

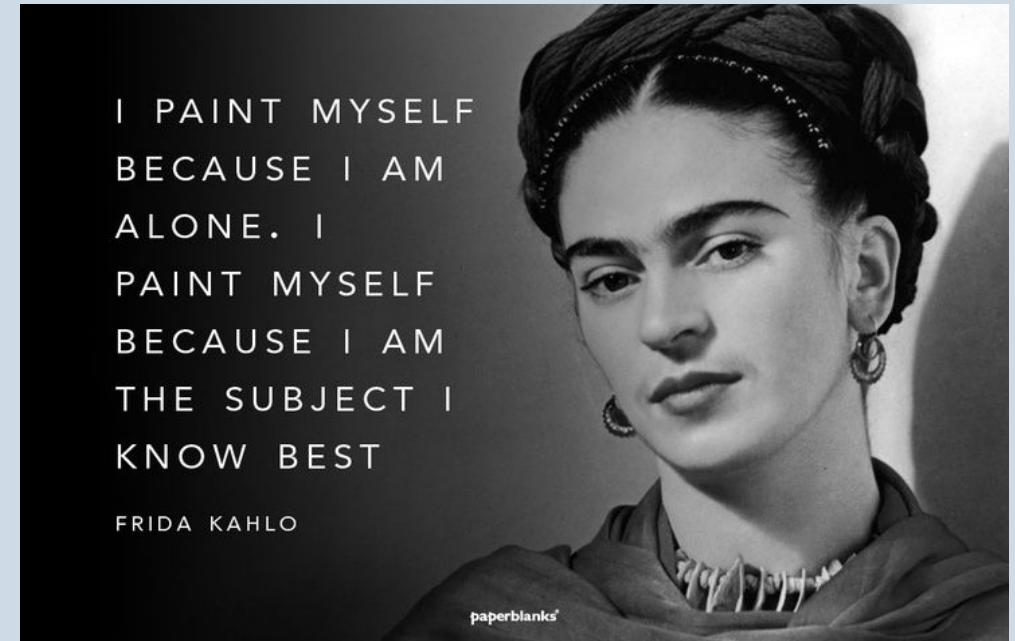


**PAINT LIKE
FRIDA KAHLO**

Read the following slides and then have a go yourself at painting in the style of this very famous Mexican artist.

Frida Kahlo

- Frida Kahlo is one of the most renowned female painters of the 20th century. She was born in Mexico (1907 – 1954). She led a short life but left a huge legacy behind.
- She has been a role model for every female artist since the 1950's and her quotes are used for inspiration by artists all over the world.
- Frida Kahlo's art is unprecedented as it originated from her own turbulent life experiences. She was mainly a self-taught artist and her art reflects all phases of her challenging life.



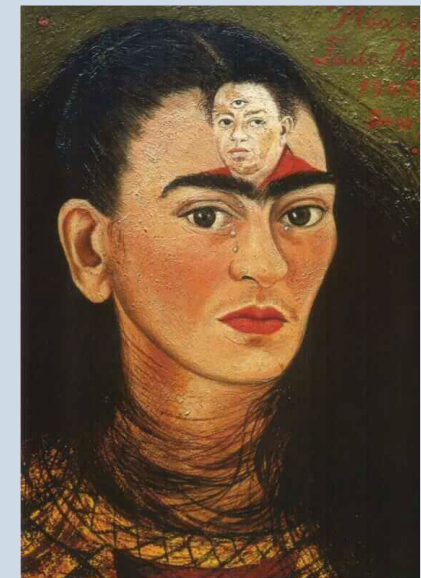
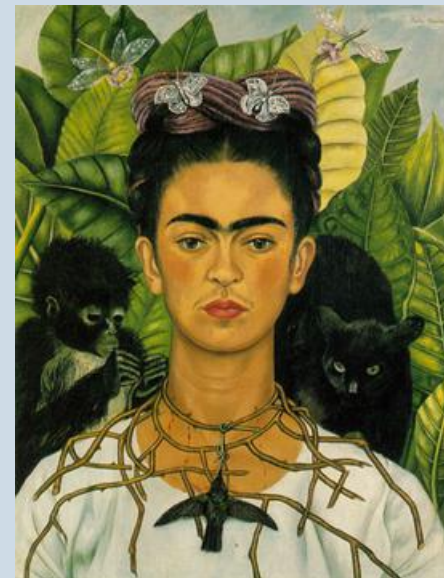
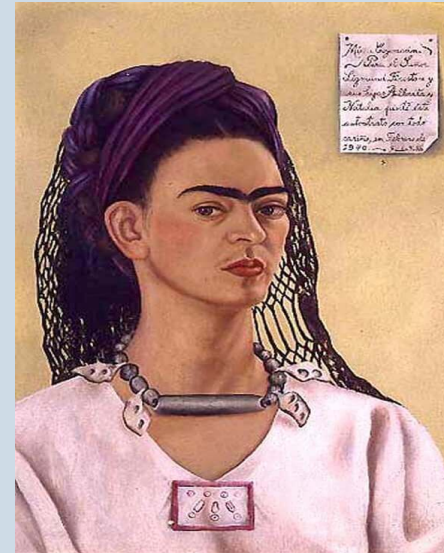
Biography

