



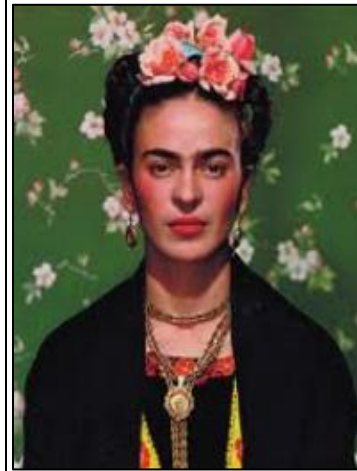
Frida KAHLO

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Biography

- Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter.
- She is well known for her portraits, self-portraits and works inspired by Mexico.
- She is most famous for paintings such as *The Two Fridas*, *Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* and *The Wounded Deer*.
- Kahlo had polio at age 6, which left her disabled. She also suffered a terrible accident aged 18, causing her severe pain for the rest of her life.
- Kahlo's paintings often had strong autobiographical elements – mixing realism and fantasy. She used a naïve folk art style to explore ideas such as gender, class and race.



-Frida Kahlo lived between 1907 and 1954. She was born and she died in the Coyoacan district of Mexico City, the capital city of Mexico.

Significant Works

The Two Fridas (1939)



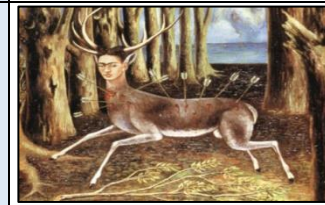
-*The Two Fridas* is an oil-on-canvas painting. It was the first large-scale work she completed, and it is one of her most famous pieces.
-It is thought to show Frida's two personalities. On the left, she is in traditional Tehuana costume and has a broken heart. The right shows her in modern dress. She said that it expressed her loneliness during her separation from husband Diego.

Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace... (1940)



-In this oil-on-canvas self-portrait, Kahlo is directly confronting the viewer's gaze, with her bold eyebrows immediately noticeable. The thorn necklace appears to represent her pain after her failed romantic relationships – she painted this after her divorce from Diego. The hummingbird is considered a good luck charm for love in her culture, yet this hangs dead from her neck.

The Wounded Deer (1946)



-In this oil-on-Masonite painting, Kahlo depicts a young deer with her head. The dead trees and broken branches around her show fear and desperation. The young deer is pierced by arrows and is bleeding, and will likely die. She painted this after years of physical and mental torment at being injured and bedridden.

Styles and Techniques

<p>Naïve Folk Art</p>	<p>-Folk art is all types of visual art that expresses the styles and views of a particular people. In Kahlo's case, her work presents ideas consistent with her Mexican heritage. Naïve art is art created by a person who does not have the formal education and training that most artists undergo. Their work may appear more childlike/simple, but often this helps it to appear more raw and expressive. Kahlo's work regularly fits this category.</p>	
<p>Symbolism</p>	<p>-Symbolism is the name given to an artistic movement which started in the late 19th Century. Symbolism is evident when artists express ideas through symbols, rather than giving a realistic view of the natural world. - Kahlo's paintings use rich symbolism - a number of images, lines, colours and textures are used to present ideas. These ideas are often strong symbols in Mexican culture. For example, she uses animals & plants to suggest behaviours or superstitions and weather to portray mood.</p>	
<p>Surrealism</p>	<p>-<u>Surrealism</u> is an art movement that grew from around 1920. It used <u>strange, chaotic figures and shapes</u> to show <u>dreams and unconscious thoughts</u>. -Many of Kahlo's paintings contained surprising, dream-like imagery and deep symbolism, meaning that she has often been labelled a surrealist painter.</p>	

How do I create art like Kahlo?

Step 1: Use your pencil to draw the outline of your image, as you see in the mirror photo.

Things you'll need: Oil pastels, mirror or photo, pastel paper/ sketch book, pencil.

A child's Kahlo-inspired self-portrait.

Step 2: Still using your pencil, draw the outline of any symbolic animals/plants that you wish to add.

Step 3: Use your oil pastels to complete the background, exploring patterns & shapes that are symbolic to you/your culture.

Step 4: Use your pencil to outline your facial features and any other finer features (e.g. remember the big eyebrows!) Then, go over all outlines using your black pastille.

Step 5: Add colour to your portrait. Kahlo uses lots of bold, bright colours in her self-portraits, adding to the naïve folk art style.

Key Vocabulary

- Frida Kahlo
- Mexico
- Tehuana
- Indigenous
- Culture
- Self-Portrait
- Surrealism
- Symbolism
- Symbolic
- Realism
- Naïve Folk Art
- The Two Fridas
- Oil-on-canvas
- Polio
- The Wounded Deer

Frida Kahlo Timeline

6th July 1907 She is born as Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón.	1913 She is diagnosed with polio.	1914 She overcomes polio, but has a withered right leg. Her father buys her paints whilst she recuperates.	1922 She begins attending the National Prep School	1925 She is involved in a bus accident in which she suffers multiple injuries. She suffers for the rest of her life.	1926 Kahlo turns seriously to art to aid her recovery.	1929 She marries the painter Diego Rivera.	1937 Frida Kahlo's work is exhibited in Mexico for the first time.	1944 Frida Kahlo begins keeping a diary.	July 13th 1954 After a long illness, Frida commemorated on a Kahlo dies.	2001 She is commemorated on a US postage stamp.
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