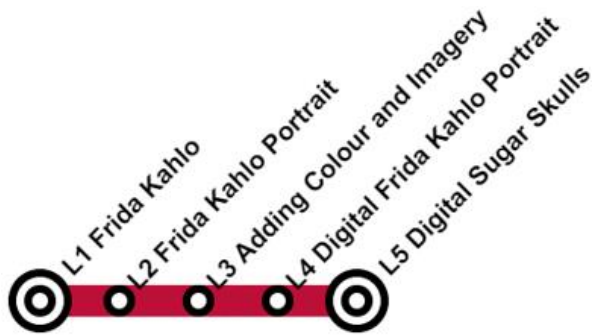


Art: Summer - Mexican Art Knowledge Organiser



Artist in focus - Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo (6 July 1907 - 13 July 1954) was a Mexican painter. She was known for her surreal and very personal works. She was married to Diego Rivera, also a well-known painter. She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico. She had polio that left her disabled. Because of a traffic accident at age 18 which badly injured her, she had periods of severe pain for the rest of her life. After this accident, Kahlo no longer continued her medical studies but took up painting.

Fifty-five of her 143 paintings are of herself. She was also influenced by native Mexican culture, shown in bright colours, with a mixture of realism and symbolism. Much of her art work was created with oil paints. Oil paints are composed of pigments that are distributed within an oil, commonly linseed oil. These oils help the paint dry more slowly than water-based paints, which dry by evaporation. Best known for her self-portraiture, some of her major works include "The Two Fridas," a portrait of herself in two different forms, "Diego and I" a self-portrait featuring a representation of her husband Diego Rivera on her forehead, and "Self-Portrait with Monkey."



Mexican Art

Mexican art is special, vibrant, colourful and often just plain mesmerizing because it is derived from long-standing traditions that the native populations have kept alive within their communities.

In Mexico, folk arts and crafts are called "artesanía". There is a wide variety of artesanía in Mexico. This is because Mexico has many different raw materials and varied people groups. Natural resources in Mexico include many types of clay, wood, metal, stones, and plants. Bold colours and decorative details give Mexican folk art the attractive edge it is famous for.

A lot of Mexican art displays Mexican culture through pictures, symbols and even colours.

Portraits

Portrait: Portraits are artistic representations of people. They can be created in any media, from traditional oil paintings, to photographs, sculpture and even mixed media. Portraits can show part figures, usually showing the sitter's head and shoulders, but they can also depict the whole figure.

Digital Art

Digital Art: Digital art, once called computer art or new media art, refers to art made using software, computers, or other electronic devices. Anything produced or made on digital media, such as animations, photographs, illustrations, videos, digital paintings, and such can be classified as digital art.

Key Vocabulary

Calavera - in the context of Day of the Dead, is a representation of a human skull or skeleton.

Frida Kahlo - A famous female Mexican artist.

Viewfinder - A tool used to zoom into a certain part of an image.

Sketch - a rough or unfinished drawing.

Surrealism - an art style that began in the 1920s in which dreams and fantasy served as subject matter for artworks.

Self-portraits - An image of one's self.

Symbolism - works of art that have forms, images, or subjects representing meanings other than the ones with which they are usually associated.

Diego Rivera - Famous Mexican artist and Frida Kahlo's husband.