

# FRIDA KAHLO

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican painter who depicted the indigenous culture of her country in a style combining Realism, Symbolism and Surrealism. She was married to Mexican muralist and cubist painter Diego Rivera. Frida is widely known for her self-portraits.

Kahlo contracted polio at age six, which left her right leg looking thinner sometimes than the other (a deformity Kahlo hid by wearing long skirts). As a girl, she participated in boxing and other sports. In 1922, Kahlo was enrolled in the Preparatoria, one of Mexico's premier schools, where she was one of only 35 girls.

In September of 1925, Kahlo was riding in a bus when the vehicle collided with a trolley car. She suffered serious injuries in the accident, including a broken spinal column, a broken collarbone, broken ribs, a broken pelvis, eleven fractures in her right leg, a crushed and dislocated right foot, and a dislocated shoulder. An iron handrail impaled her abdomen, piercing her uterus, which seriously damaged her reproductive ability. Though she recovered from her injuries and eventually regained her ability to walk, she was plagued by relapses of extreme pain for the remainder of her life. The pain was intense and often left her confined to a hospital or bedridden for months at a time. She would undergo as many as 35 operations in her life as a result of the accident, mainly on her back and her right leg and foot.

Of her 143 paintings, fifty-five are self-portraits, which frequently incorporate symbolic portrayals of her physical and psychological wounds. Kahlo was deeply influenced by indigenous Mexican culture, which is apparent in her paintings' bright colours and dramatic symbolism.

In the last three decades she has gained admiration in Europe and the US. Her house in Coyoacán, Mexico is a museum and visited by a large number of tourists every year.



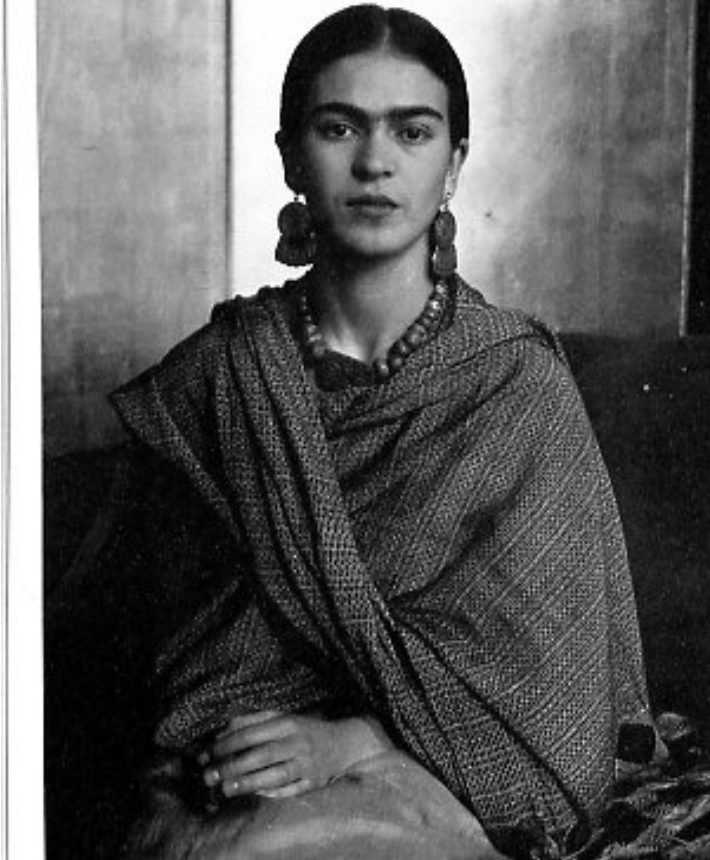
## WHAT'S WITH THE UNIBROW & MOUSTACHE??



Frida emphasized her facial hair with reason: Sometimes, she purposely defied conventional beauty because she felt ugly inside. In other paintings, it was a way of dealing with the fact that her husband was cheating and she felt unattractive. She often wanted to convey the duality of feminine and masculine tendencies inside of herself. She wasn't unaware that it wasn't cute...she did it to make a statement!



THE REAL FRIDA







## THE PAINTED FRIDA