- Frida Kahlo had a German father with Hungarian descent and a Mexican mother of Spanish and Native American descent. Kahlo often explored her identity depicting her diverse ancestors.
- Kahlo faced severe health conditions as a child. She contracted polio when she was six years old. In 1925 she had a horrific bus accident which left her severely injured for the rest of her life. She had to undergo more than 30 medical operations in her life time. During her slow recovery Kahlo taught herself to paint.
- She married to a renowned Mexican artist, Diego Rivera in 1929. Kahlo's art works became world famous in the 1940's. She produced drawings and paintings till her death in 1954.

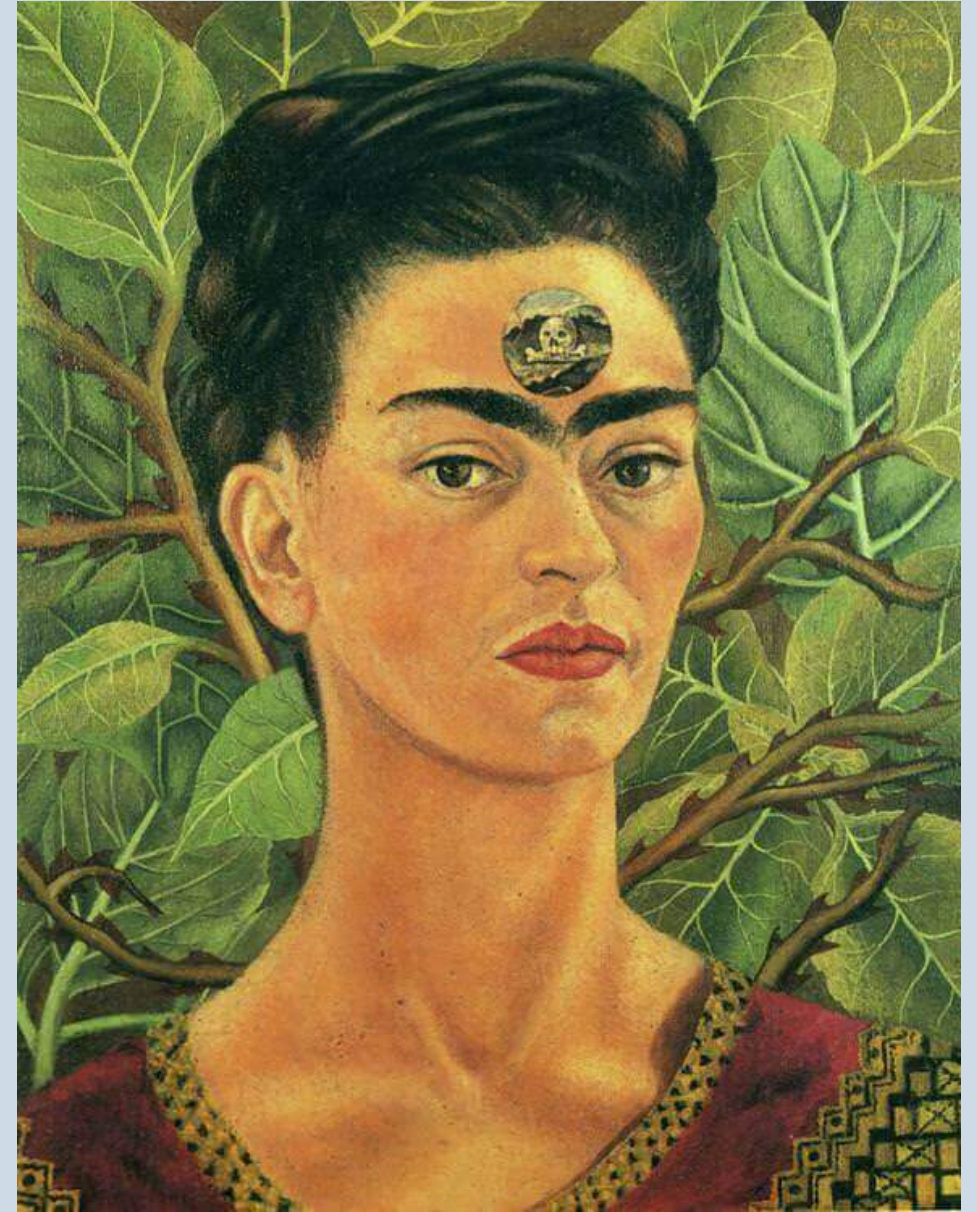


Frida Kahlo's paintings

- Frida Kahlo painted her life experiences in approximately 200 paintings, sketches and drawings. She portrayed her physical and emotional pain in her art work.
- Kahlo is best known for her self-portraits which demonstrate her feelings of love, passion and loss of her dear ones. She is considered to be a legendary female artist who had no reservations about painting and sharing her personal life.
- Kahlo's art is greatly influenced by Mexican and indigenous culture. She frequently uses artefacts to reinforce her origin. She uses bold and vibrant colours using oil paints on canvases.

