USF and Dali Museum Offer First Avant-Garde Lecture Series

By: Alyson Seligman

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This fall, USF St. Petersburg and the Dalí Museum will bring leading experts from the avant-garde cultural movements of the 20th century to the area and give community members the unique opportunity to study with honors students.

The introductory lecture series, “Avant-Garde,” beginning Sept. 13 will be held twice a month and is free and open to the public. Each lecture will help place the work of Salvador Dalí in a broader cultural context and discuss and compare the different avant-garde movements in Europe. The series will also look at the range of media avant-gardists used, including literature, painting, sculpture, film and music.

Assistant professor of English, Peter Kalliney, PhD, said that he is excited about this collaborative effort with the Dalí because this will be a unique experience for everyone involved. “Community members will have the rare opportunity to delve into the foundation of the avant-garde movement alongside USF honors students,” said Kalliney, lecture series co-planner.

This lecture series is an important part of Kalliney’s freshman honors English seminar as class is scheduled during the lecture time. Speakers will then attend the other class sessions to speak with the honors students in a small setting.

“I don’t think there is a replacement for first-hand experience when it comes to learning,” said Kalliney. “It is very unusual to meet on a regular basis in a museum but this will give the students will have the opportunity to hear from a range of scholars.”

Peter Tush, Dalí Museum curator of education and lecture series co-planner said that “In addition to the benefits to USF students, the lectures will introduce the community to the story of the European avant-garde, the rich cultural heritage that Dalí initially participated in and then reacted against.”

This lecture series, presented during the Museum’s fall exhibition, ‘Dalí and Mass Culture,’ will also address “the difficult issues Dalí responded to when he chose to work in the popular arts of fashion, cinema, and advertising,” said Tush.

In addition to the lecture, the Museum will open its galleries 30 minutes prior to lectures for complimentary viewing. The seven lectures, tentatively scheduled for 6:30 pm, are:

- Sept. 27 – “Revolution, Surrealist Style,” Bradley Nickels, professor of art history, USF
- Oct. 11 – “Surrealist Love,” Gaëtan Brulotte, professor of French, USF
- Oct. 25 – “Revolution by Design: How the Bauhaus Shaped 20th Century Living,” Anne Jeffrey, instructor of art history, USF
- Nov. 15 – “Literature in the Museums of Modernism,” Catherine Paul, associate professor of English, Clemson University

For more information, please call Peter Tush, Dalí Museum curator of education, at 727-823-3767.

Admission to the Dalí Museum is always free to those with USF identification cards.