



COMBINED MEXICAN FOLK ART AND MAGICAL REALISM.

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ARTISTS IN HISTORY.

HER ART EXPLORES IDENTITY, GENDER, CLASS AND RACE.

'I PAINT MY OWN REALITY. THE ONLY THING I KNOW IS THAT I PAINT BECAUSE I NEED TO, AND I PAINT WHATEVER PASSES THROUGH MY HEAD WITHOUT ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION.' - FRIDA KAHLO

FRIDA KAHLO

PAINTER

HER WORK CELEBRATED HER HERITAGE AND WAS INSPIRED BY MEXICAN FOLK ART AND RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS.

SHE MADE MORE THAN 140 PAINTINGS, A THIRD OF WHICH WERE SELF-PORTRAITS.

THE TWO FRIDAS (1939)



THIS PAINTING EXPLORED TWO SIDES OF HER PERSONALITY, SYMBOLISED THROUGH EUROPEAN AND TRADITIONAL TEHUANA CLOTHING.

Frida Kahlo was born in 1907 near Mexico City. She grew up playing sports and wrestling, but she also enjoyed drawing. At 18, she was injured in life-changing bus crash. She was put in a full-body cast and stayed in hospital for months. Frida's family built her a special easel that allowed her to paint while in bed and, after this, she decided to devote her life to art. Throughout her life, Frida experienced a lot of pain both emotionally and physically, but she turned this into the inspiration for her beautiful paintings.

Frida later met famous muralist Diego Rivera. They married in 1929 and became one of the most famous couples in Mexico. Diego was known for his politics and art, while Frida was mostly known for being his wife. She continued working despite her talent going unnoticed at first. Diego and Frida had a difficult relationship and their love was a common subject in Frida's work.

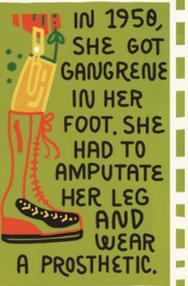
Frida also created many self-portraits exploring her identity as a woman and unapologetically rejecting Western beauty standards. Her art celebrated her own indigenous mestiza heritage, through her choice of clothes, her unshaven face and the use of Mexican symbolism.

Her artwork began receiving recognition in 1938, when she had her first successful solo show in New York. A year later, the Louvre bought one of her paintings. Over the next decade, her art career was on the rise, but her health was declining. In 1953, at a solo show in Mexico City, she was too sick to stand in the gallery and laid in a bed to welcome guests. She died the following year.

Today, her paintings are celebrated and shown all over the world, and Frida has become a symbol for feminism.



Diego and Frida were nicknamed 'The Elephant and the Dove.'



In 1950, she got gangrene in her foot. She had to amputate her leg and wear a prosthetic.

For her Mexico City show, Frida lay in a bed decorated with mirrors and photos of her family, friends and heroes.

