

# Frida Kahlo



Frida Kahlo  
Getty Images

Frida's full name was Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón. Born near Mexico City, her father was a German photographer and her mother was Mexican. She had two older sisters, Matilde and Adriana, and her younger sister, Cristina.

When she was six, Frida had polio and was bedridden for nine months. When she recovered she limped, so her father encouraged her to play soccer, go swimming, and even wrestle, to help her recover.

Frida wanted to train to be a doctor, but at the age of 18, she was involved in a terrible bus accident. Badly injured, she was bedridden again for many months. During this time she got very bored. Her father gave her some paints and her mother had a special easel made for her so she could paint whilst still in bed. She finished her first self-portrait the following year.

Frida remained in pain for most of her life. She was very strong to be an artist despite the severe pain. Today, people visit her home in Mexico to see where her great art was created and to appreciate what she accomplished against all the odds.

Frida working on a self-portrait



## Fact File

### BORN

July 6, 1907  
Mexico City

### DIED

July 13, 1954  
Mexico City

### DID YOU KNOW?

Frida Kahlo met her husband, Diego Rivera, when he was commissioned to paint a mural at her school.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Frida was in severe pain most of her life due to injuries she received in terrible bus accident.

*"I never  
paint  
dreams or  
nightmares.  
I paint my  
own  
reality."*

## Mexican Heritage

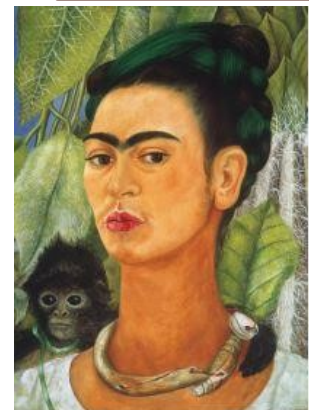
'Self Portrait with Monkey', 1938

Frida Kahlo  
'Self  
Portrait'  
1940



Frida was proud of her Mexican heritage. She was influenced by traditional Mexican art which is full of colour, with bright, patterned, symbolic art. She often painted Mexican animals in her self-portraits, such as monkeys and parrots.

Frida liked to wear traditional style Mexican clothes. She wore her hair in a hairstyle that reflected her heritage, often also wearing brightly coloured floral headbands.



WATCH THIS YOU TUBE VIDEO TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FRIDA KAHLO  
OPEN THE HYPERLINK

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=WfBLRi5BH74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfBLRi5BH74)