

October 16, 2013

OPENING DELAYED DUE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The opening of “The Complete Frida Kahlo—Her Paintings. Her Life. Her Story,” has been delayed due to complications at U.S. Customs in Los Angeles as a result of the government shutdown. The exhibition, with over 500 exhibits and artifacts, was shipped from the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund in Baden-Baden, Germany.

Making its North American premiere in San Diego, the exhibition was due to open October 19, 2013, and run through January 19, 2014, at historic NTC at Liberty Station. Now it will open on Thursday, October 24.

Martin Biallas, CEO of Global Entertainment Properties 1, LLC, presenters of the exhibition, says, “Just today we received word that the containers will clear tomorrow (Thursday, October 17) and so we are now doing everything we can to open next Thursday. Our staff and the two curators are prepared to complete the installation, even if it takes around-the-clock efforts. There are numerous Frida Kahlo fans who have been eagerly awaiting opening day and we don’t want to keep them waiting any longer than necessary.”

This exhibition is the largest, most comprehensive exhibition ever created about the life, the work, and the story of Kahlo.

It features 123 replicas of Kahlo’s known paintings in original size and original materials, and hand-painted in the same style as Kahlo painted them. These replicas are painted by master artists and licensed by ©Banco de Mexico Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2008.

It also features:

Over 500 fascinating possessions identical to those Kahlo surrounded herself with, all hand-made using traditional methods, materials and tools.

A substantial collection of vintage photos of Kahlo, her family, and friends and a large collection of pre-Colombian through present-day Mexican folk art.

A recreation of Kahlo’s studio where she painted, as well as the bedroom with her signature canopy bed, reproduced one-to-one in size and materials to the smallest detail.

CONTACTS: Delle Willett 619.665.5981 dellewillett@gmail.com
Johanna Saretzki, Hispanic media, 650.995.6733 jsaretzki@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

Largest Exhibition of the Life and Art of Frida Kahlo Makes North American Premiere in San Diego

Contacts: Delle Willett 619.665.5981 dellewillett@gmail.com
Johanna Saretzki, Hispanic media, 650.995.6733 jsaretzki@gmail.com

October—San Diego: The rich and colorful life of Frida Kahlo is revealed in “The Complete Frida Kahlo: Her Paintings. Her Life. Her Story. The Exhibition,” making its North American premiere in San Diego from October 19, 2013, through January 19, 2014, at historic NTC at Liberty Station. This is the only exhibition worldwide where all of her paintings can be seen in one place. Some paintings, especially from Kahlo’s early years, have never before been seen.

Presented by Global Entertainment Properties 1, LLC, (GEP1) the exhibition features 123 replicas of her known paintings in original size and original materials, and hand-painted in the same style as Kahlo painted them. These replicas, owned by GEP1, are painted by master artists and licensed by ©Banco de Mexico Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2008. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Mariella Remund and Hans-Jürgen Gehrke, passionate art lovers and collectors, and founders of the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund in Baden-Baden, Germany, the city where Kahlo’s father spent his youth before emigrating to Mexico. Their vision for this exhibition was to not only touch the eyes and minds of the visitors, but above all, their hearts.

"Working with the talented and knowledgeable team from the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund will allow us to bring an exhibition that represents the largest and most complete Frida Kahlo collection ever assembled to audiences for the first time," said Martin Biallas, CEO of GEP1. "Now visitors will be able to see every aspect of her life through this extensive collection of paintings, artifacts and photographs." According to Gehrke, "The exhibition is about more than just her paintings; it’s about gaining an understanding and appreciation of her life, her contributions to the world of art, her ideas on love and relationships as well as her views on politics."

Also on display are over 500 fascinating possessions— jewelry, dresses and adornments identical to those Kahlo surrounded herself with, coming from the collection of the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund in Germany. All are handmade using traditional methods, materials, and tools.

There is also a substantial collection of photos of Kahlo, her family, and friends in her work and life environments and a large collection of pre-Colombian through present-day Mexican folk art, which held a position of great importance in her and husband

Diego Rivera's lives. Among the photos, the most admired is the stunning portrait of Kahlo taken by Nickolas Muray in 1939. This photograph, "Frida in Blue Dress," is a limited edition of a portrait of Kahlo taken by Muray during their ten-year romantic relationship.

A favorite display is the recreation of Kahlo's studio where she painted, as well as the bedroom with her signature canopy bed, reproduced one-to-one in size and materials to the smallest detail.

"This 360 degree view of her life and work allows visitors to totally immerse themselves in her artworks and to better understand Kahlo as well as Mexican history and culture," says Dr. Mariella Remund.

Remund explained the reason for replicas instead of originals: All of Kahlo's original works can never be seen in one place because Diego Rivera directed that her paintings in the Blue House at the moment of her death, cannot leave the Blue House, and a large number of her paintings are privately owned and not available for exhibitions.

This exhibition concept, using replicas to show the entire work of Frida Kahlo, has proven to be extraordinarily successful over the last five years while the exhibition has been on display at the Kunstmuseum Gehrke-Remund in Baden-Baden, Germany. Born in Coyoacan, Mexico City, in 1907, Kahlo became revered as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Through her art she championed the Mexican culture and became an icon in art, fashion, for the women's movement and for her political beliefs. Her striking images, tumultuous relationships, passionate and tragic life-story continue to captivate a constantly growing worldwide following.

