

COMPARATIVE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION:

The comparative study focuses on analyzing the similarities and differences between two artists, Frida Kahlo and Romero Britto and their interpretation of love. It will examine Kahlo's artworks of, *Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* as well as *The Two Fridas*, and Romero Britto's *Passionate*. Both Kahlo and Britto have their own interpretations of the overarching theme of love and this interpretation reflects upon their cultures and personal experiences. I also wanted to portray the broad spectrum of art between countries, in this case Mexico and Brazil, and how the surroundings and personal experiences influence the art of each individual. In this study, and with the use of primary and secondary sources I will be exploring the aspects of each individual's work, these include time periods, interpretations, devices and techniques used to add purpose to their artwork. As well as their interpretation of love and in which some of these qualities have inspired certain aspects of my own artwork.



Kahlo, Frida. Thorn
Necklace and Hummingbird.
1940. Harry Ransom Center,
University of Texas at
Austin, Austin.
Fridakahlo.org



Britto, Romero. Passionate.
Britto.com/

EVALUATION OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF KAHLO

Frida Kahlo is a Mexican icon well known for her self portraits. Kahlo represented the Mexican culture with her interpretation of life depicting her own personal experiences. These encounters are portrayed through the use of different portraits. The portraits include bright vibrant colors and ironically, the message behind most of her paintings were about pain and suffrage. Frida Kahlo was identified as a surrealist painter, but that title didn't quite fit what she intended. She denied this by saying, " They thought I was a surrealist, but I wasn't. I never painted dreams. I painted my own reality " (Kahlo). Frida Kahlo's work was influenced by traumatic physical and psychological events from her childhood and early adulthood, including a crippling accident and the infidelity of her husband. In addition to personal issues, Kahlo's often dealt with questions of national identity. Her mixed ancestry - Mexican and German - provided a rich source of subject matter, particularly during the World War 2 where Kahlo changed the spelling of her first name to one that was less Germanic. She has now become a cultural icon and is especially revered in her home country for her focus on her Mexican identity.



Kahlo, Frida. Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird. 1940. Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, Austin. Fridakahlo.org

ANALYSIS OF FORMAL QUALITIES OF KAHLO

Frida Kahlo uses symbolism in her painting to portray personal issues that she was going through during her marriage with the artist, Diego Rivera. The use of symbolism also emphasizes the tragedies that she went through, including her accident. The symbols used in her self-portraits are things that are important to her and that have shaped her to be the person that she is to that day. Therefore the viewer can interpret her life through the use of her art.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939. Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City.

Using personal tragedies both physical and psychological, Frida combines her realistic style of painting to produce images that were emotionally raw and quite visually disturbing. Her art was dominated by self-portraits that often showed the artist suffering. One thing that is repetitive in her art work are Kahlo's facial expressions. Her face always has a serious almost sad expression; it can be inferred that she painted what she felt as she painted. Her most successful paintings referenced her relationship with Diego Rivera. Both, *Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, and *The Two Fridas* have symbols like the black monkey, the thorn necklace, the different outfits, and the black cat, all symbolize the pain Kahlo went through during her separation with Diego Rivera.



Kahlo, Frida. *Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940. Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, Austin. Fridakahlo.org

INTERPRETATION OF FUNCTION AND PURPOSE

The two hearts of the women lie outside the body. Frida uses this as a resource to portray the feeling of pain. Specifically the pain Frida was going through after her separation with Diego Rivera .

The Frida to the left is rather dressed in a much more European outfit. With the white high collar neck. This represents the restrictions that she has as well as her unhappiness due to various tragedies in her life. This Frida represent the one that Diego abandoned, due to her unstable emotions.



Kahlo, Frida. The Two Fridas. 1939. Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City.