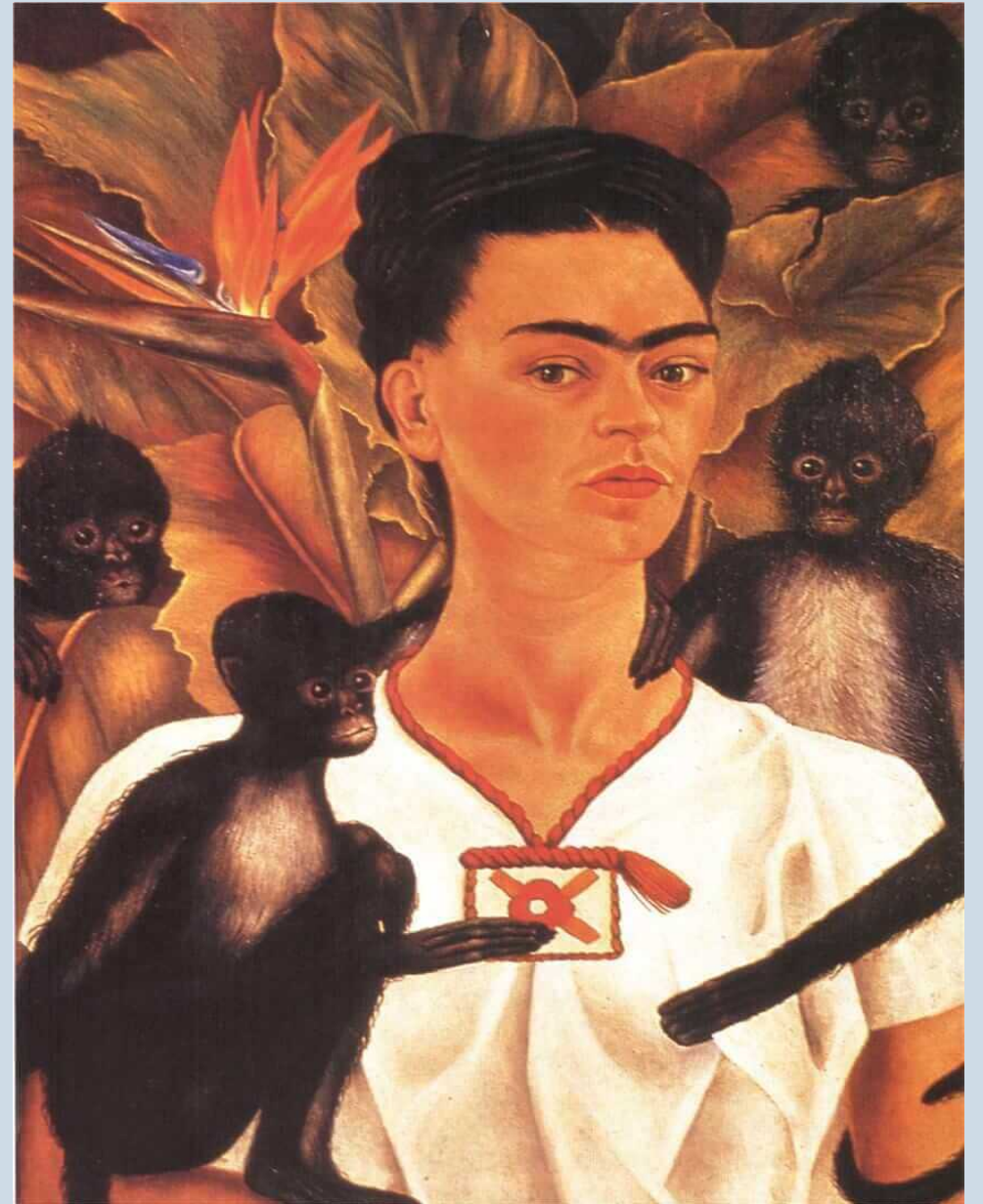


- Kahlo depicts fear of death in this portrait which is symbolised as a skull on her forehead
- The green leaves in the background symbolise life
- Death also means rebirth and life in Mexican culture
- This portrait shows her life experiences with severe illnesses followed by the fear of death



