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### Art: The Infinite

In 'Art Never Dies' by Sonny Rollins, an American Saxophonist, argues that art is beyond politics and technology. Art is infinite. Art will never die because it represents raw emotion and the soul. As a musical artist, he compares his saxophone's music to art by arguing that there isn't such a thing as original music, in the sense that all music takes pieces from other tunes to create it, just like art.

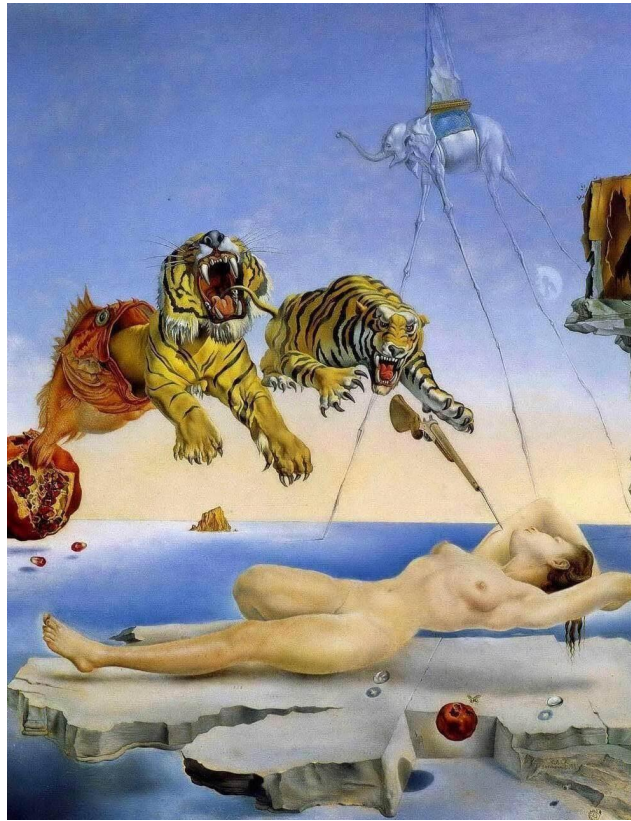
Sonny's argument has been shown in some of Salvador Dali's surreal works. Pieces such as *The Persistence of Memory* (1931), *Dream Caused by The Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening* (1944), and *The Great Masturbator* (1929). These works express pure emotion, one that comes from within that words couldn't express, emotion that Sonny speaks of.



Salvador Dali, *The Great Masturbator*, 1929

*The Great Masturbator* was one of Dali's first full surrealist paintings. This piece depicts a nude woman emerging from a mass that seems to be somewhat floating. A grasshopper is seen under the mass, though it is missing two of its six legs, and two other humanoids roam the sands. This illustrates Sonny's arguments on art, also on Emotion. Dali was heavily influenced not only by his sexual desires but by Gala, his wife and muse. Due to this, most of his paintings are emotionally driven and come from a place deep inside him. A quote from Art Never dies that I thing shows this perfectly says the following: "The song is in the back of my brain where many other things are stored, and in that way, it becomes just another item that I can call upon when

I'm playing...when I let the music play itself, not just the one song that I've memorized, but all of the songs and experiences I have in my mind. And as things come to me, unplanned, I surprise even myself."



*Salvador Dalí, Dream Caused by The Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening, 1944*

In *Dream Caused by The Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening*, we see a sleeping woman on a rock being poked by a rifle while tigers jump out of a fish that is itself jumping out of a large pomegranate in the middle of the ocean. A small pomegranate floats passively next to the woman and a large elephant strides forth in the background. Once again, the ocean is undisturbed, despite the elephant's strides and the stone on which the woman sleeps. This piece illustrates Sonny's argument mostly on Emotion. It is said that the sleeping woman represented Gala. As said previously, Gala was a big inspiration for a lot of Dalí's art.



Salvador Dali, *The Persistence of Memory*, 1931

Where *The Great Masturbator* and *Dream Caused by The Flight of a Bee Around a Pomegranate a Second Before Awakening* tackle emotion, *The Persistence of Memory* describes exactly that, memory. Dalí's most famous piece depicts drooping clocks on what seems to be a beach. Objects sit on the sands that don't belong or are unrecognizable, such as the white blanket-like object on the ground or the metallic, shiny slab behind the branch. The water is smooth and still, completely uncharacteristic of the ocean, not a single wave breaks shore. This piece illustrates Sonny's argument, as the ideas of memory and the surrealism of it all could represent feelings in the soul, the infinite. These characteristics, I believe, are used to give a depiction of memory and as vivid as some memories can get, they will eventually fade, become lost to time, as shown by the clocks. As Sonny says perfectly, "We're not here to live forever. Humans and materialism die. But there's no dying in art."

In conclusion, Art is emotion put to paper. Feels immortalized on a canvas. When the artist passes, their art remains.