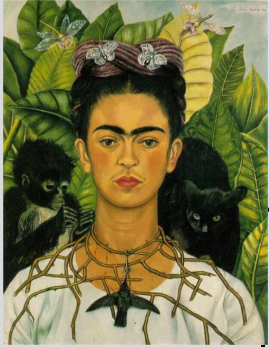


Comparative Study

Isabella Rivera

Introduction



“Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird” was created by Mexican painter, Frida Kahlo in 1940. This piece is a self portrait that serves as a symbol for how Kahlo views herself. Kahlo uses familiar shapes and objects in order to portray aspects of her life and her identity. There are also some distinct color choices used to describe the feelings that she felt in this time of her life.

Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

The last piece that will be examined is the 1886 “Self Portrait with a Beret” by Claude Monet. Claude Monet was a french Impressionist painter. The impressionistic style can be seen all throughout this oil painting, from the line forms created by the brushstrokes to the color palette that Monet chose to use. Every aspect of this piece was intentionally placed to create the self portrait for the theme of self identity.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

“The Two Fridas” was also created by Frida Kahlo, with this one being done previously in 1939. This piece has a theme of changing identity depending on life situations. It is depicting two figures of Frida Kahlo holding hands. There is a clear distinction between the two images of her. Similarly in this piece, Kahlo’s use of color, shape, and form helps the viewer to understand the story that she is trying to tell.

Cultural Context



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886,
www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

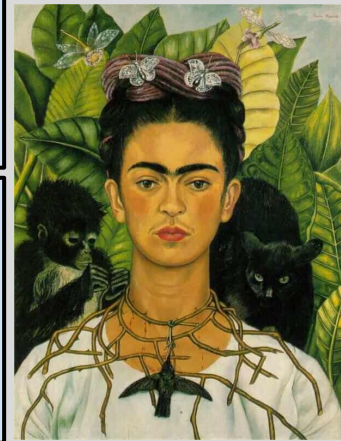
Claude Monet spent most of his teen years traveling around Paris. He was then called for mandatory military duty by the French army. In the Army he began painting landscapes and portraits of his fellow army personnel. During his time in the army he developed typhoid fever, which led to his discharge, under the clause that he attend a formal art school. While in art school, Monet became acquainted with other fellow artists. Him along with these artists began to experiment with color and artistic styles, which would later inspire the impressionistic art style. Throughout the next years, Monet would begin to create artworks and commissioning them off. One of his art subjects for one of these commissions would later become his wife, Camille. They began to start their family and became married. Once him and his family settled down, he continued to work on his art.

Some of the works he began to create were inspired by military themes. However his most common works were self portraits, other portraits of people, and natural sceneries, such as water lilies. He would commission off his works in order to support his family and his lifestyle. Although there were struggles with getting his artworks out there and noticed, he still had support in selling his pieces. His works began to be more recognized.

When *Self Portrait with a Beret* was created by Monet, him and his family were living in Giverny, France. He was living with his second wife and his children after his first wife had passed away due to illness. During this time, Monet was able to find a sense of peace and relaxation after the years of grief and struggle that had been after his wife had passed away. In this piece, Monet is depicting this time in his life by the expression of his face and the colors used. The style of the piece goes back to the impressionistic style that he discovered in art school. Throughout Monet's whole lifetime, art was a way that Monet was able to express himself and show off his abilities. Many of the events in the world and in his personal life shaped the way that Monet created his works.

Cultural Context

As a young girl, Kahlo lived through the Mexican Revolution. Her mom would protect her and her sister as gunshots were heard around them. Kahlo had witnessed the violence in the streets as she grew older. Also when she was younger she was got spina bifida. Her first career choice was to study medicine, but after her accident her attention changed to becoming a full-time painter. She was mostly immobile for three months, which served as time for her to strengthen her painting abilities. She turned to creating self-portraits because she said that she is the subject that she knows best. Most of her works are self-portraits of herself.



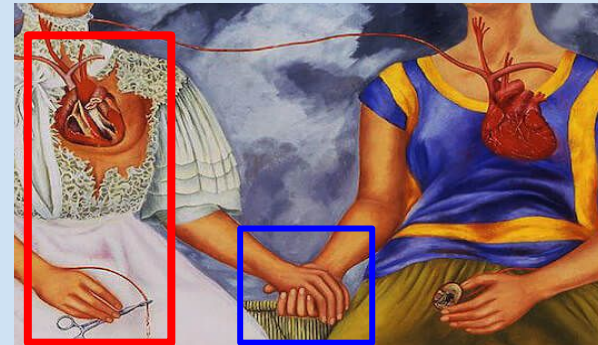
Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

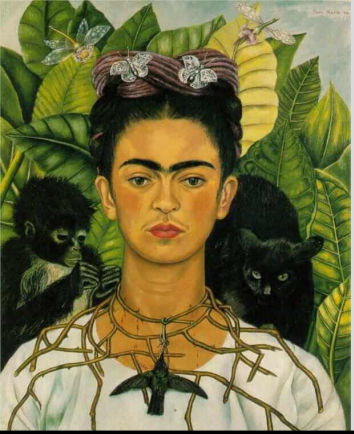
Most of her self-portraits are of her in a painful manner. This is mostly because of the heartaches and pain that she had endured throughout her lifetime. Through the accident she suffered, her failed marriage, and all of her operations. There is both an emotional pain and a physical pain portrayed throughout the self-portraits that Kahlo has created.