The exhibition is on display in historic Barracks 3 at the NTC Arts & Culture District in Liberty Station, 2765 Truxtun Road, 92106. Audio guides are available in English and Spanish. Tickets go on sale Oct. 3 and are available on line and at the door; they range from \$12.50 to \$16.50. The exhibition is open from Tuesday through Sunday. Details can be found at www.thecompletefrida.com.

End

Editor's note: Please contact us directly for other information and extensive background material.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRIDA KAHLO

MADGALENA CARMEN FRIEDA KAHLO Y CALDERÓN DE RIVERA

Her life

Frida Kahlo, the world's most famous woman painter, was an artist, a political activist, the wife of Diego Rivera, lover of Leon Trotsky, Josephine Baker, and a legend in her own lifetime.

Her short, turbulent, and eccentric life was marked by passion and eccentricity, inner strength and temperament. She left us with a unique art collection; her works a painted diary.

André Breton aptly described her art as "a ribbon around a bomb." She had the courage to show her life in front of our eyes and to reveal her inner world in a very realistic yet poetic way.

The mistress of self-portraits, Kahlo had the courage to depict herself and her life openly and honestly to reveal her sufferings.

Kahlo's life began and ended in the same house: she was born in 1907 in the district of Coyoacan, Mexico City, and died in 1954 in her family home, La Casa Azul, the Blue House.

At the age of six, she was stricken with polio. It affected her right leg. She spent nine months in bed.

She had a special relationship with Germany. Her father, Wilhelm Kahlo, was born in 1871 in Germany and grew up in Baden-Baden before immigrating to Mexico at the age of 18.

She studied in Mexico City at the National Preparatory School. She planned to become a doctor, but an almost fatal accident at the age of 18 changed her life forever.

Following her accident she began painting intensely.

At the age of 22, Kahlo married Diego Rivera 21 year her senior, the creator of monumental murals. He had a reputation of being a womanizer. Together they lived in San Francisco, New York, Detroit and Mexico City. They divorced ten years later and remarried one year after the divorce.

From 1944 onwards she underwent several spinal surgeries as a result of the bus accident. Two years later, she joined again the Communist Party of Mexico.

Another seven spinal surgeries in 1950 forced her to endure a nine-month hospital stay. During this time she continued to paint and remained politically active.

On July 13, 1954, Kahlo died in the Blue House as a result of lung embolism. Her last diary entry read: "I hope the exit is joyful and I hope never to return."

Her paintings

With her works Kahlo represents the challenges of life, the passion, the love, and the contradictions which touch us even in today's time.

Pablo Picasso wrote: "Neither Rivera nor Derain, nor do I know how to paint faces such as Frida Kahlo."

Each painting, whether a self-portrait or still life, captures a moment of her feelings in the most impressive way.

In 1938 Kahlo first exhibited her paintings in a New York gallery, and in 1939 her works were shown in Paris. At the end of 1939 the childless marriage with Rivera ended with a divorce and her most prolific artistic time began. In 1940 her paintings were on display at the International Exhibition of Surrealism in Mexico City.

In 1946, Kahlo was awarded the Mexican National Prize for Painting for her work entitled "Moses."

Contacts: Delle Willett 619.665.5981 dellewillett@gmail.com
Johanna Saretzki, Hispanic media, 650.995.6733 jsaretzki@gmail.com

ABOUT REPLICAS

A replica is the repetition of the original work either made by the artist or, after the artist's death, authorized by the holders of the artists' rights. A replica must represent 100% of the original.

Replicas have a legal connotation (it is authorized) and a quality connotation (it is a faithful repetition of the original). In most countries the artist's rights expire 70 years after the artist's death, in the case of Frida: in 2024.

Why show replicas of Kahlo's work?

Frida painted her life; her paintings are like an autobiography on canvas.

To understand her life, it is essential to be able to see all her paintings. However, exhibitions with originals by Frida are only able to show a maximum of 40 paintings of an estimated 134 she painted because:

- some of her paintings are in her Blue House in Mexico and are not allowed to leave,
- some are privately owned (e.g., Madonna is a Frida Kahlo collector), and some of the owners never lend them for exhibitions,

-the rest are scattered around the world.

“The Complete Frida Kahlo” exhibition shows all the paintings, (123), for which there is a documentation in color; it allows the visitors to follow her entire life, from the very beginning as a hobby-painter to the maturity and to her last works before she died. This is only possible with replicas.

Who painted the replicas?

In some countries in the world, art academies teach art by demanding that the art students copy the masters. China and Japan are among them. This copying of the masters is a way to learn art: by copying the masters over and over again, the students learn not only the masters’ techniques but the spirit behind the creation of the painting as well.

Four Chinese master artists replicated Frida Kahlo in Beijing during 2008 and 2009. They do not copy paintings for a living, they are artists known in Beijing for their own work.

They live and work in the largest artist community in the world: Song Zhuang, one hour east of Beijing. The curators selected Chinese artists because of the disciplined culture of faithfully replicating masters that Chinese artists have during their academic education.

The artists are between 38 and 42 years old with proven outstanding technical and creative skills.

The curators would have loved to have the replicas made in Mexico, which has a long tradition of exceptional art quality, but they worked and lived in Beijing so they selected artists from Beijing. The process of painting replicas requires a daily follow up, monitoring and working very closely together with the artists.

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