

Hidden Histories - coded lives

Frida Kahlo (1907 - 1954)

Kahlo was a Mexican painter, who has achieved great international popularity.

She painted using vibrant colours in a style that was influenced by indigenous cultures of Mexico as well as by European influences that include Realism, Symbolism, and Surrealism.

Many of her works are self-portraits that symbolically express her sexuality.

At age 6, Frida was stricken with polio. She suffered lifelong health problems and if that weren't enough, she was terribly injured in a traffic accident in 1925, when she was just 18.

Kahlo had a volatile marriage with the famous Mexican artist Diego Rivera. Both had numerous extramarital affairs and Kahlo had affairs with both men and women.

Life experience is a common theme in Kahlo's paintings, sketches and drawings. Of her 143 paintings, 55 are self-portraits.

Kahlo did not sell many paintings in her lifetime. She had only one solo exhibition in Mexico in her lifetime, in 1953, just a year before her death at the age of 47.

Today, her works sell for very high prices. A 1929 self-portrait sold for more than \$5.6 million in 2006. Her paintings earn more money than any other female artist.

Find out more

Frida Kahlo features on the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living wall of inspirational women.

www.dcil.org.uk/PDVA/wall-of-inspirational-women

