

Frida Kahlo - Artist



Frida Kahlo, one of Mexico's greatest painters symbolises how an un-wavered human spirit can triumph over all adversities. Frida, used her creativity to give an outlet to her pain and sufferings that her illness had bestowed upon her.

Frida's paintings were reflective of her native culture as she used folk art style to explore questions of identity, post-colonialism, gender, class, and race in the Mexican society.

Popularly known as the eccentric Mexican, Frida was born on July 6, 1907, in Coyocoan, Mexico City, Mexico. A weak child since birth, Frida contracted polio at age of six, which affected her right leg, making her limp for the rest of her life. Destiny played a cruel joke on Frida again

when at the age of 18, the bus she was travelling in, overturned, rendering her numerous injuries, including a broken spinal column and collarbone, and 11 fractures in her right leg. The impact of the injury was so deep that Frida continued to suffer from bouts of tremendous pain and fatigue, which caused her to be hospitalized for long periods of time. She had to undergo numerous surgeries in her lifetime.

During her initial recuperation period, Frida started learning to paint to pass her time. Her parents were supportive of her new found hobby and even provided for her a customised easel so that she could paint in bed. Paintings served as medium for Frida to reflect her suffering and loss. Her paintings were autobiographical in nature, uncovering personal aspects of self.

Gradually Frida, began evolving as an artist, becoming more realistic in her style. She soon started setting exhibitions. Yet despite her talent, Frida, could not achieve the kind of fame that her work deserved. When she died in 1954, at the age of 47, not much was known about her work. It was with the rise of feminism in the late 1970s, that her work was rediscovered.

Today the world views in awe how this so called – 'disabled' artist of the by-gone era fought against physical limitations and used her art as a way to bare her pain and tragedy on a canvas.