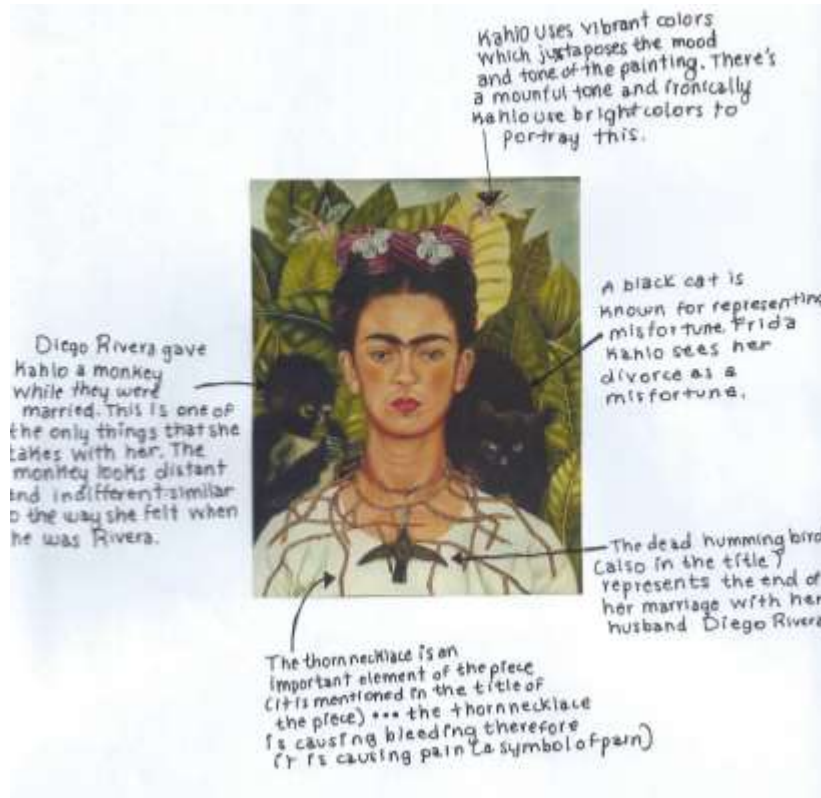
One of the obvious differences between the two Fridas is that they're dressed differently. The Frida with the blue dress is the Frida that was loved and respected by Diego. The healthy aspect was what was respected by Rivera. This can also represent how Frida felt while in her relationship with Diego Rivera.

In her hand, Frida holds and amulet bearing the portrait of Diego Rivera as a child.

Frida's outfit also resembles her Mexican culture, therefore she uses the vibrant colors to express the happiness that she felt when she was with Diego Rivera.

INTERPRETATION OF FUNCTION AND PURPOSE

Frida Kahlo painter *Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* during a crisis in her marriage with the also Mexican painter Diego Rivera. The couple was referred as “the elephant and the dove” and had a turbulent relationship with infidelities and physical as well as emotional restraints. The piece of art is replete with multiple symbols all relating to her toxic relationship with the painter Diego Rivera, and the expressing how she felt with the separation.



Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera with monkey Fulang-Chang in 1937.

The picture above shows the monkey that is depicted in Kahlo's painting

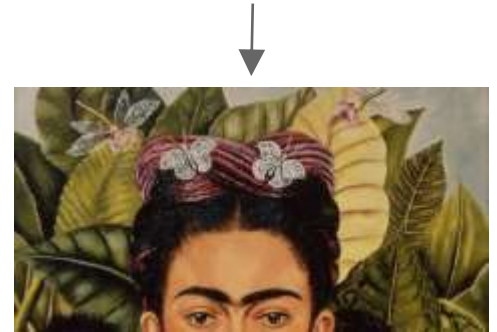
ANALYZING FORMAL QUALITIES

The balance of the artwork is asymmetrical because Frida Kahlo is the one that takes up most of the composition which creates an emphasis on her and her facial expression.

The art itself is random at times. For example the monkey and the cat seem to be out of place as they don't correlate with the background. The background is a jungle type of setting therefore the cat nor the monkey directly correlate with the background. There is no unity within the piece, Kahlo inserts everything that she feels into one piece even if they are not coherent. This further emphasizes the confused that she felt due to her separation.



There's a contrast between the what would be considered the foreground and the background. The background consists of the leaves while the foreground in Frida Kahlo. Kahlo uses a variety of different colors and hues while in the background and she stayed within the same color, green, just different shades of it.



