

Diego Rivera



Who was Diego Rivera?

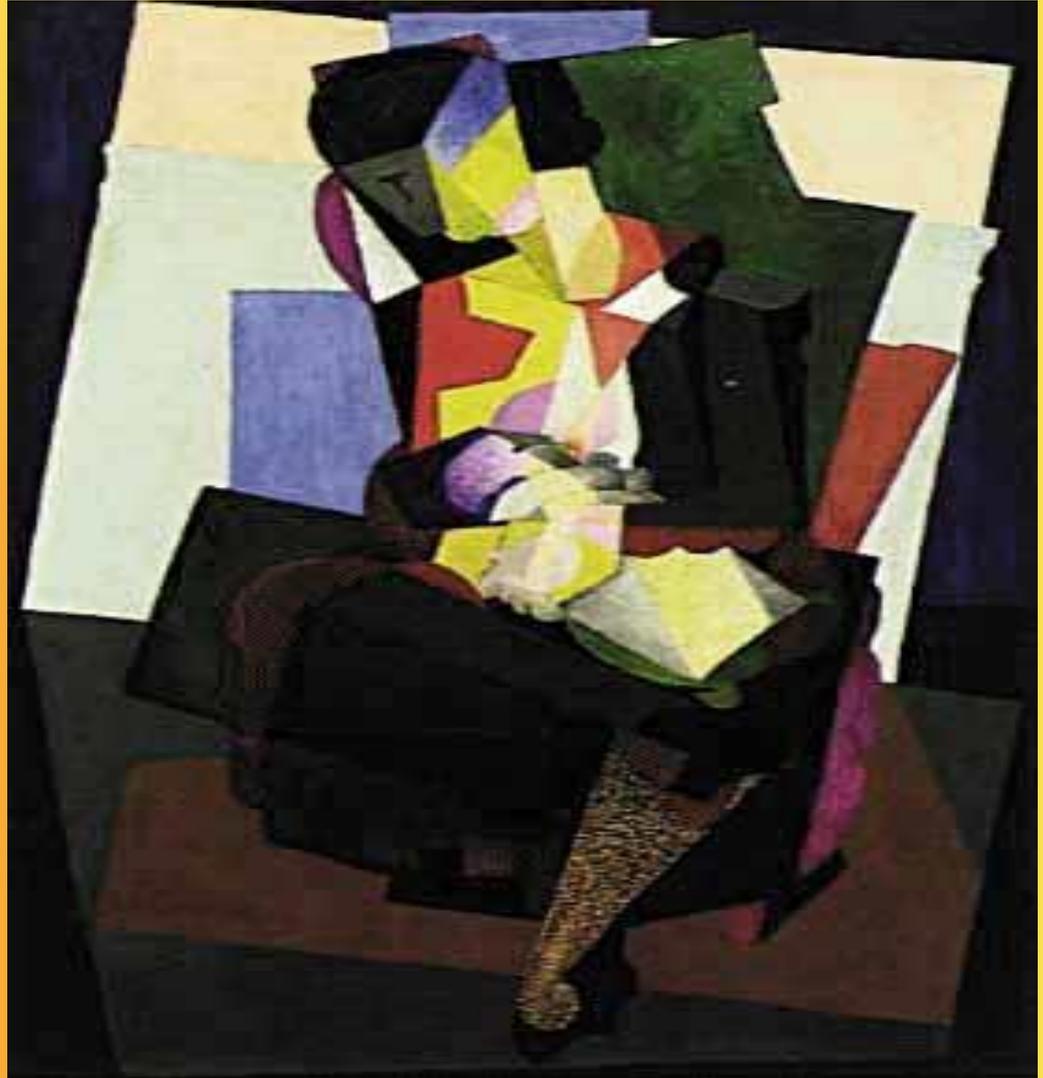


Diego at the age of 5 in 1890.

- Diego Rivera (1886-1957) was one of Mexico's most important painters and a major artist of the twentieth century.
- Born in 1886 in Guanajuato, Rivera studied traditional European artistic styles at the Academia de San Carlos in Mexico City.
- Rivera combined this classical training with the influence of Mexican folk artist Jose Guadalupe Posada, emerging as an accomplished painter with a distinctly Mexican style by the age of sixteen.