The Two Fridas was created shortly after Kahlo had divorced her husband, Diego Rivera. One Kahlo is dressed in traditional outfit with a **broken heart**, sitting next to another Kahlo who is seen as an independent woman and more of a modern version. The broken heart represents the heartache and loneliness she felt after her divorce. The two Kahlo's are **holding hands** which could be seen as her independence and her ability to comfort herself in her time of distress. There were worldly events, such as the Mexican Revolution, and personal events, such as her accident and marriage, that shaped the way that she created her artwork. This cultural context had a heavy influence on the theme of her art works.



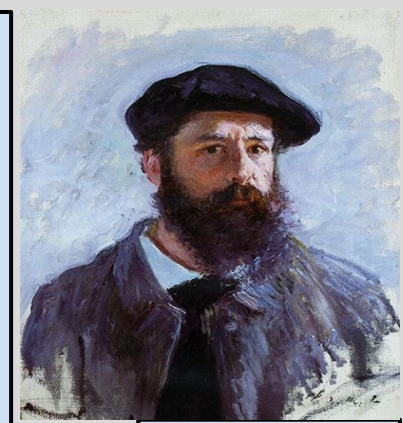
Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

Contrast in Cultural Context



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

There are quite a few similarities in the cultural context of the works of Claude Monet and Frida Kahlo. Although their cultural backgrounds and heritage were fairly different, they were both heavily influenced by their past and events that were currently happening in their lives. One of the most notable similarities is the fact that they both had lost a spouse, even if it was not in the same way. The wife of Claude Monet passed away due to an illness. Then he later moved with his new wife and his children. This had a heavy influence on his art piece. Frida Kahlo, however, did not lose her spouse in the same way. Her husband, fellow painter, Diego Rivera, and her divorced. After the divorce, Kahlo was heartbroken and that had a significant impact on her pieces. Although, the way they both lost their spouses were different, they both had losses that affected the way they created their art pieces and the styles in which they did.



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

Both Monet and Kahlo were influenced by the army during their creative years. Monet was called in by the French Army to serve mandatory military services. During this time is when he began painting landscapes and portraits of fellow army personnel. Kahlo grew up during the Mexican Revolution. She had witnessed the violence in the streets and heard the gunshots outside. These times in the painters lives had somewhat of a heavy impact on the work that they created at that time or later in their lives.

Many artist are influenced by their cultural background and events that have happened in their live. This is very much true for Claude Monet and Frida Kahlo. They have some very similar aspects to their cultural background and how that later influenced the works that they created, from the form, colors, styles, and the symbols that were present in their pieces.

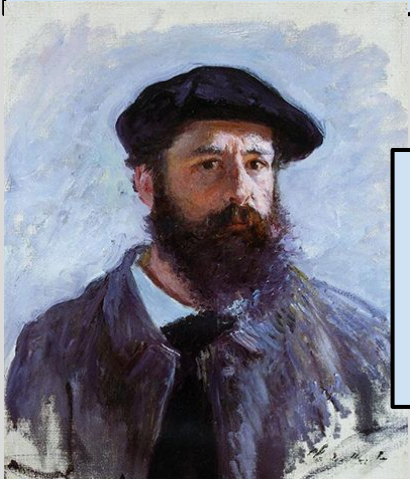


Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

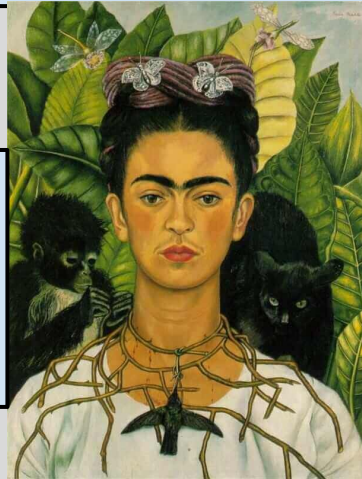
Comparisons in Cultural Context

Although there were quite a few similarities between the works of Kahlo and Monet, there are also a few differences between their pieces. One of the distinct differences is the way that they got into art. Monet spent most of his teen years traveling through Paris, exploring. After that is when he got called into the army and later began working on his art. Whereas, Kahlo had dreamed of studying medicine. When she was younger she was diagnosed with spina bifida and after her accident, she was left mostly immobile. That is how she turned to art. There is a clear difference in how they turned to their art careers.

