

Dali's Mustache

By Philippe Halsman

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Dali's Mustache By Philippe Halsman

With 101 "Life" magazine covers to his credit, Philippe Halsman (1906-1979) was one of the leading portrait photographers of his time. In addition to his distinguished career in photojournalism, Halsman was one of the great pioneers of experimental photography, motivated by a profound desire to push this youngest of art forms toward new frontiers by using innovative and unorthodox photographic techniques.
One of Halsman's favorite subjects was Salvarod Dali, the glittering and controversial painter and theorist with whom the photographer shared a unique friendship and extraordinary professional collaboration that spanned over thirty years. Whenever Dali imagined a photograph so strange that its production seemed impossible, Halsman tried to find the solution, and invariably succeeded. As Halsman explains in his postface, "Dali's Mustache" is the fruit of this marriage of the minds. The jointly conceived and seemingly nonsensical questions and answers reveal the gleeful humor and assumed cynicism for which Dali is famous, while the marvelous and inspired images of Dali's mustache brilliantly display Halsman's consummate skill and extraordinary inventiveness as a photographer.
This combination of wit, absurdity, and the offhandedly profound is irresistible and has contributed to the enduring fascination inspired by this unique photographic interview, which has become a cult classic and valuable collector's item since its original publication in 1954. The present volume faithfully reproduces the first edition and will introduce a new generation to the irreverent humor and imaginative genius of two great artists.

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Dali's Mustache By Philippe Halsman Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #478988 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Flammarion
- Published on: 1996-01-15
- Released on: 1996-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.08" h x .64" w x 5.39" l, .76 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
"Warning! This book is preposterous," says the back cover. This collaboration between the flamboyant Spanish painter and the Latvian-born portraitist is also a surrealistic work of art. Halsman understood the extroverted Dali better than any other photographer; their talents and personalities were the perfect complement to each other. In the course of this witty and inventive homage, the artist's celebrated whiskers tie themselves in a knot, are pressed into service as a paintbrush, become the hands of a clock and blemish the face of the Mona Lisa.

About the Author
Philippe Halsman's memorable photographs of the leading statesmen, scientists, entertainers and artists of our time continue to appear in magazines and books. In 1944, four years after arriving in the Unites States from France, his colleagues elected him first president of the American Society of Magazine Photographers. In 1958 he was named one of the world's ten best photographers in an international poll.

His other publications include *The Frenchman*, *Piccoli* (a fairy tale), *Philippe Halsman's Jump Book*, *Halsman on the Creation of Photographic Ideas*, and *Sight and Insight*, as well as *Portraits* and *Halsman at Work*, which were published by his family after his death in 1979. His work is represented in the permanent collections of numerous museums in the United States and abroad.

Users Review

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Kisha Hutton:

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