

Heart of Frida Collection



Analysis

The Heart of Frida Collection: An Analysis

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We have analyzed the Heart of Frida collection in terms of **13** subjects:

1. Box arrangement	Page 1
2. Collection names	Page 2
3. Exhibitions of the Heart of Frida collection	Page 2
4. Exhibition physical arrangement	Page 2
5. Exhibition general arrangement	Page 3
6. Collection themes	Page 3
7. Collection subjects	Page 3, 4
8. Collection contents (text and drawings)	Page 4, 5
9. Collection subject of drawings	Page 5, 6
10. Collection drawing media	Page 6
11. Collection materials	Page 6, 7
12. Collection holographic signatures	Page 7
13. Collection dates	Page 7

The Heart of Frida collection has appeared in *Exhibitions*, in a *Catalogue*, and on the *website (frida2007.com)*

In all three appearances, a similar reference system is used:

Arabic numbers refer to 27 notes, 8 letters and 2 postcards (1-37)

The capital letter A refers to the box in which they were found

Roman numerals (I-VI) refer to the six drawings

1. Box arrangement

When the Heart of Frida collection was delivered by Carlos Noyola Fuentes to the Howards, the six drawings were in rough frames and the box (Item A) contained 39 items arranged as follows:

- 2 postcards
- 27 notes on yellow scratch pad paper
- 8 envelopes with letters inside (all opened by a previous owner)
- 1 Ohio state tax stamp
- 1 cufflink

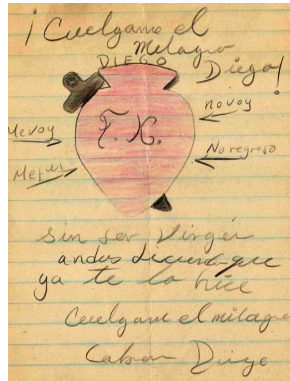


2. Collection names

The collection was initially named “Woman and Artist: The Courage and Creativity of Frida Kahlo” in the first series of catalogues.

The collection was then renamed as “El Aguila Invalida” (a phrase repeated often in the collection), which was mistranslated as “The Wounded Eagle” (should have been “Crippled Eagle”).

At the time of the first exhibition in September 2006, the collection was renamed “Heart of Frida” (“El Corazon de Frida”) based on the imagery in one of the notes (Item 16), reproduced in miniature below.



3. Exhibitions of the Heart of Frida collection

The collection has been exhibited three times at the following venues

Sep 10, 2006-June 30, 2007 at The Gallery at Casa Maxwell, Umaran 3, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato

Jan 11-Feb 24, 2008 at Museo de Arte, Allende sur 14, Santiago de Queretaro, Queretaro

June 27, 2008-October 31, 2008 at the Heart of Frida museum, Jesús 36, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato

4. Exhibition: Physical Arrangement

At each of the exhibitions, the collection was arranged as follows

Enhanced drawings (framed at eye level)

Enhanced notes, letters and postcards (framed at eye level)

Original notes, letters, postcards, box, cufflink and tax stamp (in 16 display cases)



5. Exhibition: General Arrangement

The exhibitions were arranged according to the following general topics

The Secret Drawings of Frida Kahlo

The Secret Letters of Frida Kahlo

6. Collection Themes

The Secret Drawings of Frida Kahlo

Drawings on brown paper (2 items)

Drawings on the reverse of lottery tickets (4 items)

The Secret Letters of Frida Kahlo

Frida and Diego

Frida's Hot Love (2 items)

Frida's Happy Love (3 items)

Frida's Sad Love (7 items)

Frida's Confused Love (3 items)

Frida's Angry Love (7 items)

Frida's Other Loves (2 items)

Frida's Politics (4 items)

Frida's Pain and Decline (8 items)

7. Collection Subjects

Self Portraits

Frida Kahlo portrays herself sometimes as a butterfly and an eagle in the drawings (Drawings I, III, V and VI). Her image appears in many of the letters and notes. (See section 9 below)

Diego

a) Drawings II and V

b) Notes (Arabic numbers refer to Items) 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 33, 34 and 36.

c) Letters 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 22.

d) Postcard 24

Diego: Hot Love

a) Notes 1

b) Letters 2

Diego: Happy love

a) Notes 3, 4, and 5.

b) Drawing II



Diego: Sad love

- a) Notes: 6, 7, 8, 12 and 19
- b) Letters 10 and 11

Diego: Confusion

- a) Notes 13 and 15
- b) Letter 14

Diego: Angry love

- a) Notes 16, 17, 19 and 21
- b) Letters 18, 20 and 22
- c) Drawing V

Diego and deteriorating health

- a) Drawings II and V
- b) Notes 19, 20, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36
- c) Letters 2, 11 and 22

