

# VIVA LA VIDA

## *Frida KAHLO* x *Diego RIVERA* and *Mexican Modernism*

MEXICAN MASTERPIECES FROM THE JACQUES & NATASHA GELMAN COLLECTION  
29 JANUARY – 30 APRIL 2000, CITY GALLERY WELLINGTON



presented by

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## THE EXHIBITION

Centred around 22 masterworks by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera – two of the most revered artists of the 20th century – this outstanding exhibition delves into the heart and soul of the Mexican nation. The Mexican Modernists created some of the most colourful and dynamic art of this century. Through their painting they tell the story of a nation forging its own identity. A rare opportunity to experience the charge of modern Mexican art and the magnetism and power of Kahlo and Rivera, which has made their work and their relationship legendary.

## FRIDA KAHLO

(1907-1954)

“I paint my own reality,” said Frida Kahlo, the most famous woman artist of the 20th century. Her intense self portraits chart the major events of her life – love, loss, politics, pain, surgery and, most often, her abiding passion for her husband



Diego Rivera, *Calla Lily Seller*, 1943

Diego Rivera. Frida's original and dramatic imagery comes straight from her own life experiences: a devastating accident at age eighteen that left her maimed and unable to bear children; her tempestuous marriage to Diego Rivera; her love affairs with men like Isamu Noguchi and Leon Trotsky; her association through Rivera with the Communist Party; and her commitment to traditional Mexican culture, which nourished her art. Diego Rivera said “Frida was the only artist in the history of art who tore open her chest and heart to reveal the truth of her feelings... who expressed in her work the creative power of women.”

## DIEGO RIVERA

(1886-1957)

### AND THE MEXICAN MURALISTS

Famous and controversial, Diego Rivera was a central figure in his country's struggle to free itself from a colonial past and forge an independent Mexican identity. Rivera drew deeply on his Mexican origins and, having assimilated the lessons of European modernism, painted some of the most strident images of human society and modern history produced anywhere in the world. His monumental public murals, along with those of David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, captured the sufferings and aspirations of the Mexican people during a time of great political and cultural upheaval from 1910 onwards. Smaller but equally powerful works by all three artists feature in *VIVA LA VIDA*. The capacity of Mexican art to go on reinventing itself is manifest by the more contemporary artists who complete the exhibition.

## JACQUES AND NATASHA GELMAN

### NATASHA GELMAN

Russian and Czechoslovakian by birth, the Gelmans settled in Mexico in 1941 and subsequently made their fortune in the Mexican film industry, collecting modern Mexican and European art for over 50 years. The Gelmans gathered one of the most significant private collections of Mexican art in the world, from which this exhibition has been selected. The Gelman Collection features a wide variety of work by the iconic Mexican artists of the modernist era, including Kahlo, Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros and Tamayo.



Frida Kahlo, *Self Portrait as a Tehuana*, 1943

## THE PRINCIPAL SPONSORS

*VIVA LA VIDA* has been brought to New Zealand through the generous support of three principal sponsors; Telecom New Zealand, Ernst & Young and Russell McVeagh. Leaders in their fields, these companies share a commitment to excellence and innovation. Their support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity makes this exhibition of modern Mexican masterpieces accessible to a wide New Zealand audience.

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# TOURS & EVENTS

## GUIDED TOURS

A public tour of key works in the exhibition will operate every weekend and public holiday at 2pm. Special guided tours for groups of 10+ people can also be booked in advance. Please contact the Gallery for times and further details.

## AUDIO GUIDES

An interactive audio guide is available for hire.

## LECTURES AND EVENTS

A programme of talks, films and music will run throughout the exhibition. Call Jenny Bornholdt for details on (04) 801 3954.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

The exciting schools programme includes tours, workshops, outreach, teacher previews and resources. A programme is also available for tertiary and adult education groups. Advance bookings are essential. Education group discounts apply for prebooked classes. Contact Justine McLisky, Education Coordinator on  
Phone: (04) 801 3965, Fax: (04) 801 3096,  
email: justine.mclisky@wcc.govt.nz.

## FUNCTIONS IN THE GALLERY

To make your event a work of art, call the Events Coordinator, Ange Webber on (04) 801 3961. Opportunities are available to host corporate breakfasts, cocktail functions and dinners in the unique ambience of world-class art.



Diego Rivera, *Sunflowers*, 1943

# 29 JANUARY – 30 APRIL 2000

City Gallery Wellington, Civic Square  
www.city-gallery.org.nz

Telephone: 04 801 3021, Fax: 04 801 3950

OPEN DAILY

10am – 5pm weekdays

10am – 6pm weekends

Education enquiries: (04) 801 3965

Function enquiries: (04) 801 3961

Information line: (04) 801 3952

	Weekdays	Weekends
Adult	\$11	\$14
Kids under 16	\$6	\$6
Family Group (2 adults, 2 children)	\$30	\$30
Booked Education Visits	\$5	\$5

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