

Rivera, Diego ^[1]

Type of Speech:

noun ^[2]

Definition:

Mexican painter and muralist known for his bold sense of aesthetics and the political messages in his work. One of the artistic giants of the twentieth century, Diego Rivera (1885-1957) studied art in Paris, but returned to post-revolutionary Mexico with a bold sense of aesthetics and a political message that was rooted in Mexican forms and radical politics. Rivera elevated the poor, marginalized, workers, and farmers along with indigenous themes in large murals. His wife, Frida Kahlo, and numerous historical figures can often be found in his enormous paintings. Rivera wanted to make an art for all the people, including the illiterate and those not trained to "understand" modern art styles. He disdained paintings that could be bought and sold, or speculated with by wealthy patrons. He was joined in the 1920s and 1930s by other muralists, José Clemente Orozco and David Siqueiros among others. Muralism had strong impacts on architecture and art throughout Latin America, and especially in the Chicano mural movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

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