The main subject in Kahlo's pieces were herself. She said that she is the subject that she knows the best. She often used her personal struggles such as her relationship and her medical situation to create her artworks. She depicted the physical and emotion pain in her pieces. This is different than Monet because Monet's typical subject was the nature that was around him. He did stray away from that sometimes, however, he did mostly stick to landscapes. Their artistic styles are also relatively different. Monet had discovered the impressionistic style in art school, which was heavily present in his art works. Especially *Self Portrait With a Beret*. On the other hand, Kahlo's works are often associated with the surrealist movement and her works are often symbolic. These are two very different art movements. All of these differences contrast show that these two artists were relatively different, even through the similarities.



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

Compare and Contrast with personal work



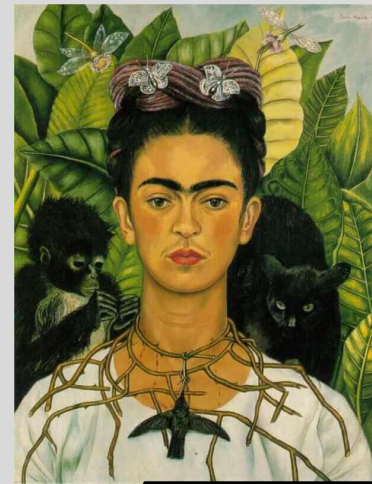
My piece is a colored pencil self portrait that I created that captivated myself at a time I felt most confident with myself. In my lifetime I have struggles with confidence with myself, Through this piece I was able to show myself feeling confident. This is similar to *Self Portrait with a Beret* because Monet created this piece as a means of expression to portray emotion.

Both Kahlo and Monet were both taken aback for medical reasons. However this did play a role in how they created their work. This is where my work and theirs is culturally different. My piece was created due to a lack of confidence rather than a medical reason. However, there is both mental health reasons for my piece in comparison to the studied pieces on the left.

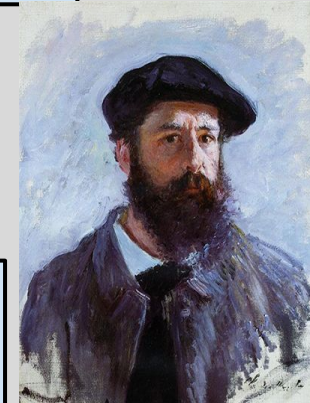
In both of Frida Kahlo's piece, she using symbolism to depict the emotions that have influenced the creations of the works. This is not something that is seen in my original piece because it is hard to depict self confidence in a simple illustration. Along with this both artists have experienced war in their early lives. This had an effect on their artworks because this shaped part of their lives. This is most notable with Kahlo who was active in the community and experienced the war in her early life. My piece does not have this depth in reference to cultural context. The cultural context of my illustration is more personal to my life and the experiences that I have had. Outside forced did not have much of an influence on the creation of my piece as much as it has with these professional artists, who had more live experiences than me currently.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Monet, Claude. *Self-Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

Material & Concept Significance of the work of Claude Monet

Monet, Claude. *Self
Portrait with a Beret*.
1886,
www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

Self Portrait with a Beret was created in oil paints on a canvas in 1886. During this time was the impressionist movement, which it is said was created by Monet and people around him. Most impressionist painters preferred to paint landscapes and scenes around them, and the paints allowed them to accurately depict the scenes but with a spin. The painters in this era would lay down layers of paint using light and fine brushstrokes, while also paying attention to how they would portray the light source in this piece. In Monet's piece to the right, we can see the highlights on the right side of monet's face and the darkness on the left side. With this being said, the brushstrokes are still highly visible, which is an extremely large part of the impressionistic style. This is present throughout the entire self portrait by Monet, from the sky to the clothes.

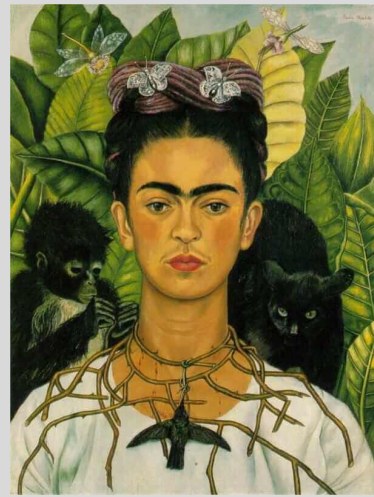


When it comes to the works of impressionist painters it is sometimes hard to identify a clear meaning within the work. This is because they often just painted whatever they saw around them, such as the nature, which does not really have a clear message. This piece by Monet is a depiction of how Monet saw himself at this specific time in his life especially after all of the events that were happening at this time. Monet was able to manipulate the oil paint to produce this representation of himself. The use of brushstrokes, colors and tones, even if it may not have been explicitly stated, seem to be strategically placed. This may have been done because of the expressiveness that comes with this specific painting and also the impressionistic style.

