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A brief definition given by Britannica Online goes as "the use of skill and imagination in the creation of aesthetic objects" It is indeed use of skill and imagination that is required to produce masterpieces like the ones created by the greats like Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Leonardo Da Vinci, Claude Monet and many more. It is intriguing to think about what could have possibly prompted them to produce such breathtaking creations in the first place. It could be the outcome of what was playfully started off with a tendency to scribble on any surface be it paper or canvas or just plain walls. However, haven't we all done that at one time or the other? Even today, do we not doodle idly when there is nothing better to do? But isn't it ludicrous to think that a great artist could have started off just by just doodling? What would it take to unravel a complex mind like that of Salvador Dali's?

Salvador Dali, who was born in the year 1904, was pulled up by his school authorities for his somewhat strange behavior at school and his frequent interruptions while the class was in progress. Was he too old for his age and stuck with a bunch of kids while he was far more mature himself? Was there a hint of what he was going to turn out to be? It has also been recorded that Dali used to have weird dreams and that his paintings were direct fallout of these frightening nocturnal visions. However, his brief stint at school had to be cut short as he was politely yet firmly asked to leave. However, he belonged to a good family and his father was a lawyer and notary with a fastidiousness for discipline. A strange incident in his childhood took place when he lost his older brother.

He was taken to the grave of his brother and told that he was a reincarnation of his brother, which he believed. It probably prompted him to say "we resembled each other like two drops of water, however he had different reflections" and "he was probably a first version of myself but conceived too much in the absolute". Could he have foreseen his future at that time? However, he joined drawing school and sketched some stunning pieces in charcoal. His father, recognizing the genius in his son, organized what was probably the first exhibition of Dali's paintings at their ancestral home itself.

Overcoming the extreme grief at the loss of his mother to breast cancer, Dali moved into a student's residence and enrolled at the Academia de San Fernando (school of fine arts). He drew a lot of attention with his eccentricities and had his first brush with a form of art called cubism that was actually a movement between 1907 and 1911 in France. In this peculiar form of art, objects were broken up, analyzed and re-assembled in an abstracted form to depict them from angles totally different from the normal. While at the Academia, Dali came out with his stunning and realistic Basket of Bread in 1926, however he was expelled from the school of art the same year with an accusation that he had incited unrest.

Dali moved on to Paris and had the good fortune of meeting Pablo Picasso who left a lasting impression on his mind and influenced his future works. Dali met his future wife Gala, a Russian immigrant 10 years his senior and already married to a surrealist poet. His father strongly condemned his relationship and ultimately disowned and finally disinherited him. The other masterpieces of Dali are The Persistence of Memory, Cabaret Scene, Morphological Echo, Swans Reflecting Elephants, The Lugubrious Game and The Great Masturbator to name a few. Most of these paintings are priceless and are protected by effective Security Systems like ADT Security Systems.

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Randy Collins is a freelance writer and enjoys viewing paintings by renowned artists and believes that all such precious creations need to be protected with security systems like a [ADT Security Systems](#)

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