

# FRIDA KAHLO MONTAGE LESSON

## THEME

Students will explore the life and works of Frida Kahlo. The context of this lesson occurs right after students have created a self portrait silhouette/collage drawing. The students' self-portrait involved obvious personal expression and the Frida Kahlo unit will take this self-expression one step further. Students will make a montage of their own, telling a story of an event that happened in their life using three different processes; 1. Students will create the composition for their piece by sketching their life event and collage areas with found images, 2. Students will transfer their collaged sketch by using a grid method, 3. Students will render their final copy using water color and chalk pastels.

Grade Level: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Time: Fifteen 42 minute sessions

## GOALS

These standards are from Visual and Performing Arts Essential Learnings  
Nebraska Department of Education Fall 1999

VPA K12.1.0 Students recognize the connections between the arts and their own lives and environments.

V1.2 Analyze how their own experiences influence their critical judgements about their works and the works of others. (D15)

V1.3 Interpret visual images in cultural/historical context. (D9)

V2.1 Interpret how form, symbols, techniques and medium construct meaning in works of art. (D17)

V2.2 Demonstrate the way individual experience contributes to meaning in art. (D9)

V2.3 Analyze the sources of their own works and works of others. (D7)

VPA K12.3.0 Students understand the roles of the arts and of artists in the past, present, and future.

V3.1 Understand that universal themes are addressed through the visual arts. (D11)

V3.3 Understand what can be learned about the values of other cultures and the student's own (values) through the visual arts. (D19)

VPA K12.4.0 Students exhibit a variety of creative skills in their own artistic expressions and in response to others.

V4.3 Understand and analyze personal and universal feelings and ideas in their artwork. (D5)

VPA K12.5.0 Students develop criteria to evaluate their own and others' creative expressions.

V5.2 Articulate their own approach to art and provide interpretations of the ideas or feelings expressed in their works. (D16/D5)

VPA K12.7.0 Students recognize diverse perspectives in the creation, performance, interpretation, and evaluation of the arts.

## CONCEPTS

1. A montage is artwork created from small pieces: a picture or other work of art composed by assembling, overlaying, and overlapping many different materials or pieces collected from different sources, e.g. photographs, magazines, and other pictures. ([http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary\\_1861631108/montage.html](http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_1861631108/montage.html))

2. A montage, along with all other artforms, through symbol, color, material, etc. can tell a powerful story.

3. A collage of found images can be transformed into a drawing by using a grid transfer process.

4. Color is an important part of communicating feelings.

## EXEMPLARS

Self-Portrait, 1926

Oil on canvas

31 x 23 in

Private collection, Mexico City

Portrait of Diego Rivera, 1937

Oil on wood

18 x 12 1/2 in

Gelman Collection, Mexico City

Self-Portrait (Dedicated to Leon Trotsky), 1937,

Oil on Masonite, 30 x 24 in, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington

Fruits of the Earth, 1938

Oil on masonite

16 x 23 1/2 in. (40.6 x 60 cm)

Collection Banco Nacional de Mexico, S.A., Mexico City

Self-Portrait with Monkey, 1938  
Oil on Masonite  
16 x 12 in  
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo

The Two Fridas, 1939  
Oil on canvas  
68 x 68 in. (173 x 173 cm)  
Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City

Roots (Raices), 1943  
Oil on sheet metal  
11 7/8 x 19 3/8 in.  
Collection of Marilyn O. Lubetkin

Portrait of Dona Rosita Morillo, 1944  
Oil on canvas, mounted on masonite  
30 x 23 7/8 in. (76 x 60.5 cm)  
Museo Dolores Olmedo Patina, Mexico City

The Little Deer, 1946  
Oil on Masonite, 8 7/8 x 11 7/8 in  
Collection of Mrs. Carolyn Farb, Houston

Tree of Hope, 1946  
Oil on Masonite  
22 x 16 in  
Isadore Ducasse Fine Arts, New York

Self-Portrait with the Portrait of Doctor Farill, 1951  
Oil on Masonite, 16 1/2 x 19 3/4 in  
Private collection, Mexico City

Retablo 1943  
  
Oil on Metal, 19.1 x 27 cm  
  
Private Collection

Without Hope, 1945  
  
Oil on canvas, mounted on Masonite, 28 x 36 cm  
  
Mexico City, Collection Dolores Olmedo

Memory 1937  
  
Oil on metal, 40 x 28 cm  
  
Paris, Collection Michel Petitjean

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Day One: Students are introduced to Frida Kahlo through a children's book. Examples of her work is shown in a PowerPoint. Students are given the guidelines for the montage project and the project is introduced.

Day Two- Four: Students complete step one of the process, that is to create their composition/montage.

Day Five: Students are instructed how to transfer using a grid. They begin to grid their montage.

Day Six: Students finish their montage grid and create a grid for their final copy.

Day Seven- Ten: Students will transfer their montage onto their final project paper.

Day Eleven- Fourteen: Students will render their final project using water colors and pastels.

Day Fifteen: Students will participate in a "Gallery Day".