Frida's other loves

- a) Notes 23
- b) Postcards 24

Frida's Politics

- Notes 25, 26, 27 and 28
- Postcard 24

Frida's Pain and Decline

- Drawings I, II, III, IV, V and VI
- Notes 9, 19, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36
- Letters 2, 11, 20, 22 and 23

8. Collection Contents (Text and Drawings)

Text Only

- a) Notes 6, 7, 12, 13, 15, 30 and 36
- b) Letters 2, 11 and 20
- c) Postcards 24

Text with drawing

- a) Notes 2, 8, 9, 10, 17, 19, 23, 25, 28, 32, 33, 34 and 35
- b) Letter 22

Self portraits

- a) Drawings I, III, IV, V and VI



Drawings with text

- a) Notes 3, 4, 5, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 31
- b) Letters 14 and 18
- c) Drawings I, II, III, IV, VI and VI

Poem or word association

- a) Notes 6, 7, 13, 15, 20, 30, and 36
- b) Letter 10

9. Collection subjects of drawings

Frida's self portrait

- a) Drawings I (as a butterfly)
- II (as a tadpole)
- III (as a crippled eagle)
- IV (her eye only)
- V (as a butterfly)
- VI (as a butterfly)

- b) Notes 4 (a moon twice)
- 5 (as a fish)
- 9 (a tomb with her eye)
- 10 (portrait with long hair)
- 18 (as a crane rather than a swan)
- 21 (as a blue fish)
- 22 (her eye and leg)
- 23 (her eye only)
- 27 (as a broken doll)
- 29 (as a broken column)
- 31 (her spinal column and hips)
- 32 (body front view)
- 33 (portrait crossed out)
- 34 (her skeleton)
- 35 (Frida's foot as a butterfly)

Diego

- a) Drawings II (as a tadpole)
- V (as a toad)

- b) Notes 3 (as a toad)
- 5 (as a frog)
- 17 (as a portrait)
- 21 (as a toad)
- 29 (as a column)

The Heart of Frida Collection: An Analysis



c) Letters	4	(as a moon)
	14	(as a plant)
	18	(as a toothless lion)

Other Imagery

a) Drawing	IV	(eye drawing)
b) Notes	1	(fire and black funeral bow)
	8	(maze)
	13	(outline of spinal column)
	16	(heart with dagger thorough it)
	19	(wasp)
	25	(hammer and sickle)
	27	(Mexican male peasant, doll with broken leg)
	28	(funeral bow)
	35	(Frida's foot as a butterfly)
c) Letter	14	(plant with a penis and a vagina as flowers)
	22	(Frida's eye, a leg, a plant and tadpoles)

10. Collection Drawing Media *

Pen and Ink	Letters 10, 14 and 18 Drawings I, II and V Notes 3, 4, 13, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32 and 34
Watercolour	Drawing VI
Charcoal	Drawings III and IV
Colouring pencil	Letter 1 Notes 5, 7, 16, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 33, 34 and 35
Cigarette burns	Letter 2 Notes 19, 25 and 34

* Subject to further analysis

11. Collection Materials

Wood:	Box A
Brown Paper:	Drawings I and VI
Lottery tickets:	Drawings II, III, IV and V
Yellow Notepad:	Notes 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36



Stationery and envelope: Letters 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20 and 22
Postcards: 24

12. Collection Holographic Autographs

Frida Kahlo

- a) Drawings I, II, V and VI
- b) Box Item A
- c) Notes 5, 8, 9, 12, 21, 31 and 33
- d) Letters 2, 4, 10, 14, 18, 20, 22 and 27

Frida

- a) Notes 26, 30,

F.K.

- a) Box Item A
- b) Drawing III
- c) Notes 16, 19, 25 and 29

13. Collection Dates

The letters are believed to have been written between 1950 (the date on the box) and 1954 (the date of her death).

The items II, III, IV, V, A, 28 and 6 have been dated with some certainty.

It is believed that items 27, 34 and 35 were written after the amputation of her right leg in August 1953 (although some may have been written in anticipation of that surgery).

- a) 1938 Postcard Item 24
Postcard Item ?
- b) 1945 Drawing II
Drawing III
Drawing IV
Drawing V
- c) 1950 Box Item A
- d) Post 1953 (date of amputation)
Note Item 6
Note Item 27
Note Item 28
Note Item 34