



# Diego Rivera

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# Early Years

- Born: December 8, 1886 in Guanajuato, Mexico.
- Death: November 24, 1957 in Mexico City, Mexico.
- Father: Diego Rivera Acosta
- Mother: Maria Barrientos
- Sibling: Carlos Rivera



# Early Years Continued

- Rivera spent most of his childhood in Paris to study painting.

## Interesting Facts about his childhood

- From the age of three, he started drawing on the walls of his home. His parents encouraged this by setting up a separate room for him to pursue his art. They also put up canvases on the walls of other rooms.
- Diego studied art at San Carlos Academy of Fine Arts when he was only 12.
- His only twin brother died at the age of two



# Education

- Rivera traveled to Europe to further his art studies at the San Carlos Academy of Fine Arts, where he studied art at the age of twelve.
- He was enrolled Liceo Catolico Hispano Mexicano School before he went to the Academy of Fine Arts.



Rivera's first government-commissioned mural,  
Creation

# Adult - Early Years

- He finishes the murals at the Palace of Cortés in Cuernavaca. He then receives commission to create murals in San Francisco, U.S.A. and leaves Mexico to go to San Francisco.
- Rivera moved from his home because he went to school for an opportunity that not many people get to have.



# Early Years – Influences/Friends

- Rivera met the Spanish realist painter Eduardo Chicharro, Rivera became acquainted with the leading figures of the Madrid avant-garde, and the writer Ramon Valle-Inclan.
- One of Rivera's early influences was artist ,José Posada, who was a lithographer and printmaker who ran a print shop near Rivera's school.

Jose Posada



Some of Jose Posada's work



# Personal Life



Rivera and his wife, Frida Kahlo.

- Spouses: Emma Hurtado (no date), Frida Kahlo (1907), Guadalupe Marín (1895), and Angelina Beloff (1879).
- Children: Ruth Rivera Marín (1927), Marika Rivera (1919), Guadalupe Rivera Marín (1924), Diego Rivera Jr. (1916)
- Rivera's daughter, Guadalupe River Marín, is still living to this day.
- Rivera's only son, Diego Rivera Jr., died at the age of two

# First Works of Art

- Rivera's first mural of art was called, Creation which he painted on a wall in the National Preparatory School auditorium in Mexico City.
- The art piece, Creation would become significant for the career ahead of him.
- Creation was created over the course of a year and covers over a thousand square feet.





# Style

- Rivera believed that painting murals on the walls of public buildings made art available to the everyday man. His murals focused on telling stories that dealt with Mexican society.
- Mediums that Diego Rivera used were painting and murals.



# Style - Continued

- Rivera's movement is The Mexican Mural Movement.
- The movement began in the early 1920s in Mexico which the government ordered artists to make art that would educate the population about the country's history.
- Two other famous artists that used the same type of style were Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros.



# Works - Famous



- Name: Street in Avila
- Location: Museo Nacional de Arte

# Works - Famous Continued

- Completed in: 1908
- Size: 129 cm x 141 cm
- Medium: Oil on canvas
- Subject: No subject
- Support: Canvas
- Art Movement: No art movement



# Critique

- “Best-known for his murals on public buildings in Mexico and the United States, Rivera was above all, he was a magnificent storyteller,” says Virgilio Garza, Head of [Latin American Art](#) at Christie’s. ‘Rivera could tell tales on both an epic scale and a small, intimate one.’”

<https://www.christies.com/features/Diego-Rivera-Artist-revolutionary-storyteller-9521-1.aspx>



# My Critique

What I really like about this piece of artwork is the technique he used in it, he really made the street look realistic and that you were actually walking in Avila. I also like all the detail he used in it, like the stones on the wall it really made the picture come together.



# Other Works



- Flower Vendor  
(Vendedora de Flores)

# Importance

- Rivera is important in art history because he created panoramic portraits of Mexican history and daily life, from its Mayan beginnings up to the Mexican Revolution.
- When Rivera traveled to Europe to further his art studies, he became friends with many leading artists of the day, including Pablo Picasso. Rivera also viewed influential works by Paul Gauguin and Henri Matisse, along with others.





# Interesting Information

- He has a very long name (Diego Maria de la Concepcion Juan Nepomuceno Estanislao de Rivero y Barrientos Acosta y Rodriguez)
- He was a very large man, who weighed 300 pounds.
- He died at the age of 71, by a massive heart attack.
- He got married to one of his wives and then filed for divorced, but then remarried to her later that year.
- One of his artwork cost \$9 million.



# References

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