

**FRIDA KAHLO**

**BEYOND STEREOTYPES**

**FRIDA AGAINST STEREOTYPES**

**Frida Kahlo** (1907-1954) was a famous Mexican painter. Famous for her naïf art, her surrealistic self-portaits are rich in personal iconography. Not only her works were supported by the first feminists of the time, but they also reflected the social and political context in Mexico. A source of inspiration for her artistic nature were numerous dramatic events, through which she represented her personal experiences, thanks to some figurative metaphors. The Mexican artist was victim of two major **tragedies**. The first one was a road accident when she was young. The second one was falling in love with the famous artist **Diego** **Rivera**, a womanizer with whom Frida had an instable marriage. Because of various episodes of infidelity between her and her husband Diego, the couple ended up having an open relationship. The Mexican artist was proud of her sexuality and praised it openly and in public.  She used to fall in love with people, not with genders. Frida Kahlo challenged the standards of “female beauty”, because she never adapted to social norms. Indeed, she kept her personal style (her clothing style above all) untouched. At that time, when women used to love wearing tight clothes, Frida used to wear long skirts and loose shirts with rich motifs. She used to braid some textiles in her hair and wear some accessories, creating a real fashion in the world. Even if Frida was against the standards of “female beauty”, she is still considered one of the most attractive women ever.

Frida fought against gender stereotypes. Women had few rights during the 20th century. In an era when men were seen as the “dominant sex”, women were expected to be perfect housewives. Frida attended a “mixed” school, which was unusual at that time. Not only she used to wear male clothes, but she also used to drink tequila.



Kahlo included some topics in her art, that no one dared to discuss at that time: abortion, pregnancy, menstruation, breast-feeding, sterility and genitals. Her life and her works were tightly interconnected. Still today, her art transports the viewer into the mind and soul of a woman, to analyze the fears, passions and suffering placed there.

“I can’t write love letters” Frida Kahlo stated. But actually just a few women had her same ability to play with words and emotions. “Since I fell in love with you, everything has transformed and it’s so full of beauty… Love is like a fragrance, like a stream, like rain. You know, my sky, you are like the rain, and, like the earth, I receive and hold you”- letter to Josè Bartoli in 1946.