



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

THE FRICK PITTSBURGH PRESENTS

Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait: The Photographic Albums

MARCH 6 – MAY 30, 2021

AND

Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray

MARCH 6 – MAY 9, 2021

PITTSBURGH, PA, March 1, 2021 – This spring, The Frick Pittsburgh is pleased to present two new concurrent special exhibitions, *Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait: The Photographic Albums* and *Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray*, both opening at The Frick Art Museum on Saturday, March 6, 2021. *Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait* is an introspective exhibition composed of 115 photographs originally from Mexican painter Frida Kahlo's (1907-1954) private albums, which offers rare and moving insight into the personal life of one of the 20th century's most iconic artists, through the eyes of her friends and family, as well as other noted photographic artists. *Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray* comprises a collection of color photographs of Kahlo taken by Nickolas Muray (1892-1965), a Hungarian-born Jewish celebrity photographer whose longstanding and complicated relationship with Kahlo colors these portraits with distinct perspective.

Frick Executive Director Elizabeth Barker remarks, "We're thrilled to bring these compelling exhibitions, which explore the ways in which Frida Kahlo used the camera to construct her now-iconic identity, to the

Frick. The featured photographs show Frida wrestling with — and ultimately, triumphing over—questions that couldn't feel more relevant today: What does it mean to be a woman in a male-dominated art world? How do we define beauty? What constitutes a loving relationship? Can a physical disability become a superpower?"

ABOUT THE EXHIBITIONS

Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait: The Photographic Albums (March 6 – May 30, 2021)

Like all family photographs, these images —collected by Kahlo herself — tell a story, illuminating her turbulent marriage to famed muralist Diego Rivera, commemorating friendships and happy times, and chronicling her pain. Simultaneously, these photographs offer evidence of the evolution of the world-famous image Kahlo deliberately crafted and refined over time.

Visitors to the exhibition will meet many Frida Kahlos; the rebellious teen, just recovered from a catastrophic accident; the beguiling young wife of Mexico's most celebrated artist; and, as she predicted she would become, "the big artist," working through her pain with a revolutionary spirit. Along the way, as if turning pages in an album, viewers will discover the people, places and events that she kept close.

The exhibition looks at photographs that were originally part of Frida Kahlo's personal collection, and is organized in sections designed to orient the viewer to the various themes documented within them, and to illustrate the larger-than-life story of one of the most iconic artists of our time.

A section titled *Frida and Photography* explains Kahlo's early connection to the medium through her father Guillermo Kahlo, who was a professional photographer. His favorite daughter and frequent subject, Frida also assisted him with his work. This section also discusses Kahlo's extensive photo archive found in her former home in late 2003.

The Elephant and Dove features photographs that provide insight into Kahlo's infamously intense marriage to Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. Kahlo's mother characterized the union as the marriage of an elephant to a dove. Many of the images relate to their years in the United States, where Rivera worked on a number of commissions, and Kahlo developed her artist practice. These years were documented by American artist Lucienne Bloch (1909-1999), who worked as an assistant to Rivera, and was Kahlo's companion.

A section called *Love, Loss, and Pain* highlights some of the most emotionally striking images in the collection, like a series showing Kahlo undergoing painful traction treatment, taken by her on-again, off-again lover, Nickolas Muray.

The final section of the exhibition, *Frida and Fashion—Defining Herself*, focuses on the images that most effectively illustrate Frida Kahlo’s iconic style and considers the way she developed her image through her fashion choices. Photographs show her sartorial choices embracing both her masculine and feminine sides; from a men’s three-piece suit to the traditional Mexican styles of Tehuantepec. This section is informed by the stellar work of scholars responsible for the exhibitions *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving*, and *Frida Kahlo: Making Herself Up*, which were presented by the Museo Frida Kahlo, the Brooklyn Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and de Young Museum.

Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray (March 6 – May 9, 2021)

Complementing its presentation of *Frida Kahlo—An Intimate Portrait*, the Frick will exhibit *Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray*, a collection of portraits of Kahlo taken by her longtime friend, lover, and confidant, photographer Nickolas Muray. This traveling exhibition was just recently made available to The Frick Pittsburgh when a previously scheduled tour venue in Italy was forced to postpone its presentation due to COVID-19 precautions. *Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray* will be on view from March 6 through May 9, 2021.