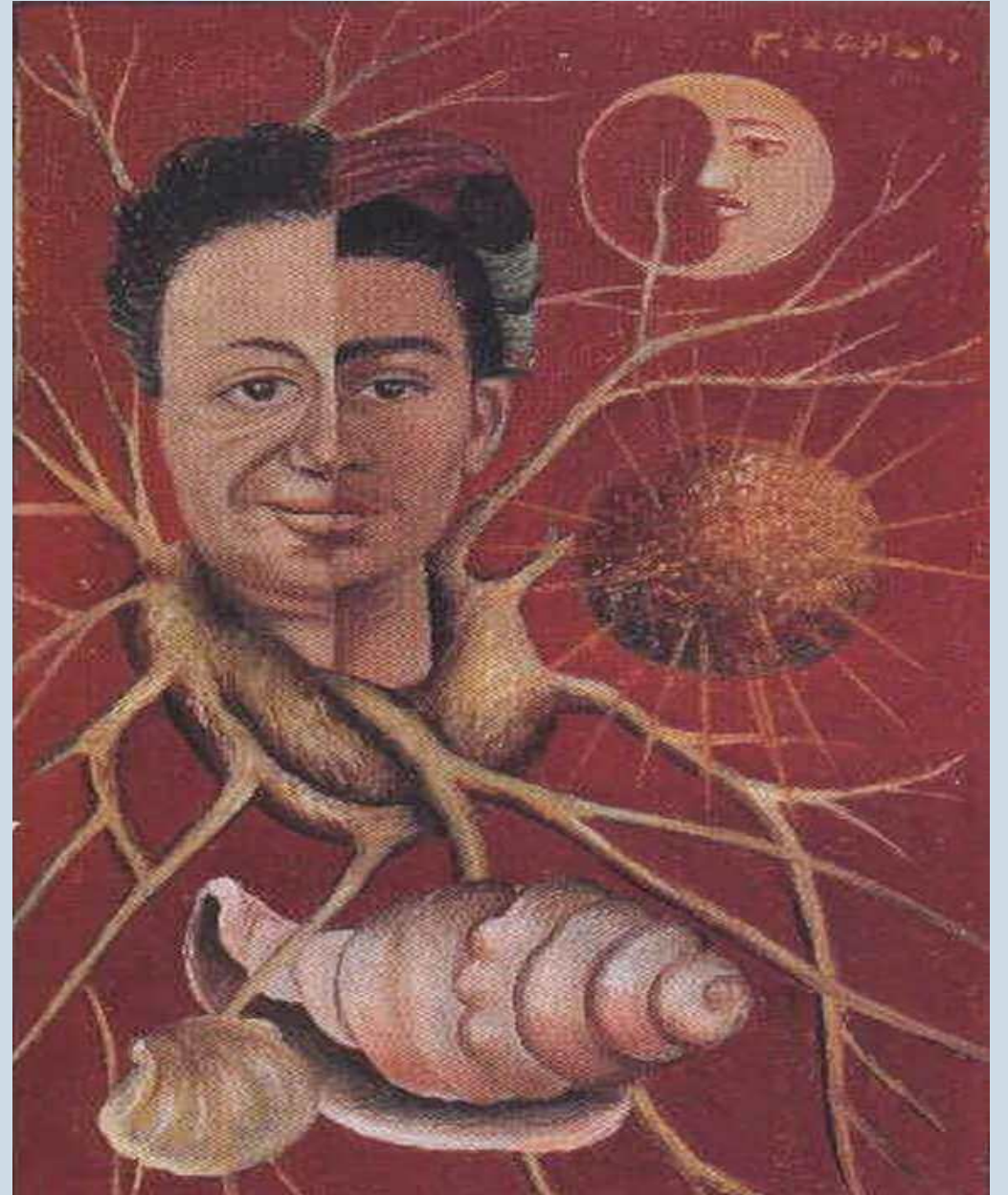
Thinking About Death, 1943

- Kahlo was known to keep monkeys as pets and used these in different paintings
- These symbolise children and loyal friends to Kahlo which were missing in her life
- In this painting Kahlo portrays monkeys as her four loyal students
- Take a look at other Frida Kahlo paintings. What other animals or items does she feature herself with?



Self Portrait with Monkeys, 1943

- Kahlo painted half portraits of her husband, Deigo and herself by joining these together
- The single head is bound together by lots of branches which represents their strong relationship and love
- The sun and moon symbolise the husband and wife, respectively
- The joined scallop and conch are symbols of their love union



Deigo and Frida, 1929

- Kahlo portrays a folk style by wearing peasant clothing in this portrait
- She is wearing pre- Columbian jewellery
- The colours of the Mexican flag are dominant in the painting as white, red and green.
- The clock represents the passing time which is reinforced by the small image of a flying plane in the sky



Self Portrait Time Flies, 1929

For you to try...
Paint in the style of Frida Kahlo

Task-1: Tracing your photograph (20 minutes)

Resources needed:

- Your self- portrait picture A4 size (head and shoulders)
- Tracing paper A4 size (grease proof paper will also work)
- Masking tape
- Sketching pencils (2B, 4B) and eraser
- Paper A4 size

Steps:

1. Put tracing paper on your picture and stick masking tape on each corner.
2. Start tracing your picture using a 2B pencil by putting pressure on your pencil.
3. Trace each feature, shape of the face, neck, shoulder and hair.
4. When finished take the masking tape off and start shading on the reverse side of tracing paper using 4B pencil. Make sure you shade on all the lines as seen in your reversed drawing.
5. Now attach the front side of your tracing paper on the Acrylic A4 sheet using masking tape.
6. Trace the image on paper by drawing again on the traced image, by putting pressure on your pencil, this will leave the traced image on the sheet.
7. Take the masking tape off and now draw softly on the traced image

Task 2- Drawing a Monkey and branches with leaves (20 mins)

1. Start drawing or tracing the monkey in your portrait drawing.
2. Place the monkey near the shoulder of your portrait with his face looking towards your portrait
3. Just draw the outlines without adding texture or details.
4. Add branches with leaves in the background without details so all your background looks randomly covered with foliage.

