

# Art lesson 3

LI:I can look carefully at different paintings by the same artist

LI: I can draw leaves focusing on shape and lines

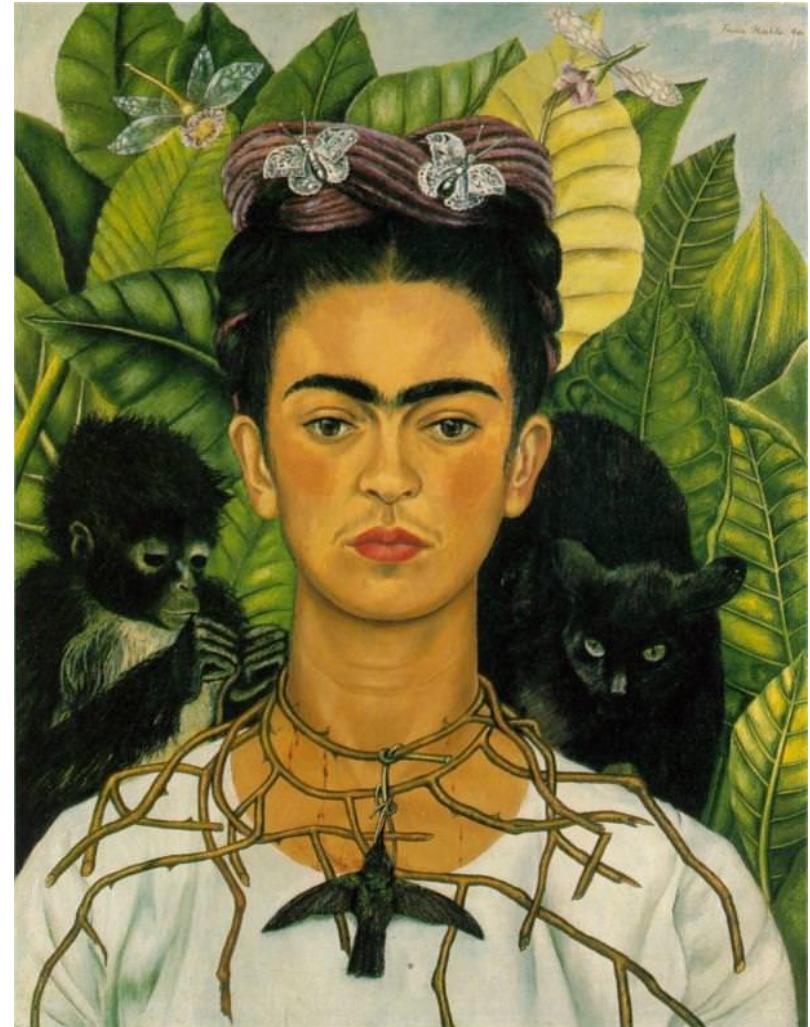


# LI:I can look carefully at different paintings by the same artist

Record your thoughts for the following questions:

- **What can you see in this painting? What is in the background?**
- **How do you think she is feeling? Why?**
- **What might have happened to her to make her feel like this?**
- **What was used to create the image? Why do you think this?**

You are meeting your rights by learning about this artist (article 31-able to take part freely in cultural activities, just like adults)



