

INFLUENCES ON FRIDA KHALO

Recognising these in her artworks

What Influenced the art of Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)?



Mexican artist **Frida Kahlo**'s childhood polio caused more than a slight deformity in her right leg. The decreased circulation to the limb caused her lifelong problems and pain.



Khalo was badly injured in a streetcar accident in 1926. Her spine was severely damaged and after surviving these two traumatizing accidents in her early childhood, Frida was left with lifelong health complications. Polio, fractured bones, and miscarriages left Frida with agonizing scars, physically and mentally. Despite suffering physical pain and emotional turmoil from a failed marriage, Frida Kahlo remained resilient. She never let her impairments stop her from doing what she loved the most, painting. Sick in bed, Frida would still find ways to paint.



What I Saw in the Water or What the Water Gave Me,"
1938

In this unusual Self-Portrait, Khalo shows, in a typically expressive and descriptive way, the many fantastical* influences on her life:

- The Empire State Building NY
- Her Parents
- Her relationship with her own body
- Her relationships with other women
- Her miscarriages

The recurring sore between the toes of her right foot, caused by polio, which later became infected and meant that Khalo's leg had to be amputated below the knee!

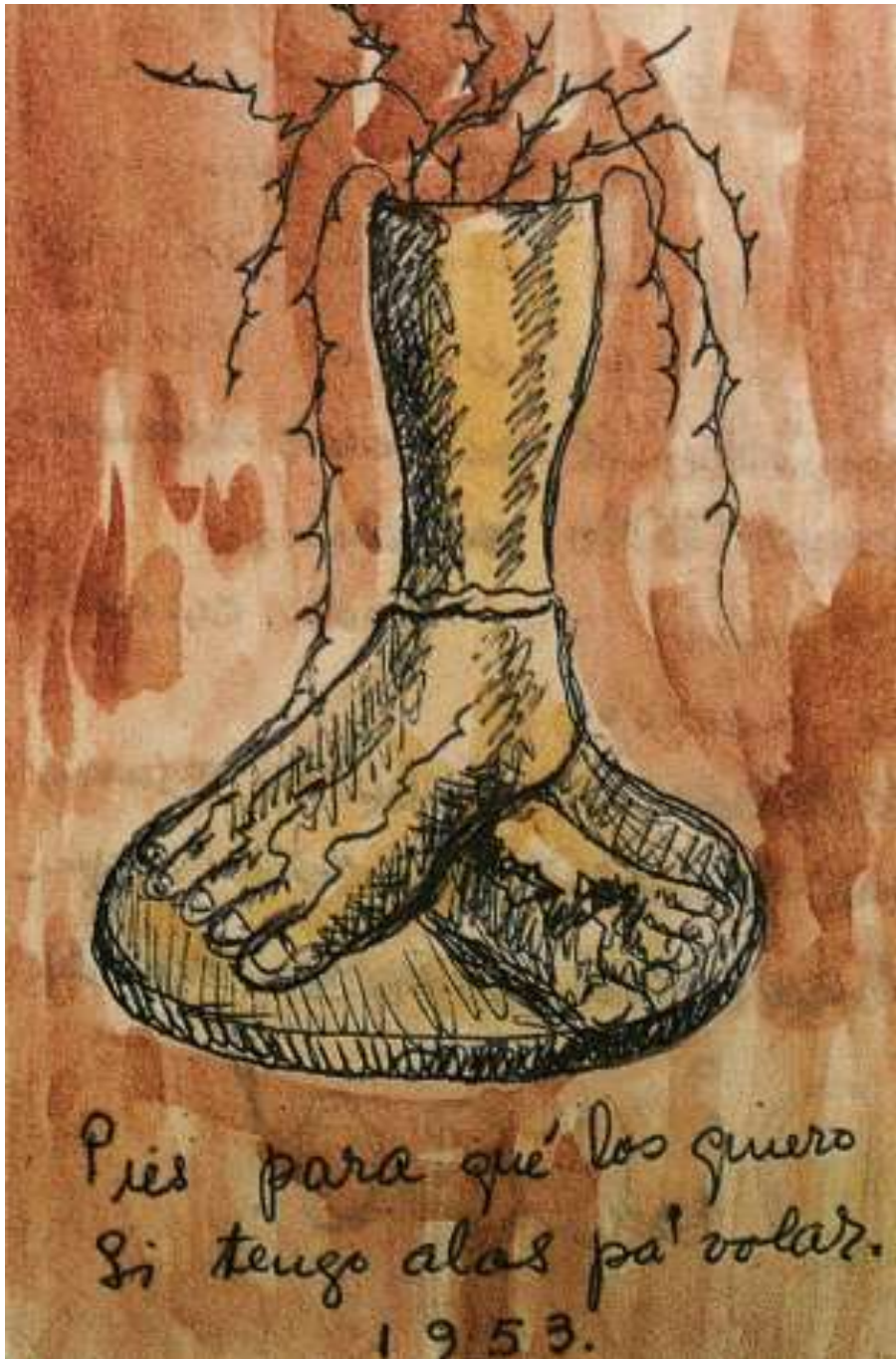
*Perhaps these images arise from her use of Morphine, (Heroin) to control her pain?