How to draw a monkey:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pctpAIQ3KTw>

How to draw branches:

<https://www.drawinghowtodraw.com/stepbystepdrawinglessons/2015/05/how-to-draw-tree-branches-full-of-leaves-drawing-tutorial/>



Task 3- Starting Acrylic Painting (50 mins)

Resources:

- Portrait drawing
- Masking tape
- Drawing board (or other firm surface)
- Acrylic Paints- Yellow ochre, Zinc white, Cadmium red, Cadmium yellow, Burnt umber (dark brown), French ultramarine (dark blue) – You can use any paints you have to hand.
- Acrylics brushes- Pointed brushes (1 and 3)
- Flat brushes (4 and 6) and 1 brush for mixing
- Palette and kitchen towel
- Water and water pots

Steps:

1. Put your drawing on the drawing board and stick the corners with a masking tape.
2. Squeeze brown paint on the palette, take mixing brush and make a thin paste using water. Now using a pointed brush, paint the outline of your portrait including eyes, eye brows, nose and nostrils, lips, shape of the face, neck and shoulders.
3. Now mix yellow ochre and zinc white with water and add a pinch of cadmium red. It should look like your skin colour. Now using a flat brush paint flat brush strokes covering all your portrait leaving eyes, eye brows, nostrils and lips.
4. Now paint the outline of your monkey, branches and leaves with burnt sienna with a pointed brush.
5. Then mix cadmium yellow and French ultramarine and make green. Paint all leaves in the background with flat brush strokes.
6. Lastly paint your monkey with flat brush strokes using burnt umber (dark brown).

Task 4- Completing Acrylic Painting (30 mins)

Steps:

1. Start by painting in the features of your portrait. Using a pointed brush paint the eyes and eye brows with burnt umber if you want brown eyes. For black eyes mix burnt umber and French ultramarine which will give you blackish colour.
2. Paint the base and around the nostrils with burnt umber.
3. Now highlight the middle lip line with burnt umber using a pointed brush and add smile or stern look.
4. Mix yellow ochre and a bit of cadmium red for painting lips. Now use flat brush and paint inside the lips.
5. Using a flat brush add tones by using burnt umber and yellow ochre around the nose, mouth, cheeks and neck through blending technique.
6. Now paint zinc white in the shirt covering the front and the shoulders.
7. Paint the head and hair using burnt umber with a flat brush and adding French ultramarine if you want black hair through blending.
8. Now add details in the monkey by painting his eyes, nose and mouth with mixing burnt umber and French ultramarine and using a pointed brush.
9. Add texture on monkey's body with small lines through pointed brush.
10. Lastly add some darker green tones in the leaves by mixing and painting French ultramarine and yellow ochre.

Review your painting (15 mins)

After completing your painting you need to evaluate the outcomes considering the following:

- Does your portrait look at the viewer like Frida Kahlo's self portraits?
- Does it show any emotion: happy, sad or thoughtful?
- Did you go through any thoughts or feelings while painting the monkey and yourself together? Can you symbolize your monkey to any relation in one word?
- Did you blend colours in the style of Frida Kahlo?
- Does your painting give a rich effect of foliage in the background and represent an open air painting?
- What has worked well / less well?
- What would you change if you were to do it again?

You have completed the task - well done!

Please read the next slide for more...

Exploring Frida Kahlo's theme further

If you have enjoyed working in the style of Frida Kahlo you can work on further self- portraits considering the following ideas:

- Making eye catching hairstyles by adding flowers and ribbons on your head
- Wearing ethnic or unusual necklaces and putting artefacts in the background
- Adding parrots or birds on your shoulders with a leafy background
- Working on half portraits of yourself and your friends and joining these together as a single portrait
- Highlighting pictures of happiness or sadness on your forehead in a circle like Frida Kahlo
- Using rich colours of green, red and yellow in particular
- Applying blending and layering techniques as used in oil/ acrylic painting