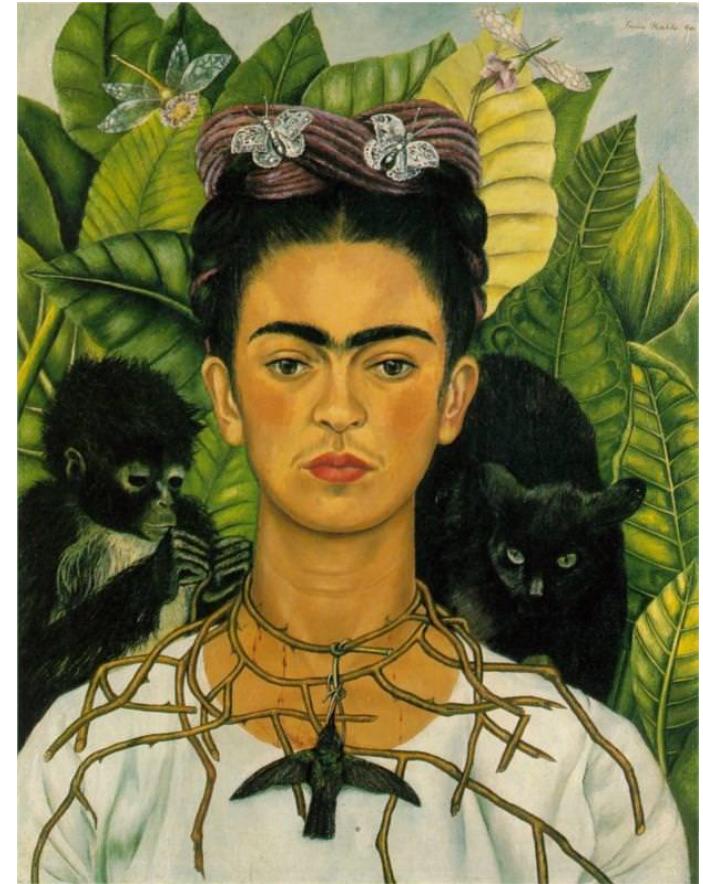
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In this painting, Frida paints herself in a frontal pose (looking forward) so she is directly looking at us. She is wearing a necklace of thorns. The thorns that are digging into her neck symbolises the pain she still feels over her divorce from her husband, Diego. Hanging from the thorny necklace is a dead hummingbird whose outstretched wings are the same shape of Frida's joined eyebrows. In Mexican folk tradition, dead hummingbirds were used as charms to bring luck in love.

Over her left shoulder the black cat, a symbol of bad luck and death, waits to pounce on the hummingbird. Over her right shoulder the symbol of the devil, her pet monkey...a gift from Diego.

