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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SALVADOR DALI’S THE DIVINE COMEDY COMES TO MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER IN HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Aug. 19, 2024) – One of the legendary Spanish artist Salvador Dali’s most ambitious projects is coming to Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center this summer. *Stairway to Heaven: Salvador Dali’s The Divine Comedy*, features 101 wood-block engravings made from Dali’s original watercolors. The exhibit runs Aug. 24 to Oct. 13, 2024.

“We are thrilled to present one of Salvador Dali’s great masterpieces at Monthaven,” says Cheryl Strichik, the MACC’s executive director. “Dali truly captures both the agony and the ecstasy of Dante’s *The Divine Comedy*. It’s the kind of exhibit that our visitors will remember for the rest of their lives.”

Born in Spain in 1904, Salvador Dali was one of the most captivating and challenging artists of the 20th century. While many remember Dalí for his notorious reputation, far fewer remember that Dalí was a deeply spiritual man, and he frequently used his singular Surrealist perspective to illustrate scenes taken straight from the Bible and great works of literature. His illustrations of scene from Dante’s *The Divine Comedy* are a prime example.

In 1951, the Italian government commissioned Dalí to create 100 illustrations from *The Divine Comedy* to celebrate the upcoming 700th birthday of the poet Dante Alighieri. Dali embarked on a 14-year project to create original watercolors and engravings illustrating

Dante's epic poem. Dali's attention to detail was meticulous—he created over 100 watercolor studies, worked tirelessly with the publisher, and even personally approved the more than 3,000 woodblocks used for the engravings. The final result was a series of 101 breathtaking engravings bringing the classic poem to life.

Tickets for *Stairway to Heaven: Salvador Dali's The Divine Comedy* are \$10. The MACC is a Blue Star Museum, so active and retired military are free. Students are also free. Tickets are available at monthavenarts.org or by calling (615) 822-0789. A complimentary members-only event celebrating Dali's *Stairway to Heaven* will be 6 p.m. Saturday, August 31, 2024.

Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is a jewel-box art museum and education facility housed in one of Tennessee's most spectacular antebellum mansions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the MACC has staged exhibitions featuring everything from the ceramic art of Pablo Picasso to the evening gowns of Princess Diana. The artwork of local artists and military veterans are also on frequent display. As an art school, the MACC offers classes to more than 900 children and adults each year. The MACC also provides free arts outreach and healing arts to underserved children, families and military veterans. For more information, visit www.monthavenartsandculturalcenter.com or call (615) 822-0789.

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