EVALUATION AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: ROMERO BRITTO

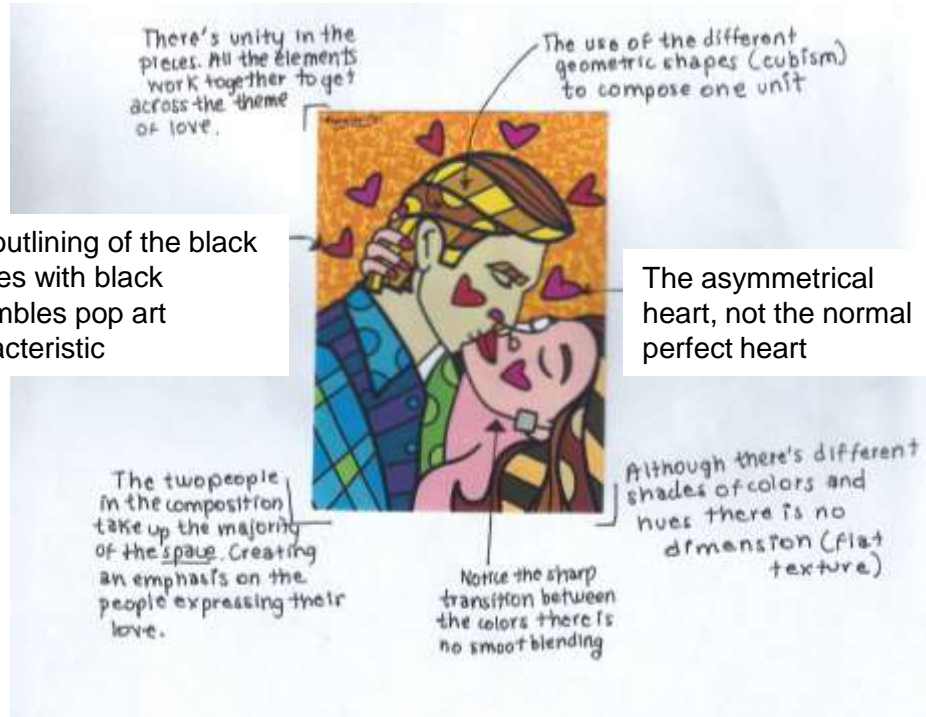
Romero Britto is originally from Brazil but grew up in the streets of Miami, Florida. He did not live in a safe neighborhood which is why in his art he wanted to show the opposite of violence. He wanted to show the world a different story to the one he was used to. That is why he was inspired to use the theme of love in his art. From a young age, Britto showed his interest in art and the desire to pursue a career in it. He was self taught, and he began creating art with the use of scraps of paper and cardboard. This humble beginning has taught him to appreciate and help young artists today with limited resources. His work is known for its vibrant colors as well as the positive vibes that are portrayed from his artworks. Britto's goal as an artist is to use art as a language to communicate "optimism and love", as stated by the New York Times. To this day, Britto has been able to accomplish huge dreams like working with huge companies like Apple and Disney.



Britto, Romero. Passionate.
Britto.com/

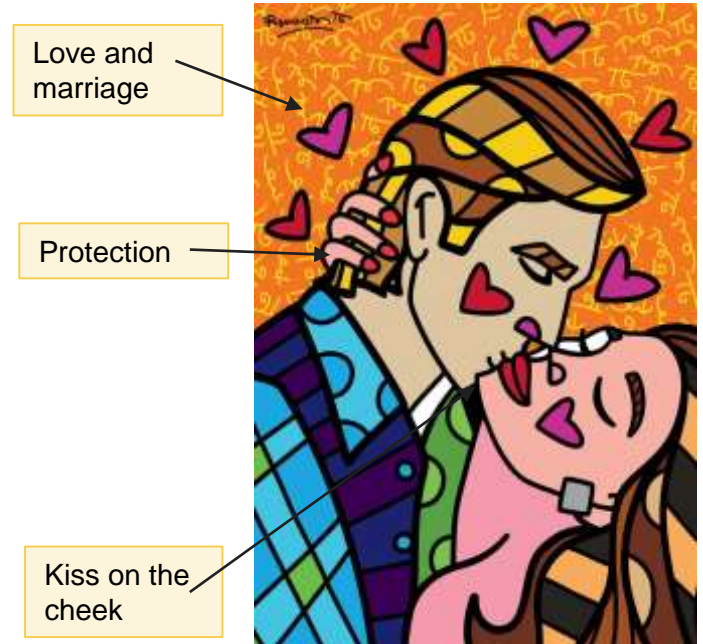
FURTHER EVALUATING ARTISTIC STYLE

Romero Britto is known for his combination of the artistic movements of pop art and cubism. This is seen in the majority of his artworks including *Passionate*. His use of bright colors and flat texture resemble the pop art movement. His use of multiple geometric shapes resembles the cubist style. This fusion of styles creates a unique, interesting style of art, that is very attractive to the viewer.