A rotating selection of Muray’s photographs of Kahlo, many of which were shot on Kodachrome color film, will be presented alongside the smaller-scale, mostly black-and-white photographs included in *Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait*. Muray’s photographs, dating from 1937 to 1946, highlight Kahlo’s deep interest in her Mexican heritage, her life and travels, and her family and friends around her, all from the unique perspective of his multi-faceted relationship with Kahlo.

Born in Hungary, Nickolas Muray became a successful New York fashion and commercial photographer known for his portraits of celebrities, politicians, socialites, and artists. Having experimented with color from early on in his career, he found his most colorful model in Frida Kahlo. Muray was a prolific photographer, his archives containing over 25,000 images. Muray photographed Kahlo more than any of his other subjects. These portraits of Kahlo have made their way into popular culture in a variety of media and are integral to the world’s understanding of who Frida Kahlo was as an individual behind her artwork.

EXHIBITION ADMISSION AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

ADMISSION

Admission fees, which grant entrance to both exhibitions, are: \$15 for adult non-members; \$13 for seniors/students/military; \$8 for youth 6-16. Children 5 and under are admitted for free. Members of The Frick Pittsburgh receive free admission. Timed tickets are required for entry to the exhibition and will be available for reservation three days in advance of the visit date. Tickets may be purchased online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org/tickets, or by calling 412-371-0600.

HOURS

Through Tuesday, March 30, 2021, The Frick Pittsburgh will continue its current, limited hours of operation: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Beginning Friday, April 1, the Frick will resume regular operating hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

COVID-19 SAFETY

The Frick requires that all visitors wear a close-fitting face mask and maintain social distancing from those not in their party for the duration of their visit. The Frick maintains established safety precautions on campus including enhanced cleaning procedures, Plexiglass barriers at The Frick Art Museum admission desk and Grable Visitor Center customer service counters, and the provision of hand sanitizer across campus.

Detailed information regarding the Frick's COVID-19 safety guidelines for visitors is available at TheFrickPittsburgh.org/COVID-19.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

The Frick will offer a variety of virtual programs related to the Frida Kahlo exhibitions. Program details are available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT

Frida Kahlo – An Intimate Portrait: The Photographic Albums is organized by Vicente Wolf Associates from Vicente Wolf's collection.

Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray is a traveling exhibition that has been organized through the Nickolas Muray Archives and is circulated by GuestCurator Traveling Exhibitions.

The Pittsburgh presentation of these exhibitions is made possible through the generous support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

ABOUT THE FRICK PITTSBURGH

Located on the estate of 19th-century industrialist Henry Clay Frick, The Frick Pittsburgh offers authentic experiences with art, history and nature that inspire and delight. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds are warmly welcomed to explore The Frick Art Museum, offering world-class collections of European art and Chinese porcelain alongside an active schedule of temporary exhibitions; Clayton, the Frick family's French chateau-style mansion (remodeled by architect Frederick J. Osterling in the 1890s); the Car and Carriage Museum; and a large working greenhouse designed by architects Alden & Harlow—all nestled on six acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens in Pittsburgh's East End. Amenities include an Education Center, the Frick children's playhouse (also designed by Alden & Harlow), The Café at the Frick, and the Grable Visitor Center, which houses the Frick Museum Store. Information about The Frick Pittsburgh is available online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Frick Pittsburgh is located approximately 20 minutes east of downtown Pittsburgh at the corner of Penn and South Homewood avenues in Point Breeze. The entrance is located at 7227 Reynolds Street, where free parking is available in our lot, or along adjacent streets. Public transportation options include Port Authority of Allegheny County buses 67, 69, and 71C, which provide service from downtown Pittsburgh.

To reserve tickets, or for more information, the public may visit the Frick online at TheFrickPittsburgh.org or call 412-371-0600.

For additional information or images, please contact Kaitlyn Clem, Marketing and Communications Associate, at KClem@TheFrickPittsburgh.org or 412-342-4025.

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