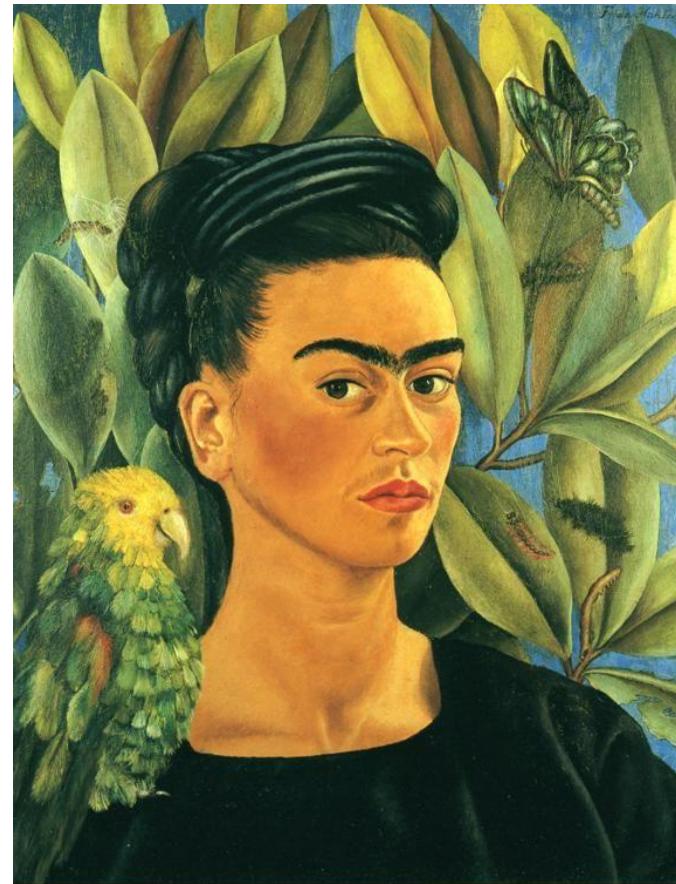
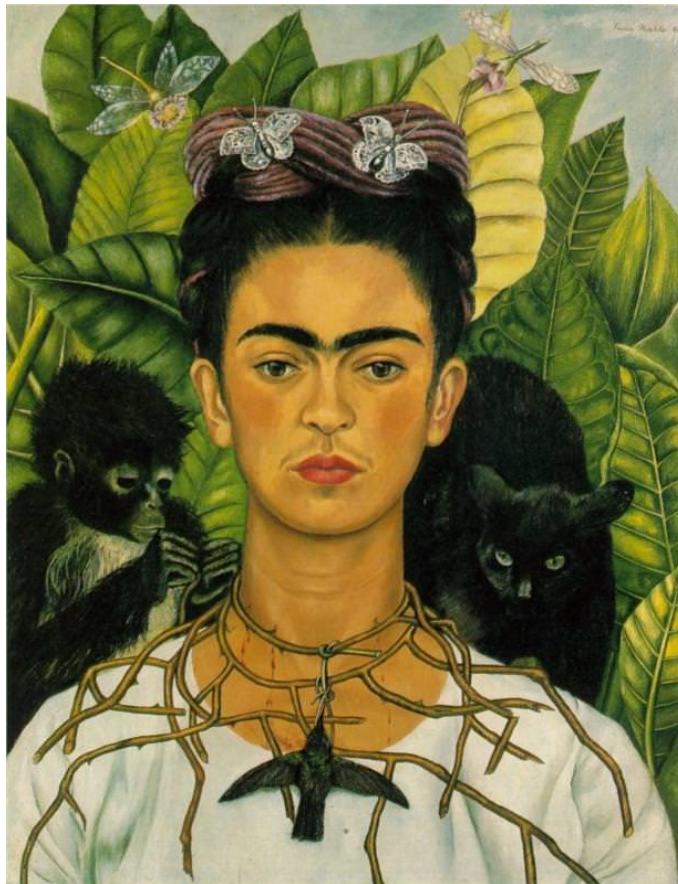
Why do you think there are butterflies in her hair?

Frida uses a wall of large tropical plant leaves as the background. Why do you think they are not oak or elm leaves?



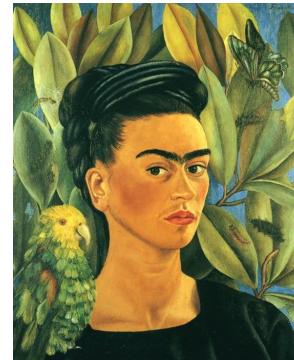
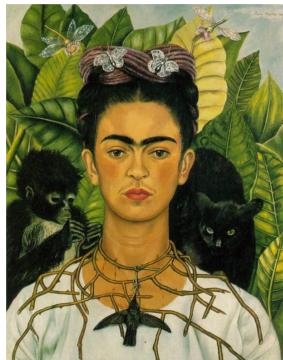
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**What are the similarities and difference between these two paintings? Which one do you prefer? Why?**