INTERPRETATION OF ART WORK

The artwork to the right is titled “Passionate”. This digital painting portrays the expression of love between a male and a female. Britto is known for his positive take on negative events that are going on during the time period. Interestingly, there has been a pattern observed that as the years pass the rates of divorces increase. Britto pictures the happiness of marriage as well as the happiness in a relationship with a significant other. Britto could have use this artwork to persuade couples into marriage and those with problems to look for the bright side, that bright side being love. Love is essential for the successfulness of a marriage and happiness. Love is an expression that reminds your significant other that you care by making that person feel protected. That is why Britto had the man kissing the women on the cheek instead of in the lips because it shows care and protection rather than sexual attraction.



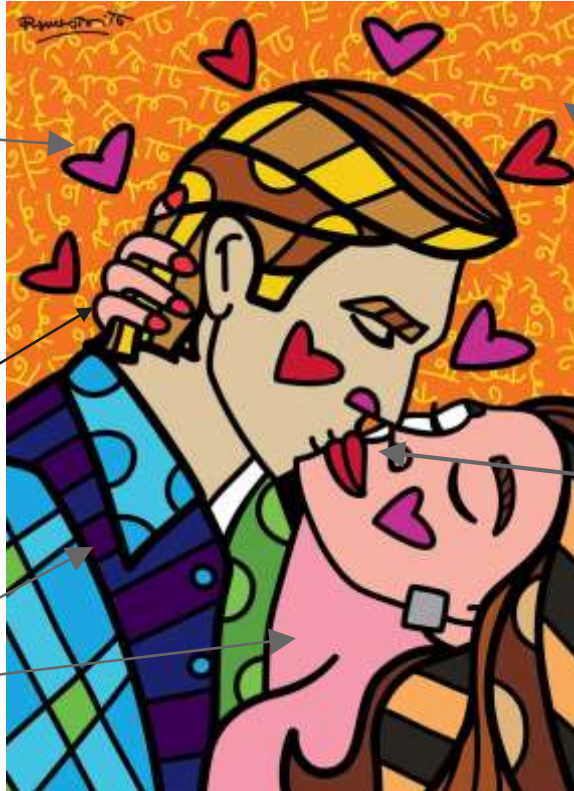
Britto, Romero.
Passionate. Britto.com/

INTERPRETATION OF FUNCTION AND PURPOSE

Hearts are usually used to express love. The hearts in this case are used to further emphasize the message of love that Romero Britto is trying to express through this piece.

The protection is also seen from the feminine figure with the positioning of her hand on his neck.

One of the reasons why it is inferred that marriage is the focus of the piece is the fact that Britto used a man and a woman as the “center piece of the



The background is filled with confetti like lines, which can add to the interpretation that love is a “party” and it should always be celebrated.

The man from the composition gives the lady a kiss on the cheek and not the lips. This symbolizes a sense of protection in contrast to a kiss on the lips, where there would be a sexual interpretation to it. This accurately expresses Britto's message of love rather than sexual attraction and how love doesn't necessarily mean sex.

ANALYSIS OF FORMAL QUALITIES

Britto used bright vibrant colors that can instantly catch the attention of the viewer. The use of color helps portray the artist Britto's positive attitude toward the theme.



The artist also uses multiple different geometric shapes. The geometric shapes show the cubist inspiration that the artist has adapted to, with his own twist to it.



The artist uses asymmetrical balance. The two main figures in this case the man and the woman compose the majority of the boundaries, therefore the background is limited in size. This shows the stability that a marriage can have as well as the instability that a marriage can undergo, due to conflicts. Also the fact that the composition is mostly composed of the couple creates an emphasis on them.

COMPARING ARTISTIC STYLE

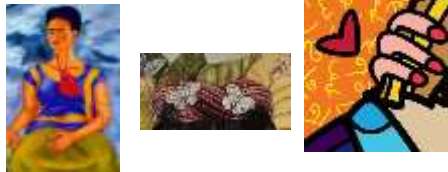
Frida Kahlo

- Frida Kahlo's paintings are inspired by her own personal experiences, and use symbols that are specific to her life. For example, the money that Rivera gifted her.



Both

- Both artists use bright colors that catch the attention of the viewer instantly. Although they both used bright colors there's an obvious contrast between the colors because of the difference in time periods.



Romero Britto

- Romero Britto also used symbolism as an essential part of his work, but these differentiated from Kahlo's because he uses universal symbols that everyone can define. For example the contrast between the hearts and the confetti.



