



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HIGH MUSEUM OF ART TO PRESENT WORK BY MEXICAN ARTISTS FRIDA KAHLO AND DIEGO RIVERA**

*Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics, and Painting*

*February 14, 2013 – May 12, 2013*

**ATLANTA, Aug. 8, 2012** —The High Museum of Art in collaboration with the Art Gallery of Ontario is organizing a major exhibition of work by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, the two central figures of Mexican Modernism. The exhibition “Frida & Diego: Passion, Politics, and Painting” will feature some of the best examples of Kahlo and Rivera’s work with approximately 140 works primarily drawn from the collection of Mexico’s Museo Dolores Olmedo, the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of Mexican Art, and the Galería Arvil. The exhibition will pair together works by Frida and Diego chronologically and according to themes, including maternity, Mexican identity, and portraiture. The High Museum of Art will be the only U.S. venue for this exhibition. Opening in Atlanta on Feb. 14, 2013, the exhibition will remain on view through May 12, 2013. The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-color catalogue.

“Frida & Diego” is particularly significant because it marks the first time important works by these two influential Mexican artists will be shown in the Southeast,” said Michael E. Shapiro, Nancy and Holcombe T. Green Director of the High Museum of Art. “By working with Art Gallery of Ontario, the High Museum of Art continues its commitment to collaborative partnerships that bring great works of art from around the world to Atlanta.”

“Frida & Diego” positions the artists’ work in the political and artistic contexts of their time. Few artists have captured the public’s imagination with the force of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954) and her husband, the Mexican painter and muralist Diego Rivera (1886 – 1957). The myths that surrounded them in their lifetime arose not only from their significant body of work, but also from their active participation in the historical happenings of their time. Their work speaks of a fierce loyalty to and pride in Mexico, the ideals of the 1910 Mexican revolution and their commitment to the conditions of the common man.

“Most scholarship about Frida and Diego focuses on their tumultuous relationship as a couple rather than their shared ideas and ideals,” said Elliott King, guest curator of the exhibition. “Frida & Diego’ instead focuses on how the artists influenced each other while learning from and sharing in each other’s successes and failures. It considers both artists in a shared cultural and political context.”

Key works by Kahlo in the exhibition include:

- *The Bus*, 1929
- *Hospital Henry Ford* (Henry Ford Hospital), 1932
- *My Dress Hangs There*, 1933
- *My Nurse and I*, 1937
- *Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair*, 1940
- *Autorretrato con Monos* (Self Portrait with Monkeys), 1943

- *Diego on my Mind*, 1943
- *La Columna Rota* (The Broken Column), 1944
- *El Abrazo de Amor de el Universo, La Tierra (México), Diego, yo y el Señor Xólotl* (The Love Embrace of the Universe, the Earth (Mexico), Diego, Me and Señor Xólotl), 1949.

Key works by Rivera in the exhibition include:

- *El Joven de la Estilografica* (Portrait of Best Maugard), 1914
- *No. 9, Nature Morte Espagnole*, 1915
- *Flower Day*, 1925
- *Autorretrato* (Self Portrait), 1930
- *La Canoa Enflorada* (The Flowered Canoe), 1931
- *Flower Festival: Feast of Santa Anita*, 1931
- *Vendedora de Alcatraces* (Calla Lily Vendor), 1943
- *Portrait of Natasha Gelman*, 1943

The Museo Dolores Olmedo houses the world's largest collection of works by Kahlo. The museum's collection also features numerous works by Rivera that helped establish the Mexican School of Painting, as well as his portraits, both of which are represented in "Frida & Diego." The exhibition also features works from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of Mexican Art, which comprises the largest private holding of 20th-century Mexican art, spanning works from the 1910s to the 1990s. Friends of Rivera and Kahlo, the Gelmans amassed a significant number of their works, including Kahlo's inventive self-portraits and Rivera's portrait of Natasha Gelman from 1943.

### **Exhibition Organization and Support**

"Frida and Diego" is co-organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), the High Museum of Art (Atlanta) and the Museo Dolores Olmedo (Mexico City) in association with The Vergel Foundation, The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of Mexican Art and Galería Arvil.

### **Art Gallery of Ontario**

With a permanent collection of more than 80,000 works of art, the Art Gallery of Ontario is among the most distinguished art museums in North America. In 2008, complete with a stunning new design by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry, the AGO opened its doors to the public amid international acclaim. Architectural highlights include Galleria Italia, a gleaming showcase made of wood and glass running the length of an entire city block, along the Gallery's facade; and the feature staircase, spiraling up through the roof of Walker Court and into the new contemporary galleries above. From the extensive Group of Seven collection to the dramatic African art gallery and from the cutting-edge works in the contemporary tower to Peter Paul Rubens' masterpiece *The Massacre of The Innocents*, a highlight of the celebrated Thomson Collection, there is truly something for everyone at the Art Gallery of Ontario. The Art Gallery of Ontario is funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Additional operating support is received from the City of Toronto, the Canada Council for the Arts and generous contributions from AGO members, donors and private-sector partners.

### **High Museum of Art**

Founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Art Association, the High is the leading art museum in the southeastern U.S. With more than 12,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High Museum of Art has an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography and African art. The High is also dedicated to supporting and collecting works by Southern artists and is distinguished as the only major museum in North America to

have a curatorial department specifically devoted to the field of folk and self-taught art. The High's media arts department produces acclaimed annual film series and festivals of foreign, independent and classic cinema. In November 2005 the High opened three new buildings by architect Renzo Piano that more than doubled the Museum's size, creating a vibrant "village for the arts" at the Woodruff Arts Center in Midtown Atlanta. For more information about the High visit [www.High.org](http://www.High.org).

### **The Woodruff Arts Center**

The Woodruff Arts Center is ranked among the top four arts centers in the nation. The Woodruff is unique in that it combines four visual and performing arts divisions on one campus as one not-for-profit organization. Opened in 1968, the Woodruff Arts Center is home to the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art and Young Audiences. To learn more about the Woodruff Arts Center visit [www.woodruffcenter.org](http://www.woodruffcenter.org).

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