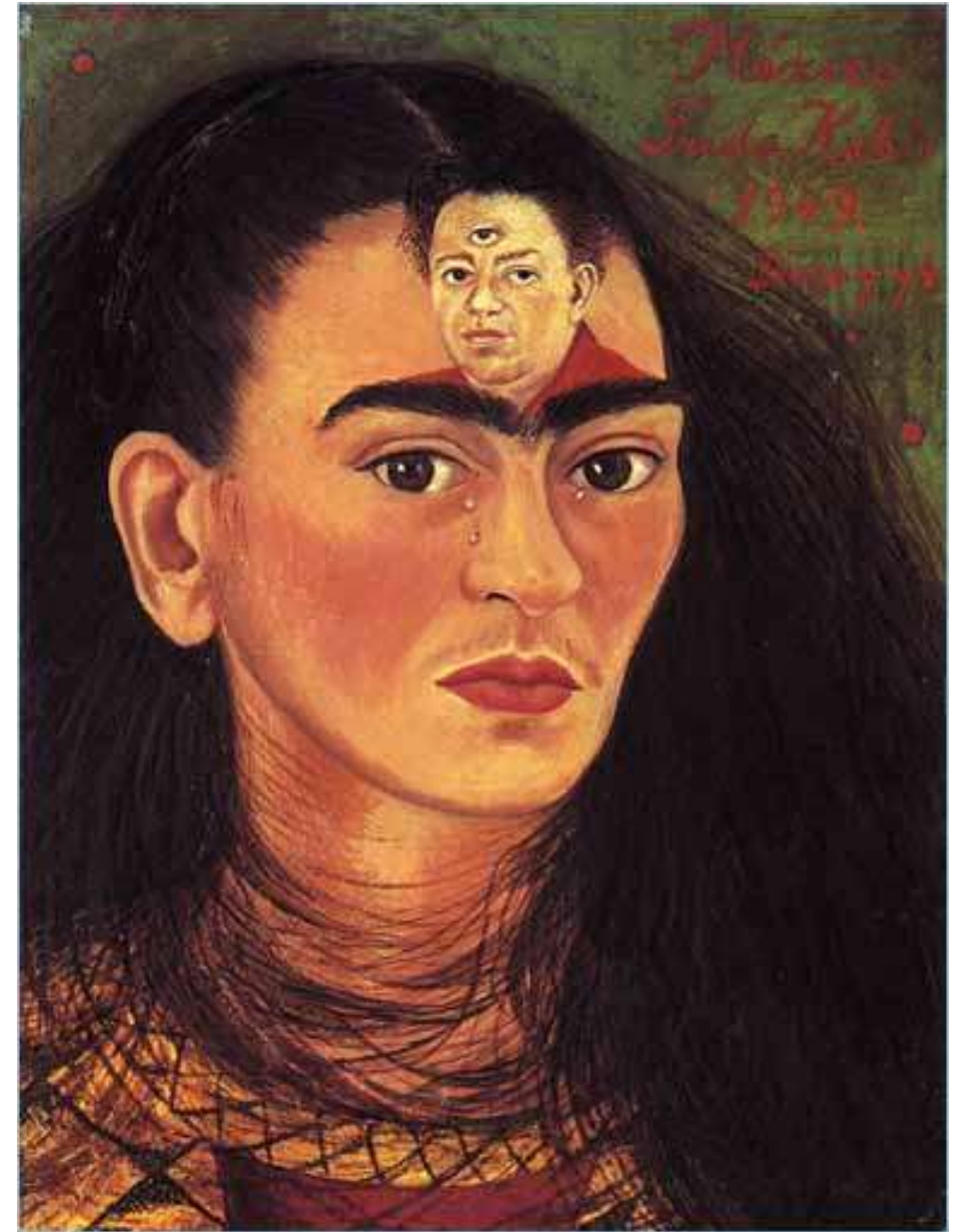
These are these themes that appear again and again as Khalo becomes more and more frustrated with her difficult, painful life.

Feet, why do I want them if I have wings to fly?
1953

A sign of Khalo's resilience



As if all of this were not enough suffering, Khalo's personal relationships were extremely difficult. She was enthralled by an older Mexican artist called Diego Rivera – one of the country's most celebrated mural painters.







Without Hope, 1945

So, when we know all of this, we can approach Frida Khalo's paintings differently and appreciate more of what influenced her artistic directions.