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[Salvador Dalí](#)

Metamorphosis of Narcissus

1937



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ON DISPLAY AT [TATE MODERN](#)

Display Room: [International Surrealism \(Room 5\)](#)

Display Theme: [Level 2: In the Studio](#)

ARTIST	Salvador Dalí 1904–1989
ORIGINAL TITLE	Métamorphose de Narcisse
MEDIUM	Oil paint on canvas
DIMENSIONS	Support: 511 x 781 mm frame: 820 x 1092 x 85 mm

COLLECTION	Tate
ACQUISITION	Purchased 1979
REFERENCE	T02343

Summary



This painting is Dalí's interpretation of the Greek myth of Narcissus. Narcissus was a youth of great beauty who loved only himself and broke the hearts of many lovers. The gods punished him by letting him see his own reflection in a pool. He fell in love with it, but discovered he could not embrace it and died of frustration. Relenting, the gods immortalised him as the narcissus (daffodil) flower. For this picture Dalí used a meticulous technique which he described as 'hand-painted colour photography' to depict with hallucinatory effect the transformation of Narcissus, kneeling in the pool,

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EXPLORE

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[universal concepts](#) (6,313)

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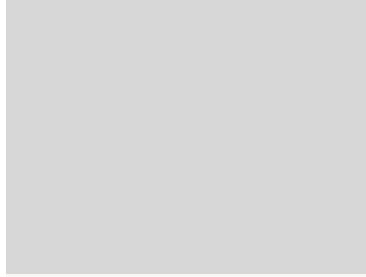
[figure](#) (2,228)

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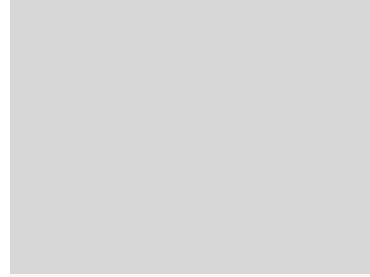
ARTWORK

Salvador Dalí
Forgotten Horizon
1936



ARTWORK

Salvador Dalí
Mountain Lake
1938



ARTWORK

Salvador Dalí
Lobster Telephone
1936

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