

AGSA

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 15 June 2023



***Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution* opens at AGSA**

Adelaide, Australia: The Australian-exclusive exhibition, *Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution* will open at the Art Gallery of South Australia on 24 June 2023. Featuring iconic works by two of the most influential and loved artists of the twentieth century – Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera – this exhibition will be the most comprehensive display of Mexican Modernism ever seen in Australia.

Through more than 150 works, including paintings, works on paper, photographs, video and period clothing, this major exhibition from the unrivalled Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection will introduce audiences to the couple's radical art and politics, as well as the grand narratives surrounding the history of Mexico and its peoples over the twentieth century. Alongside Kahlo's mesmerising self-portraits and Rivera's arresting depictions of Mexican culture, *Frida & Diego* will feature works by key Mexican Modernists including Manuel and Lola Álvarez Bravo, Miguel Covarrubias, María Izquierdo, Carlos Mérida, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Yasumasa Morimura and others.

AGSA Director Rhana Devenport ONZM says, 'Each generation brings a new lens to the profoundly inspiring figure that is Frida Kahlo. A twenty-first century muse, Kahlo is today revered as a feminist and

Organised by



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO

CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA



Major Partner



Exhibition Partner



Exhibition organised by the Vergel Foundation and MondoMostre in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Belles Artes Y Literatura (INBAL)

AGSA

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 15 June 2023

as a singular political and creative force. *Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution* speaks to the influence and ingenuity of art practice in Mexico and aims to recontextualise the enduring allure of Kahlo within today's society.'

Robert Littman, President of the Vergel Foundation, established to oversee the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection, says, 'This is the largest exhibition of Mexican Modernism ever to be exhibited in Australia. In addition to the remarkable paintings and drawings, this edition of the Gelman Collection adds photographs and textiles that have never travelled here before. We're delighted to present Australian audiences with the opportunity to experience this important period in Mexican art history and culture – an opportunity that won't present itself again for many, many years!'

Through bold and stimulating exhibition design, South Australia's renowned firm Grieve Gillett Architects will transport visitors into the world of Kahlo and Rivera, opening with the political and historical context of 'Mexicanidad' – the national pride that shaped Kahlo and Rivera's love, life and work in post-revolution Mexico from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The exhibition will also feature large-scale reproductions of Rivera's celebrated murals with their depictions of folk art and modern working life, demonstrating Rivera's profound political and artistic influence and revealing the dramatic social and cultural shifts that occurred following the Mexican revolution. Inspired by their home and studio 'La Casa Azul' and reflecting the vibrancy of Mexican culture, the exhibition will also offer audiences an intimate look into the life and artistic practice of Kahlo that forged her strong identity.

Tansy Curtin, AGSA's Curator of International Art, Pre-1980 says, 'These iconic paintings from the extraordinary Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection form the heart of this exhibition. Close friends of Kahlo and Rivera, the Gelmans were pioneering collectors who formed an outstanding collection of works foregrounding Mexican Modernism.

Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution will immerse visitors in the creative and vibrant milieu of Mexico's art world in the first half of the twentieth century – from the beginnings of the Mexican cultural revolution to Kahlo and Rivera's turbulent love affair.

Kahlo was unflinching in her exploration of self-identity. While her physical body may have limited her, Kahlo's resilience and creativity soared, resulting in bold and commanding statements which retain their social, cultural and feminist potency and continue to resonate with people today.'

The exhibition will be accompanied by a hardcover 188-page publication, produced by AGSA, and a dynamic and engaging series of public programs and events, including talks from curators and special guests, live music, a panel discussion that celebrates Kahlo's feminist legacy, *Clay & Cocktails* and *Paint & Sip* workshops as well as pop-up appearances by famed local Mexican restaurant La Popular Taqueria.

AGSA's The Studio will be transformed into a garden of colour by South Australian artist Alice Lindstrom offering art lovers of all ages the opportunity to make paper cut flowers using the traditional Mexican decorative craft, 'papel picado', while AGSA's monthly Start at the Gallery events for children aged 3-12 promise a fiesta of fun featuring Mariachi musicians, Salsa dancing and floral headpiece workshops.

Organised by



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO

CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA



Major Partner



Exhibition Partner



AGSA

MEDIA RELEASE
Thursday 15 June 2023

Coinciding with the exhibition's season finale, AGSA_eat and La Popular Taqueria will offer an exclusive dining experience to commemorate Mexican Independence Day on Saturday 16 September, with a ticketed multi-course dinner. A full program of events during the exhibition season is available at agsa.sa.gov.au/frida-events

Presented alongside the exhibition, a *Frida & Diego: City Trail* will offer visitors to Adelaide the opportunity to experience a range of activations across the city, with Mexican-themed menu items, creative workshops, retail offers and more. Developed by the Adelaide Economic Development Agency, the City Trail's highlight will be its 'La Casa Azul' installation in Rundle Mall, where visitors can have a photo moment and find out more about the exhibition and trail.

Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Tourism and Multicultural Affairs said the event would drive thousands of visitors to South Australia over winter.

'South Australia is the only place in the country where visitors can experience a Frida Kahlo painting this winter. *Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution* is for all who are drawn to creativity and its influence on history and politics. This major exhibition is another Australian exclusive offering on our state's events calendar, which is set to inject \$400 million into South Australia's visitor economy - following the new LIV Golf Adelaide and AFL Gather Round, plus well-loved festivals such as Adelaide Fringe, WOMADelaide and Tasting Australia presented by RAA Travel,' Minister Bettison said.

Frida & Diego: Love & Revolution is on display at the Art Gallery of South Australia from 24 June to 17 September 2023. Tickets are now on sale at agsa.sa.gov.au.

-ends-

MEDIA CONTACTS Lindsay Ferris | M 0405 046 116 | E ferris.lindsay@artgallery.sa.gov.au
Elisabeth Alexander | T (08) 7085 1618 | E alexander.elisabeth@artgallery.sa.gov.au

KEY DATES Media Preview | Friday 23 June 2023, 11am
Exhibition Season | 24 June – 17 September 2023

IMAGES agsa.sa.gov.au/media/fridadiego

SOCIAL MEDIA @agsa.adelaide #agsaadelaide #agsafridadiego #seesouthaustralia #adelaide

Header image: Nickolas Muray, born Szeged, Hungary 1892, died New York, United States of America 1965, *Frida with Red "Rebozo"*, 1939, New York, United States of America, carbon print, 25 x 20.3 cm; The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of 20th Century Mexican Art and the Vergel Foundation, © Nickolas Muray Archive

Organised by



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO

CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INBAL

Major Partner



Exhibition Partner

**GRIEVE
GILLET
ARCHITECTS**

Exhibition organised by the Vergel Foundation and MondoMostre in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Belles Artes Y Literatura (INBAL)