Maternity, 1916

- In 1907 Rivera traveled to Spain to study the works of Goya, El Greco, and Brueghel at Madrid's El Prado museum.
- Later he moved to Paris and became fascinated with the avante-garde Cubist movement which Pablo Picasso founded.
- After four years devoted to Cubism, Rivera began to question the movement.



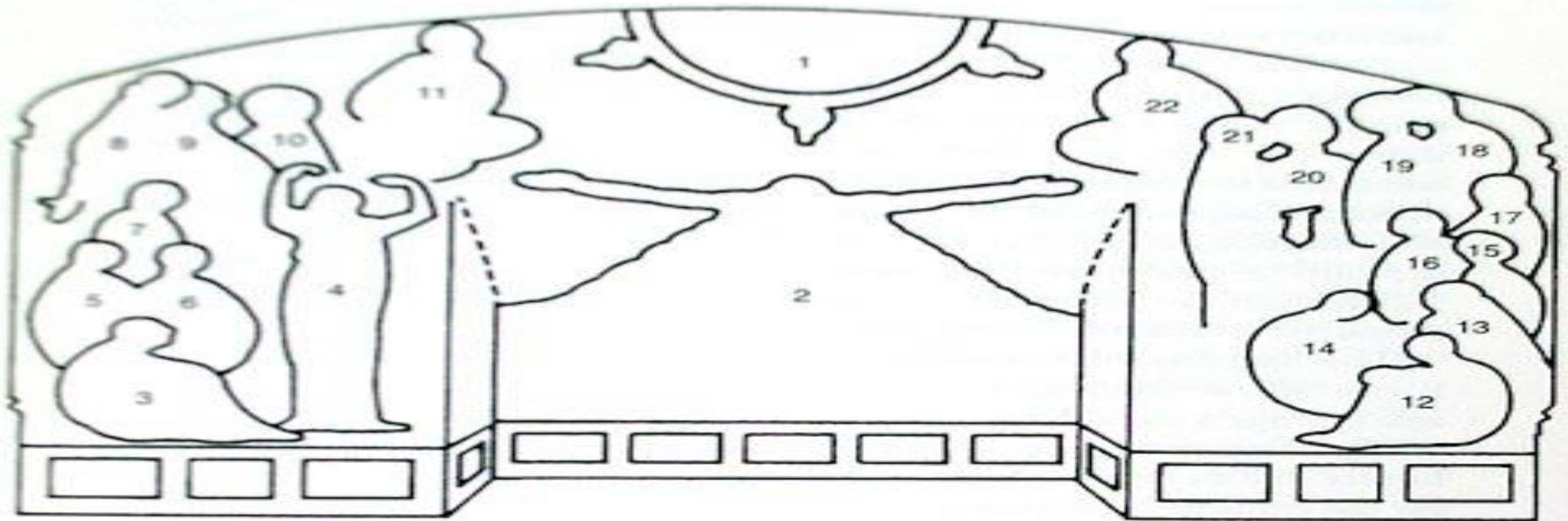
Influences

- Influenced by the Mexican Revolution (1914-15) and the Russian Revolution (1917), Rivera believed that art should play a role in empowering working people to understand their own histories.
- He did not want his art to be isolated in museums and galleries, but made accessible to the people, spread on the walls of public buildings. To this end, Rivera traveled to Italy to study early Renaissance fresco.
- When he returned to Mexico, he was ready to formulate his own style of public paintings that would speak directly to the working and indigenous peoples of Mexico.

The Creation, 1922-1923



Diego Rivera, *Creation*, 1922 - 23, encaustic and gold leaf, Amphitheater Bolivar, National Preparatory School, Mexico City



1 Primal Energy

11 Wisdom

22 Science

Emanations
of the
Spirit
of
Woman

- 10 Faith
- 9 Hope
- 8 Charity
- 7 Comedy
- 6 Song
- 5 Music
- 4 Dance

3 Woman

Emanations
of the
Spirit
of
Man

- 21 Continenence
- 20 Strength
- 19 Justice
- 18 Prudence
- 17 Tragedy
- 16 Tradition
- 15 Erotic Poetry
- 14 Knowledge
- 13 Fable

