

## 1.6.-Looking Through Images: Human Reflections. Caravaggio and Dalí

Art has long been able to represent the human being's search for identity, his complexity and beauty. These two pictures by Caravaggio and Dalí - different in style and composition - show problems, situations and experiences that we could all come across.

*Narcissus: CARAVAGGIO (Michelangelo Merisi) (1571-1610)*

*Italian painter, an outstanding member of the Naturalist school, who skillfully used the chiaroscuro technique.*



### Research

- Who was Narcissus?
- What is the chiaroscuro technique?
- Caravaggio is a Baroque painter. What is Baroque? What are the characteristics of this style?

### Learn to look

- Briefly describe all the elements of this picture.
- Does this painting have a balanced or broken composition?

### Think about the picture

- What is the painter trying to tell us with this picture? What does "narcissist" mean?
- Explain the differences between being "narcissistic", "selfish", "individualistic". Do these terms have the same meaning?

*city of drawers: DALI (1904-1989)*

*A Catalan artist with a unique genius, both in his life and art, he was one of the outstanding figures of Surrealism.*

### Research

- Find some information about the life of Dalí. Where did he live? What was special about his appearance?
- What is Surrealism?

### Learn to look

- Describe the elements of the painting.
- The human body gives a diagonal composition to this picture. What could it mean?

### Think about the picture

- What does this body full of drawers mean?
- Is the top right-hand corner of the picture important? What is it symbolising?

*"Sigmund Freud was the only difference between immoral Greece and the contemporary period. Freud discovered that the human body-platonic during the time of the Greeks is nowadays full of secret drawers that only psychoanalysis can open." DALI*



### LET'S KEEP THINKING AND IMAGINING

- What picture would you choose or paint if you were asked to depict the complexity of human life?
- Which painters would you choose if you had to organize an exhibition called "The Human Being"? What kind of paintings would you choose?