performances. In 1964, they decide to make a film in the Claude Juioudoux studio, *Dalí metteur en scène* and Jean Clemmer photographe.

Dalí described the central scene of the film as "Cannibalism and Angelicism". "The vomit, you know," Dalí said, "is what comes closest to love." Cannibalism for Dalí represented an allegory that implied a transmutation and a rebirth. Clemmer's prints are the only testimony of this surrealist work.

About Jean Clemmer

Jean Clemmer was born in Neuchâtel in Switzerland in 1926. He attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts Chaux-de-Fonds. In 1946, after World War II, he established himself in Geneva as a 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 he opened his photography atelier. In 1964 Clemmer met Salvador Dalí, and the two became friends, working together on photography and a short film called "The Divine Dalí". In 1969 Clemmer met Paco Rabanne, a young couturier at that time, with whom he published the famous book "Nues". In 1970 he won the Canon Award and exhibited his works in exhibitions in Paris, Amsterdam and Tokyo. Clemmer exhibited at the Espace Dalí in Montmartre in 1992 and in Washington in 2000. From then until the end of his life – Clemmer died in Paris in 2001 – his works were always "metamorphoses": pictures overlapping together with unpredictable results.

About Fondazione Sozzani

The Fondazione Sozzani 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, founded by Sozzani in Milano in 1990, and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported for the past 28 years. For more information, visit www.fondazione-sozzani.org.

About 10 Corso Como

Founded in Milan in 1991 by former fashion editor and publisher Carla Sozzani, 10 Corso Como is recognized as the world's first concept store, with a curated mix of fashion, design and art in a succession of spaces alongside a restaurant and café and an art and photography gallery. 10 Corso Como's visual identity, interior and iconic logos are designed by American artist Kris Ruhs, inspired by the idea of bringing art into the everyday environment. Over the past almost 30 years, 10 Corso Como has expanded internationally with venues in Seoul, Shanghai and Beijing. The Seaport District in New York is its first U.S. location. For more information, visit www.10corsocomo.nyc.

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