12 Man

Celebrated the Worker



The Flower Carrier, 1935

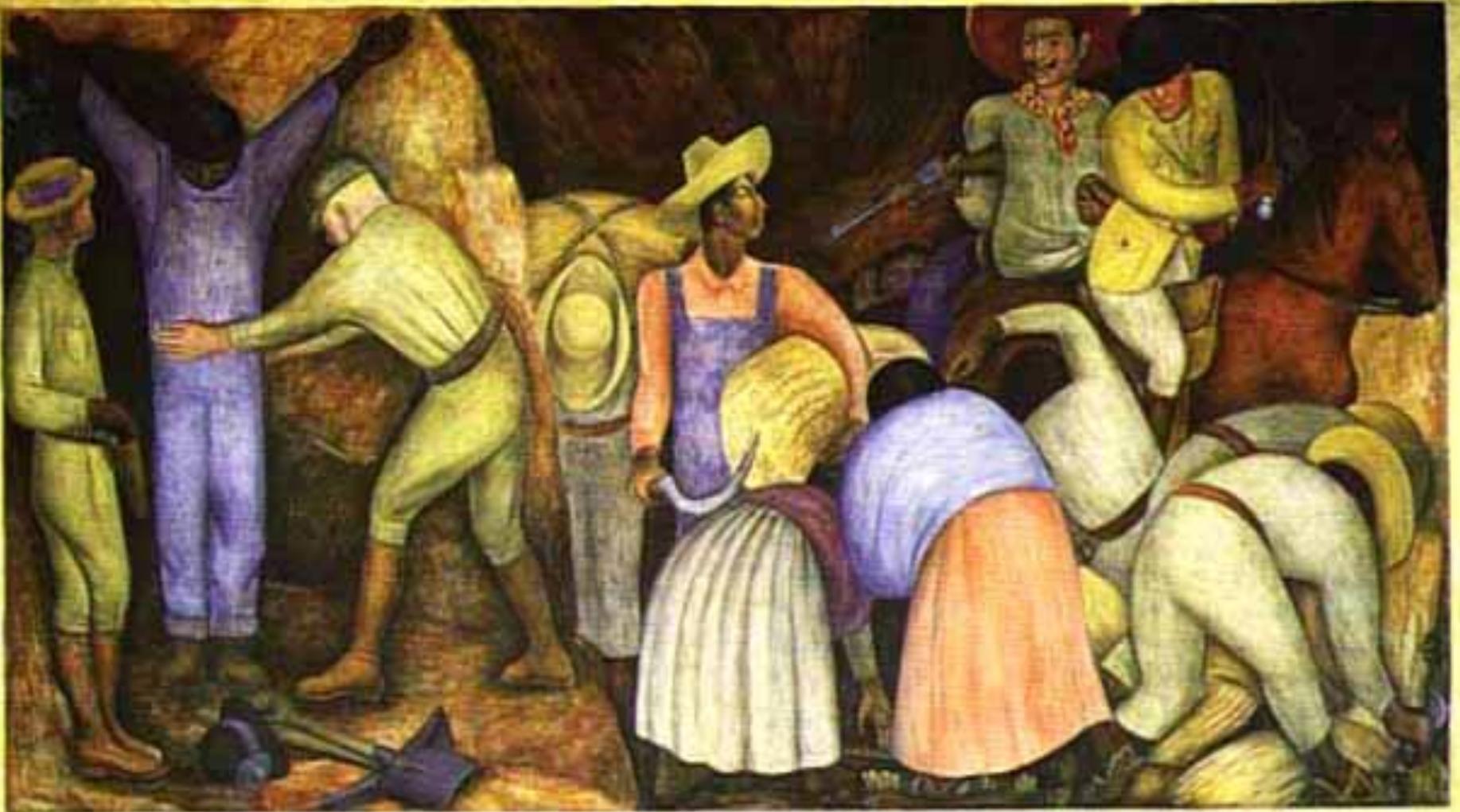


"Rivera believed that art should play a role in empowering working people to understand their own histories."

