

• FRIDA KAHLO •

SURREALIST ARTIST

Once there was a Mexican girl whose name was Frida. When Frida was six, she became very ill. The disease she contracted was called Polio and she had to stay in bed for nine months.

After nine months, she recovered from her illness, but because of it, her right leg remained thinner than the left and she limped when she walked. Nevertheless, Frida's father encouraged her to play soccer, go swimming, and even wrestle! Frida recovered and became a joyful teenager.

When Frida was 18, she was riding a bus that collided with a trolley car. The accident left her with several fractures and, again, with a very long recovery in front of her. At the time, Frida was studying medicine.

Since she couldn't go to school, Frida began to paint. Her mother had a special easel made so that she could paint in bed and her father loaned her his brushes and oil color set.

Frida became so good at painting that, when she recovered, she went to meet a very famous Mexican painter named "Diego Rivera" to show him her paintings and ask him if he thought she had talent. Diego Rivera was impressed by her work and encouraged her to keep painting.

Two years after their first encounter, Diego became Frida's husband and they traveled the world together, living in Paris, San Francisco and New York. Diego was very tall and had a big belly, while Frida was very short and thin. Because of this, people called the pair "the Elephant and the Dove".

Frida Kahlo created at least 140 paintings, 55 of which were self-portraits; and today, she is considered one of the most important painters of the 20th century.

JULY 6, 1907 – JULY 13, 1954

COYOACÁN, MEXICO

