

The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo

Frida Kahlo, one of Mexico's greatest artists who through her paintings told her story. Frida was born in Coyoacan, Mexico City, Mexico on July 6, 1907 in a blue house built by her father who was German- jewish descent and her mother mostly Indian from Oaxaca, Mexico. Since she was young Frida suffered from malicious illnesses, at the age of six she contracted Polio, a virus that causes paralysis. This virus caused Frida's right leg to grow thinner than her left, leading her to disguise it by wearing long skirts to cover it up from the public. Nevertheless, this did not stop Frida from enduring in sports such as swimming, soccer and even wrestling, she had support from her father who helped her through her recovery. Frida always kept a very close relationship with her father throughout her life and was said to be her father's favorite. She as well had a very close relationship with her sister while they grew up but later on became rivals.

Frida Kahlo had many lovers throughout her life, she first fell in love with artist Alejandro Gomez Arias who was the leader of a group of students who had an interest in political and intellectual views just like Frida did. Frida referred to Alejandro as Alex. On September of 1925 Frida traveled with Alex on a bus that collided with a street car causing a terrible accident that nearly killed Frida. Frida was seriously injured a steel handrail went through her hip causing her spine and pelvis to fracture, nobody thought she was going to make it not even the doctors. Frida had about 32 surgeries to endure and due to her severe injuries she had multiple miscarriages. Frida wore a full body cast for three months and spent several weeks at the Red Cross Hospital in Mexico City for further recovery. Through her recovery process

Alex cheated on Frida with his assistant. During this time Frida began to paint and used herself as the main focus. Frida stated that the reason she painted herself was due to being alone most of the time and she is the subject she knows best. To kill the pain of her injuries she began to paint her first self portrait the following year.

After Alejandro, Frida met Diego Rivera, a mural painter who was not the most handsome man that ever existed according to the public but in Frida's eyes and heart he was perfect. Frida learned to love him in a way that blinded her from actual happiness. Diego was known to be the man you would have an affair with, and many women did. Diego? The fat giant that has eyes popping out? Yes that Diego Rivera. It wasn't his looks that caused women to fall for him but simply his charm. Diego was said to have a way of using the right words with women. When Diego met Frida he as well fell in love with her but later on betrayed her by having an affair with her own sister causing both of them to become rivals. Frida became devastated by this and painted once again to represent her current situation. I believe Frida was emotionally damaged throughout her existing life by Diego. Diego took advantage of the love Frida had for him knowing she would always come back to him and would always have that same love for him.

As Frida grew weaker and became more ill he began to realize how important she really was in his life and how much he truly loved her. When Frida died Diego only lived for three years, her death caused him a lot of sorrow. I believe that when Frida began to paint her portraits she never imagined how important all of them would become. If you really pay attention Frida allowed the world to know her through her paintings but it was not the full story of who she was it just described her current situations but never her personality unless you knew her personally.

From what I gathered while watching her documentary Frida had what you call a small circle and was very humble but intimidating at the same time. The life of Frida Kahlo is extraordinary and hopefully one day I am able to personally see one of her paintings.