

This page contains some basic facts about the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.
On the next page are some more in-depth facts.

Born: 1907

Died: 1954

She was a Mexican painter, known for her self-portraits and use of bright colors.

She had polio when she was six years old and it left her right leg shorter than the left.

She was married to fellow artist, Diego Rivera.

Her childhood home was called "La Casa Azul," The Blue House.

She enjoyed taking care of her pets and her garden.

Many people say that Kahlo was a surrealist painter, but she said she painted her reality.

Her art features symbols of Mexican folk culture.

15 FACTS ABOUT FRIDA KAHLO



She was born in 1907 in Coyoacan, Mexico City. The Mexican Revolution began three years after her birth. Frida later gave her birth date as **July 7, 1910** so that her life would coincide with the birth of modern Mexico.

Frida Kahlo was born in **La Casa Azul (The Blue House)** in Coyoacán, Mexico, the same house that now serves as a museum.



Her father was a photographer.

September 17, 1925

Kahlo was riding in a bus that collided with a trolley car. She suffered serious injuries as a result of the accident.



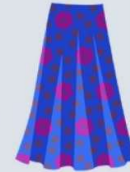
She was born **Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón**. The name Frieda comes from the German word *Friede*, which means peace. She dropped the e from her name around 1935, and subsequently became known as Frida.



She created **143** paintings out of which **55** are self-portraits.

” I paint myself because I am so often alone and because I am the subject I know best. ”

Long, colorful Tehuana skirts are characteristic for her style. She was using them to disguise her foreshortened and mangled right leg, which was stunted by polio when Kahlo was a child.



She married **Diego Rivera**, - famous Mexican painter. They married twice: in 1929 and 1954.



Diego was

20

years older than Frida.

Frida Kahlo's 'Roots' holds the auction record for a Latin American piece of art. The 1943 work sold for US\$ 5.6 million in 2006.



FRIDA'S ART

was influenced by the indigenous Mexican culture, European Realism, Surrealism and Symbolism.

„They thought I was a Surrealist, but I wasn't. I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality.”

In 1953 was held her first solo exhibition in Mexico, and because she was bedridden, an ambulance had to take her there. She spent the evening on a bed set up in the gallery.

SALMA HAYEK

plays Kahlo's role in biographical film in 2002.



Frida Kahlo inspires popular music:

- her painting *Viva la Vida* inspired Coldplay in their fourth album's name,
- Florence Welch decided to name the song *What the Water Gave Me* after seeing a Frida Kahlo painting.

