OFFICIAL MEMO
THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY
FGS HQ
SKY HIGH
HEIGHTS
CH8 NG3
Dear fantastically great reader,
You are receiving this letter because we at the FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY think you have what it takes to make a difference! Therefore, we would like to welcome you as our NEWEST member.
Our society was founded to celebrate and share the stories of people whose courage, creativity and brilliance shine in ways the world deserves to hear and remember. Why? Because when these stories are passed on, the next generation (that's you) can rise through our ranks with the super-skills and powerful knowledge needed to ...
CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER
(or, in other words: be fantastically great!)
We are with you for every step of this thrilling journey - because when we stand together, truly remarkable things can happen.
OFFICE OF THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY
You will shortly receive words of wisdom and encouragement from a selection of the society's most experienced members. They have been called upon because they are highly skilled in a variety of essential world-changing areas, including:
CREATIVITY and SELF-EXPRESSION
SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY
STANDING UP FOR CHANGE
EXTRAORDINARY IMAGINATION
WILD ADVENTURING
MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD!
So, are you ready to learn, be inspired and harness everything that makes you FANTASTICALLY GREAT? Welcome to the club!
Yours inspiringly,
THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY
P.S. So you can learn more about each women, we have enclosed the top secret case files we hold about their lives.
P.P.S. Our society is open to all, no matter your age, gender or dream!
OFFICE OF THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY

MEMBER No. 200

Frida Kahlo

OFFICIAL PORTRAIT
MEMBER NUMBER: 200

When Frida was six, she caught polio – an illness that made one of her legs weaker than the other and caused her pain throughout her life. Despite this, she worked hard at school and dreamed of becoming a doctor. But at eighteen, she was badly hurt in a traffic accident. She recovered, but was left in constant pain and unable to have children.

Frida learned to paint during her recovery using a special easel and mirrors attached to her sick bed. Painting helped her feel better and for the rest of her life, she would use her art to help her cope with suffering.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

NAME: Frida Kahlo
(**original name:** Magdalena Carmen Frieda Kahlo y Calderón)

DATE OF BIRTH: 6 July ~~1910~~ 1907

NOTE: Frida sometimes said she was born in 1910 so her birthday would match the start of the Mexican Revolution. This isn't true – she was actually born three years earlier!

NATIONALITY: Mexican

OCCUPATION: Artist

FAMILY: I married Diego Rivera (twice!). He was sometimes my frenemy, but also my greatest love!

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN 3 WORDS: Creative, fiery, unconventional!

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT: Making the world sit up and notice Mexican artists

WORLD FIRSTS:
1. The first twentieth-century Mexican artist to have work included in the Louvre
2. The first Latin American artist whose work sold for more than $1 million at auction (for 'Diego y yo')

FAVOURITE ANIMAL: Dogs and monkeys (I had other pets too, but I loved these ones the most)

FAMOUS WORDS: "I am my own muse, the subject I know best."

YOU'RE INVITED!

EXHIBITION BY 31 WOMEN

Venue: 'Art of This Century' Gallery, West 57th Street, New York City. 5th–31st January 1942

Details: A radical, all-woman exhibition of Abstract and Surrealist artworks

Artists: Only women! Including Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo

RSVP: Peggy Guggenheim (art collector)

Increasingly, Frida began painting in the style of Mexican folk art, using bright colours and simply drawn subjects. One of her favourite things to paint was herself! Frida did lots of self-portraits, and liked to exaggerate her features, especially her eyebrows and facial hair. She loved her pets, and included them in many paintings to show how important family was to her and as symbols of her thoughts and feelings.

SELF-PORTRAIT WITH MONKEYS, 1943

Over her life, Frida created more than 200 artworks, many of which are now famous all over the world. She laughed a lot, but was often in poor health. Her last painting included the words *"Viva la Vida"*, meaning 'Long Live Life!' There was much sadness in Frida's life, but she turned her experiences into unique and wonderful works of art. This is what made her one of the most important artists of all time.

ITZCUINTLI DOG WITH ME, 1938

TIMELINE

6 July 1907 – Born near Mexico City, Mexico

1910 – Mexican Revolution breaks out

1913 – Contracts polio

1925 – Injured in a bus accident and takes up painting

1927 – Joins Mexican Communist Party

1929 – Marries Diego Rivera

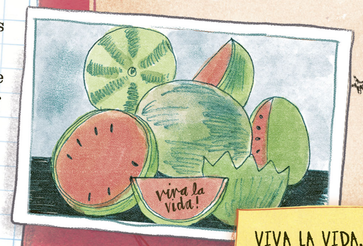
1938 – First solo exhibition at New York's Julien Levy Gallery

1939 – Divorces Diego. The Louvre art gallery in Paris buys Frida's self-portrait 'The Frame'

1939 – Remarries Diego

1946 – Awarded the National Prize of Arts and Sciences

13 July 1954 – Dies at the age of 47



VIVA LA VIDA, WATERMELONS, 1954

REGISTERED
MEXICO
LA CASA AZUL
MEXICO
FRIDA KAHLO
FRIDA KAHLO
Frida Kahlo
La Casa Azul
Mexico City
MEXICO
OFFICIAL MEMO
THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY
FGS HQ
SKY HIGH
HEIGHTS
CH8 NG3
Dear Frida,
It is vitally important that our future members feel confident enough to be their truly fantastic selves. As you know, this is key to fulfilling one's incredible potential.
We at the society are in awe of how you have used art to explore your innermost thoughts and feelings, all the things that make you unique. You saw life in your own wonderful way and this helped you be resilient in the face of great challenges. Any tips you can share for how to encourage future members to do the same would be greatly appreciated.
Yours uniquely,
THE FANTASTICALLY GREAT SOCIETY
P.S. See you at the opening of your next art show! For now, viva la vida y adios!
KAHLO CRAYON
COLOUR! CREATE!
AZUL

Hola, my fellow artists,
THERE IS ONLY ONE OF YOU, MY DEAR FRIEND! Your UNIQUE way of seeing the world, your FEELINGS and your INDIVIDUALITY are to be CELEBRATED!
La Casa Azul
(The Blue House)
Mexico City
Mexico
What better way to do this than by creating a SELF-PORTRAIT? (AKA, a picture of yourself!) Follow these simple steps ...
STEP 1: BE THE ART!
Draw yourself in your dream outfit. What does it say about you?
STEP 2: DRAW THE UNEXPECTED
Don't focus on how you think you SHOULD look! Go wild with unusual accessories, an animal body or exaggerated features!
A wild hairstyle could show your mood – good or bad.
STEP 3: TELL YOUR STORY!
Painting our thoughts and feelings can be tricky! Try including intriguing clues and symbols in your self-portrait to represent these things. For example ...
A watermelon can show JOY!
A pet can represent LOVE.
Rápido! Rápido!
You must work while the inspiration is fresh, so grab your paintbrushes, tell the world who you are and remember – always be yourself!
Yours authentically,
Frida Kahlo