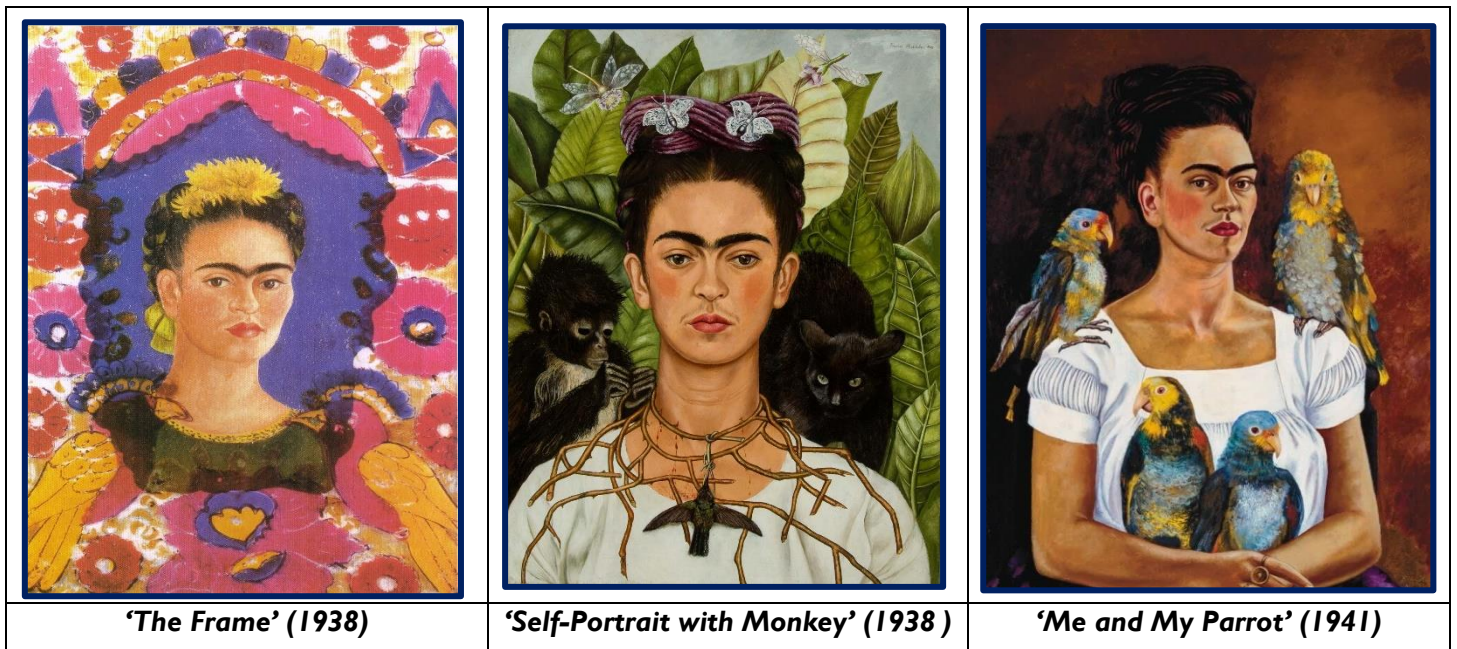


ARTIST OF THE MONTH MARCH 2024

Artist of the month is a competition that runs in school. Each month we look at a different artist and their work, children can then respond to this artist by either creating a picture, taking a photograph, writing a story, doing some research or a different response that inspires them. Mrs Britten our Art and Design subject lead shares the artist of the month via the school art notice board. The artist of the month winner will be announced at the end of each month.

To enter you need to respond to the artist however you choose. Put your entry into the basket next to the art cabinet next to the staff room or email it to enquiries@williamgilbertend.derbyshire.sch.uk with the title 'Artist of the Month'. Please enter by Thursday 28th March 2024.

This month's artist is: **Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954)**



Frida Kahlo is considered to be one of the most important artists of modern times. She was famous for painting self-portraits (pictures of herself), but she was particularly famous for painting women as strong people. Frida was born in a village just outside of Mexico City in 1907. When she was a child, Frida loved to draw. In many of her self-portrait paintings Frida Kahlo is surrounded by tropical plants, butterflies, birds and colourful flowers, sometimes even wearing them in her hair.

She was celebrating Mexico, the beautiful country where she lived. In 1925, at the age of 18, Kahlo was badly hurt in a bus accident on her way back from school. She broke many bones and had to recover for several months in bed. During this time, she started to paint pictures of herself using a mirror. Kahlo carried on creating self-portraits throughout her life, painting 55 of them!

Even years after the accident, Kahlo's body still hurt, which is perhaps why you won't see her smiling. She used painting to distract herself from the pain. In the courtyard outside her bright blue house called La Casa Azul (The Blue House), she also loved to spend time gardening. Kahlo was very proud to be a Mexican woman, which is why she included the country's animals, flowers and plants in her self-portraits. She also used to wear long colourful Mexican dresses. It's like she was a walking artwork that celebrated Mexico.

Your turn Why not have a go at painting or drawing your own self-portrait inspired by Frida Kahlo – find out more about Frida Kahlo by scanning the QR code to take you to a ‘how to’ video on YouTube – please remember to watch with a grown up. Or follow the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irfXlcacJpU>