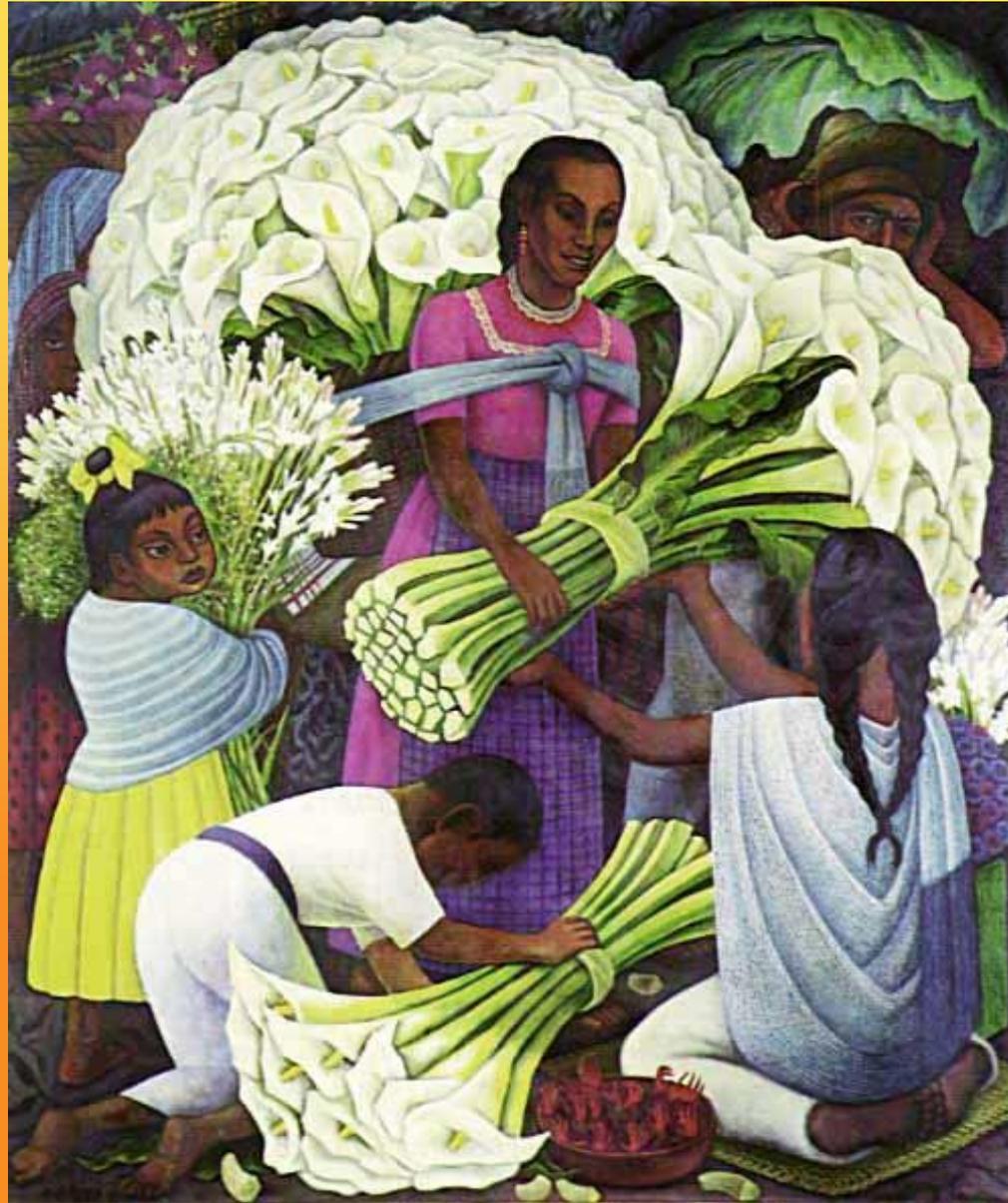
The Grinder, 1924



The Exploiters, 1926



The Flower Vendor, 1949



Blood of the Revolutionary Martyrs Fertilizing the Earth, 1926



Celebrated Mexican Culture and Tradition









Love Life

- Married 5 times.
- Married to Frida Kahlo (left) twice.

Man at the Crossroads, 1934



The glories of the Russian revolution







Man Controller of the Universe

The following video explains this mural

<https://smarthistory.org/diego-rivera-man-controller-of-the-universe/>

Start at 2:54

Death

- In addition to being a celebrated and controversial artist, Diego Rivera was also a provocative political activist who incited debate not only in Mexico, but also in the USA and Soviet Union.
- Since his death in 1957, his hundreds of public artworks, his many oils and watercolors, and his political daring continue to contribute invaluablely to the development of public art across the Americas.

Significance

- Revitalized mural art, bringing art back to the common man
- Most important Mexican artist of all time. Glorified Mexican culture and tradition.
- Art that inspired people to act.





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