

**Title:** The Life and Marriage of Frida Kahlo: Shaping Her Artistry and Identity in Post-Revolutionary Mexico

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Raised during the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution, Frida Kahlo underwent a series of metamorphoses throughout her lifetime. From sickly, European-Mestiza child to dedicated supporter of the Communist Party in her formative years, Kahlo continued to transform until she reached the lasting identity to remain at the forefront of her career: the Native Tehuana woman. Unbeknownst to many, it was Kahlo's marriage to esteemed artist Diego Rivera which propelled her artistry forward into the image and identity she is most celebrated for today.

Rivera's artistic connection to the Native world helped mold Kahlo into Mexico's prized indigenous flower. "She, the daughter of a devout mother and freethinking father, abandoned the uniform of a Communist nun and identified herself as the wife of the reincarnation of an Aztec noble; she adopted the dress of a Tehuana Indian" (Marnham 228). However, a turbulent marriage to Rivera filled with infidelity and emotional abuse propelled the surge in Kahlo's artistry. Her work became more striking and graphic, rife with Native and religious symbolism, with her paintings becoming the narrative of her life.

Frida Kahlo's life and marriage to Rivera reveal intimate details into the motivation behind her most poignant works like *Frida y Diego Rivera*, *Unos cuantos piquetitos*, and *Autorretrato con collar de espinas*. Although having lived through decades of heartbreak at the hands of her husband, Kahlo channeled the rawness of her pain, frustration, and inner turmoil into developing her acclaimed artistry and identity during Mexico's post-revolutionary era.

## Works Cited

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