abcgallery.com - Internet's biggest art collection

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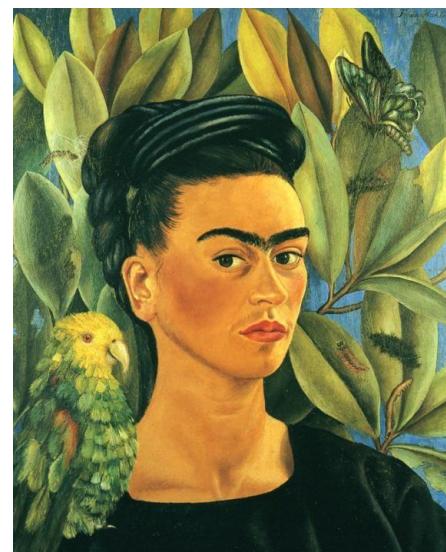
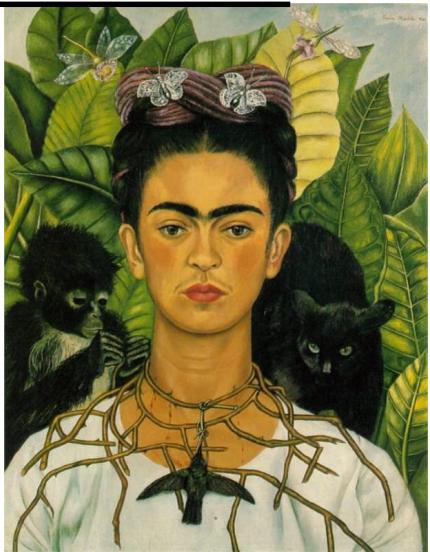


- The direction she is facing
- the animals in the images are different
- The colour of her clothing-one is white, the other is black
- The leaves in the background
- The colour of the sky in the background.

On December 8th, 1940, while in San Francisco, Frida and Diego remarried. Shortly thereafter, Frida's father died. Frida returned to the family home in Mexico, to live. This is when she painted the second self- portrait. In it she is dressed in black to mourn the death of her father. On her shoulder is her beloved parrot Bonito who has also recently died. She wears no jewelry nor the usual flowers in her hair...this is a portrait of sadness and grief.

Although Frida is in mourning, the background is full of life. The painting seems to have a "*Life and Death*" theme, a common theme in many of Kahlo's paintings.

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- Tending plants, flowers and vegetables and cooking were all important parts of Kahlo's artistic life, and her choice of vibrant colour or strong flavour was part of her cultural heritage.
- Flowers of a fuchsia and a zinnia, two Mexican plants, are merged with insects' wings in the bold green leaves on either side of her dark hair (in the painting on the left).

# LI: I can draw leaves focusing on shape and lines

- Today we are going to concentrate on the background of the portrait which is filled with leaves.

Leaves come in an array of sizes, shapes and colours.

- Below is a video link of how to draw a real life leaf step by step. Feel free to pause the video as the focus in this lesson is the shape of the leaf and lines on it so you do need to take your time with this.

<https://christineelder.com/drawing-a-leaf-easy-steps/>

(‘Six Easy Steps to Drawing a Leaf’)



# LI: I can draw leaves focusing on shape and lines

Questions and points to think about when drawing the leaf:

- Measure widest part of the leaf
- Look at the biggest, middle vein the ‘midrib’. **How does it go through the leaf? Does it go right to the tip or does it disappear? Is it raised or sunken?**
- Notice the tip of the leaf. **Is it rounded or pointy and if so, how much?**
- Look carefully at the bottom of the leaf where the stem joins it. **What is the shape of the leaf here?**
- **What do the edges –the ‘margins’ –of the leaf look like? Are they smooth or do they have ‘teeth’? Are the margins flat or wavy?**
- When looking at the smaller veins. **Are they coming out of the midrib? Are there lots or only a few? Are they big or small? Straight or wavy?**
- Notice how your leaf feels. Is it flat and shiny, or does it have bumps and lumps? Is it spiky or hairy?
- Lots of leaves have patterns on them: spots, stripes or splodges! These can be important to a plant, so add them in if your leaf has them

## LI: I can draw a leaf in detail focusing on shape and lines.

### **Activity:**

Choose a leaf that you can find either in your house, in your garden anywhere you can. Ask an adult first, some leaves can be poisonous.

If you do not access to a real life leaves , the next page are a selection of leaves you may want to choose from to draw.

- Extension: For a second drawing, you might want to use your favourite leaf and perhaps make a drawing of leaves clustered together.

### **Success criteria:**

- \*Use observational skills to help draw the lines
- \*Accurately proportioned the shape of the leaf to its size



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## Summer leaves

