New York / Berlin, November 12, 2012—artnet Auctions is pleased to announce Dalí, a special sale of over 40 works in a range of media, including prints, sculptures, and photographs, by the Surrealist artist, Salvador Dalí (Spanish, 1904–1989).

One of the highlights of the sale is a strong selection of sculptures that translate the artist’s most recognizable images into three-dimensional forms. Among them is Le cabinet anthropomorphique (1973–1982), a bronze rendering of a reclining nude woman with hair cascading over a torso made of drawers; two of the drawers contain a miniature key and phallus that can be taken out and displayed. First seen in Dalí’s 1936 painting of the same name, this work is estimated at US$25,000 to 30,000. Other sculptures in the sale include Dance of Time I (1979–1984), which brings to life Dalí’s iconic melting clock, and is estimated at US$9,000 to 11,000, and Triumphant Elephant...
(1975–1984), one of Dalí’s signature multi-jointed pachyderms carrying a gilded figure playing a horn, estimated at US$12,000 to 18,000.

Another important work in the sale is Argus, a rare hand-colored etching, estimated at US$15,000 to 20,000, from Dalí’s 1963 portfolio The Mythology. The image is based on the Greek myth of Argus, a hundred-eyed giant who was slain by Zeus and whose eyes were scattered across the tail of a peacock by Zeus’ wife Hera. Dalí festooned the peacock’s wings with human eyeballs, hand-colored in red, blue, green, and yellow.

Also featured is the beautifully surreal Florals portfolio of 15 botanical lithographs (1972), estimated at US$20,000 to 25,000. Plates from this suite depict flowers sprouting human fingers, forks, skeleton keys, and telephones, or transforming into swans, clocks, lips, and ears. Dalí frequently combined commonplace objects in unusual ways, creating dreamlike worlds, drawing from unconscious and subliminal desires.

Dalí also drew inspiration from his Spanish heritage. One of his most enduring subjects was Spanish literary hero Don Quixote, the title character in Miguel de Cervantes’ 17th-century masterpiece. Included in the sale are the two most iconic prints from his Historia de Don Quichotte de la Mancha portfolio (1980), Don Quixote (The Dreamer) and The Impossible Dream, estimated as a pair at US$2,500 to 3,500. Dalí’s bronze, bas-relief interpretation of Don Quixote (1980) is also included in the auction, with an estimate of US$3,000 to 4,000. His portrait from the Five Spanish Immortals suite (1966) of the character’s creator, Cervantes, is also offered with an estimate of US$3,000 to 4,000.

Dalí spent much of his life cultivating a personality that was as much a work of art as his paintings, sculptures, and prints. He once famously said that "every morning upon awakening, I experience a supreme pleasure: that of being Salvador Dalí." This sale includes Dalí’s own likeness in a number of works, including Dalinean Prophecy (1975), a self-portrait of the artist at work, estimated at US$2,000 to 3,000, and Philippe Halsman’s iconic photograph Salvador Dalí, "In Voluptate Mors,” New York (1951), with an estimate of US$13,000 to 15,000.

Dalí is live on artnet Auctions from November 12 through 21, 2013, and on view at http://www.artnet.com/auctions/search/?q=keyword-dali_2013-category-all-artworks-active-auctions-only/.

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