

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Frida Kahlo self-portrait estimated at \$30M

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Frida Kahlo In Her Garden Of Casa Azul, Mexico, shot by Gisle Freund, 1948. Image credit: Sotheby's

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

A self-portrait by renowned Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is expected to sell for \$30 million through auction house Sotheby's, potentially becoming the most valuable Latin American piece ever publicly sold.

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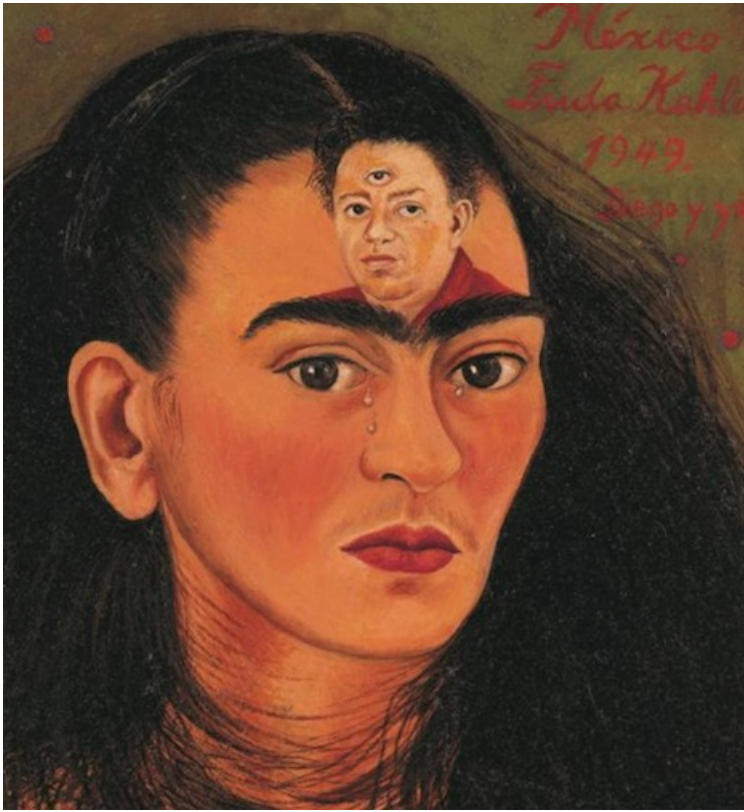
The portrait, "Diego y yo ("Diego and I"), shows the painter with a tear streaming down her face and an image of her husband, Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, painted across her forehead. If the painting achieves Sotheby's estimate in November, it will break the record set in 2019 by a piece of art by Mr. Rivera.

"A painting by Kahlo of this quality and excellence is a rarity at auction," said Julian Dawes, co-head of impressionist and modern art at Sotheby's New York, in a statement. "When I look at this painting, the phrase 'abre los ojos,' Spanish for 'open your eyes,' immediately comes to mind.

"In the literal sense, it refers to the penetrating stare of Kahlo as the sitter of the portrait, but I think it also symbolizes the incredible moment this painting will surely usher in for Kahlo, as the market opens its eyes to Kahlo in a new way and secures her place in the auction echelon she belongs."

Breaking records

Ms. Kahlo's tumultuous relationship with her husband was a key source of inspiration for much of her work, as was the physical pain she endured from surviving a near fatal bus accident in her young adulthood.



"Diego y yo," Frida Kahlo, 1949. Image credit: Sotheby's

Ms. Kahlo relied on painting after the accident, channeling her physical pain from the accident and emotional pain from her marriage into her work.

Her artwork did not become widely popular until the 1970s, nearly 20 years after her death.

According to [Forbes](#), the \$30 million lot would make "Diego y yo" the second-most expensive painting by a female artist, behind American painter Georgia O'Keeffe's "Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1" which sold for \$44.4 million seven years ago.

The piece will be accessible for viewing in London, New York and Hong Kong before the auction.

Sotheby's has been announcing lots for some notable names recently.

Last week, the auction house announced plans to host an upcoming auction selling more than 1,000 lots from the late Karl Lagerfeld's residences in France and Monaco.

Karl Lagerfeld was, and continues to be, a prominent name in the world of fashion and luxury. To honor his legacy, Sotheby's will auction a collection of pieces that tell the story of the designer, collector and creative mind ([see story](#)).