



Dalí painted it in 1936, but there were studies found of it that dated back to 1934.

Dalí made this painting to represent the horrors of the Spanish Civil War. He painted this work six months before the Spanish Civil War had even begun and then claimed that he had known the war was going to happen. Dalí may have changed the name of the painting after the war in a manner of proving this prophetic quality.

Salvador Dalí and the Spanish Civil War

Dalí and his wife, Gala, were trapped in the middle of a general strike and an armed uprising by Catalan separatists in 1934, in Catalonia, and this may have influenced his Spanish Civil War motif. Salvador and Gala escaped to Paris, where they were married. When Dalí finally returned home, his house in Port Lligat had been destroyed in the war. He was also greatly affected because his friend Federico García Lorca, was executed in the war and his sister Ana Maria was imprisoned and tortured.

This painting expresses the destruction during the Spanish Civil War. The monstrous creature in this painting is self-destructive just as a Civil War is. This painting is not meant to depict choosing sides although Dalí had many reasons to choose sides in the Spanish Civil War. His sister was tortured and imprisoned by communist soldiers fighting for the Republic and his good friend from art school was murdered by a fascist firing squad as well as Lorca. There are *quite a few* boiled beans in this painting. Dalí is quoted as saying the reason he included boiled beans was "one could not imagine swallowing all that unconscious meat without the presence of some mealy and melancholy vegetable." By this he meant that there were many hardships in the war so the Spanish citizens had to do their best to deal with their problems. He played with themes of love, eating, and the war and how they are all related. (from Wikipedia)



The painting features many gruesome images and is considered to be one of the most aggressive depictions of the Spanish Civil War. It appears that there are two main figures in the painting which appear as giants compared to the surrounding landscape. The main figure, in the top half of the painting, consists in a leg which extends to the right-hand side of the painting and then drops down to be ended with a skeletal foot. At the left hand side of the painting is the other body part of the creature which looks like a woman's breast. In the middle of this creature sits a grotesque human head which is extremely demon-like. Dalí once said that this head was inspired by the demonic face of the God Saturn in Francisco Goya's painting, 'El Saturno devorando a un hijo' (Saturn Devouring his Son).



<http://www.spanish-art.org/spanish-painting-contruccion-blanda-con-judias-hervidas.html>