



Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Detroit

By Mark Rosenthal

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A landmark publication focusing on both Rivera and Kahlo during a critical year in each of their careers

From April 1932 through March 1933, Diego Rivera (1886–1957) and Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) spent a dramatic and pivotal sojourn in Detroit. Against the backdrop of the Great Depression and amid labor protests in the city, Rivera created his *Detroit Industry* murals, one of the most important and accomplished works of art made in the United States in the 20th century, for the Detroit Institute of Arts. Kahlo, meanwhile, developed her own artistic identity almost unnoticed, emerging with an oeuvre of extraordinarily expressive work.

For this highly anticipated catalogue, Mark Rosenthal and a team of scholars have written essays that examine the artists, the city of Detroit in this period, and the commissioning of the murals by Edsel Ford, the patron, and William Valentiner, then director of the Detroit Institute. Rivera's cartoons for the murals, which have not been exhibited in decades, are highlighted here along with new archival research conducted by Rivera's grandson, Juan Rafael Coronel Rivera. Featuring more than 100 color illustrations of works by both artists, this book presents Detroit as a profoundly important place for the artistic development of Rivera and Kahlo.

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Editorial Review

Review

Chosen as a Michigan Notable Book in 2016, given by the Michigan Center for the Book.
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About the Author

Mark Rosenthal is adjunct curator of contemporary art at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

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