COMPARING EMOTION

Dimension and shading= More realistic



There's a huge distinction between the use of emotion between the artists. Frida Kahlo uses her own techniques with the oil paints to create dimension and that messed with the mood of sorrow, almost portraying suicidal messages. On the other hand, Britto has another vision of life. He believes that there is always a sense of optimism much brighter than what Frida Kahlo painted. Although they both focused on the concept of marriage they each had a distinct perspective on it.

Britto, Romero. Passionate. Britto.com/



Happiness although the piece is unrealistic

COMPARING TECHNIQUES



In her artwork, "Two Fridas", Kahlo used oil paint on canvas to create seamless blends. Also, oil paint allows to come back after a few days and continue working and still guarantees a fresh paint.



Frida Kahlo used oil on canvas to create her iconic self portraits. The oil paint allowed Frida Kahlo to create seamless transitions and blended contours and highlights facial features.



This artwork is a digital print, which clues the modern era in which the Romero Britto works in. This also allowed Britto to have completely opaque color with no streakiness that would be created with a brush.

CONNECTION TO OWN WORK: FRIDA KAHLO



Frida in the City
Oil/Acrylic on Canvas, 2017
60.96 cm x 60.96 cm

Frida Kahlo has inspired me to create the art piece to the right titled *Frida in the City*. This piece represents the renewed Frida representing my mother in her new “environment”. The new environment would be the city which is non traditional from the ones seen in the Mexican culture. Just like Frida, I incorporated specific symbols that represent the Mexican culture like the “reboso” and the flowers. These are artifacts that represent the Mexican culture but also that represent the color of the culture. Both Kahlo and myself used oil paint to create a smooth blended face, to make the painting more realistic. Another similarity is the “collage” like composition where there is no unity between the background and the foreground.



CONNECTION TO OWN WORK: FRIDA KAHLO



-The two Frida's represent the Frida that is left behind with her husband Diego Rivera and the one that he has created due to his rejection.

The representation of the two cultures was an essential to incorporate the difficulties of living between two cultures as well as the assimilation of a new culture. The new culture is represented by the city background. The city represents the new beginning in a new country and a new culture while still hanging on to the traditional customs. One of the sensations that can be portrayed from these is a sense of out of place. This sensation is created by different interpretation of the artist of what it is like to enter a new culture.



Frida in the City
Oil/Acrylic on Canvas, 2017
60.96 cm x 60.96 cm

CONNECTION TO OWN WORK: ROMERO BRITTO



Britto, Romero. *Passionate*.
Britto.com/

Romero Britto's artistic style inspired me to create the piece to the right titled, *Love*, with the intention of portraying a mixture of the pop art movement and cubist style. Not only is the artistic style similar but so is the message that the art piece is trying to send. They are both trying to send a message of love. This is done with a portrayal of two figures and the heart symbols. Both Britto and myself incorporate the symbols of hearts which are universal to represent love. It was important for me to spread love with this piece because the world at this moment is undergoing a lot of hate. This is similar to Britto's reason to create his piece of *Passionate*. Not only did I want to spread love around the world, but it is something that I am feeling at that moment. I do feel loved by my family friends and significant other, and what an artist is going through at the moment of creation is reflected on the piece.



Love
Acrylic on Canvas, 2017

CONNECTION TO OWN WORK: ROMERO BRITTO



Although both the message and the artistic styles are the same there is a difference in techniques used. Romero Britto's original piece is a digital work. Therefore colors are more vibrant and smooth, as well as more intricate. My piece is an acrylic painting, and there is so much I can do to create the vibrant color with the acrylic paint. My limitation with acrylic paint is that acrylic paint is watered down therefore the intensity and vibrancy of the colors is diminished. Yet although the mediums are different the texture that is created by both pieces is similar. There is no dimension, therefore the art is flat in color, which gives it an unrealistic sense,



CONNECTION TO OWN WORK: KAHLO AND BRITTO

Frida in the City



Frida in the City
Oil/Acrylic on Canvas,
2017
60.96 cm x 60.96 cm

Connection

Throughout the pieces I explored the different mediums of oil and acrylic paint in order to expand my knowledge of what works better for different styles. I also learned how our personal experiences and our feelings are the major inspirations to each and everyone of our art pieces. Our emotions felt at the time of creating is reflected on the piece. This furthers in to the idea that there is no copying in art there is inspiration because there is always a personal touch. Also, learning about different cultures has opened my mind in order to accept different views and learning how to combine my beliefs with theirs. This is important in order to develop a broader understanding of art around the world.

Love



Love
Acrylic on Canvas, 2017