In the specific time that *Self Portrait with a Beret* was created there were definitely some advances in the painting technology that had previously existed. In the 19th century, when this painting was created, vibrant paints that were already premixed were now available in tubes. This made the paints more accessible to the painters and allowed them to paint whenever they wanted. They would be able to paint their scenery easier and sometimes they would even get pieces of nature attached to their canvases because they were able to paint outside. Along with this there were even some developments to the color theory, making it more contrasting.

Material & Concept Significance of the works of Frida Kahlo

Self portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird and *The Two Fridas* are both artworks produced by Frida Kahlo in the form of oil paint on a canvas. The importance of the paint is not explicitly stated, similarly with Monet, however through the meaning of the artwork itself, we can determine why the paint would be important. The meaning behind the works that Kahlo created were her own self identity and how she viewed herself in the present day. The *Self portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* was created to show the emotional and physical pain that Kahlo felt. The use of paint in this piece helps to create the symbols that help to express the pain. The symbolism that Kahlo was able to create through the manipulation of the medium is what helps the viewer to better understand the overall meaning. The color choice helps to create the connections to the cultural context and the meaning as well. Similarly, with the *The Two Fridas*, Kahlo is able to manipulate the oil paint in a way that helps show the emotional pain she felt after her marriage with Diego Rivera ended. As discussed previously, The medium of the piece is significant because it allowed Kahlo to fully depict the overall message in the piece. I immediately turn to the bright and vivid colors of the hearts and arteries that were able to be created with the use of the oil paint.

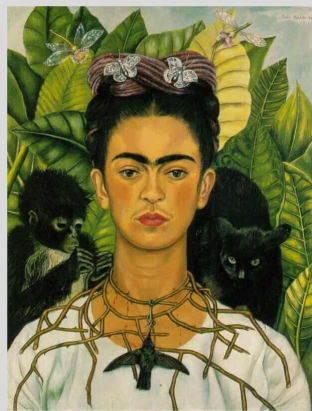


Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

To focus more on the use of the oil paint on the canvas, I think it is easy to say that if other paint mediums were used, the artwork would have been very different. Oil paint tends to appear more glossy and more opaque, which allows for the building up and layering of colors on the canvas. With Kahlo's painting style it is clear to see that the oil paint was a very smart move. The details in the facial features in *Self portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* are easily created with the oil paint and help to show the meaning through the facial expressions.



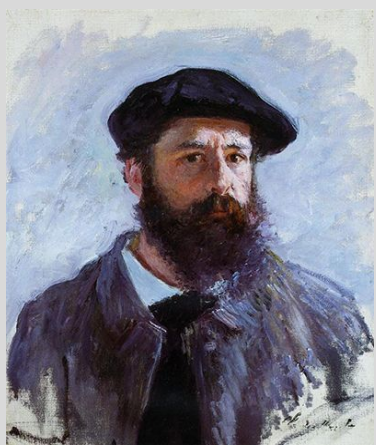
Compare and Contrast of Material and Concept Significance

When it comes to the material and concept significance between the *Self Portrait with a Beret* by Claude Monet, *Self portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* and *The Two Fridas* by Frida Kahlo, there are some notable similarities and differences. The most obvious similarities have to do with the medium of the works. All three of the paintings are paint, specifically oil paints, on a canvas. Both of the artists were able to use the medium to create artworks that depict who they were at this specific time in their life. Given that all of these pieces are self portraits, we get a sense of how they viewed themselves, which goes back to the conceptual meaning.

Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939,
www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940,
www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp

Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886,
www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.



The two artists come from very different cultural backgrounds and were both heavily influenced by their artistic movements, events and tragedies that they were going through at the time that these pieces were created. As mentioned earlier, Monet was an impressionist painter. Impressionist paintings have a very distinct look and feel to them. So he was able to manipulate the oil paint in a way that would deliver the signature marks of the impressionist movement, such as the brushstrokes and shadows created by the focal point of the light source. This makes the material that he used very significant because if it was not used the artwork would have come out looking very different. On the other hand, with Kahlo, she made her artworks more realistic and true to form. She also was able to manipulate the oil paint in a way that was true to her own style, which was different than the style of Monet. With Monet, we can conclude that the oil paint was easily accessible to him because of the technological advancements made to the vessel in which the oil paint came. The new tubes in which they came allowed for artists at the time to paint wherever. With Kahlo, being in the 20th century, we can assume that the technological advancements were even larger. Painting became more well known, therefore the paints and other materials were largely accessible to her.

Compare and Contrast with personal work



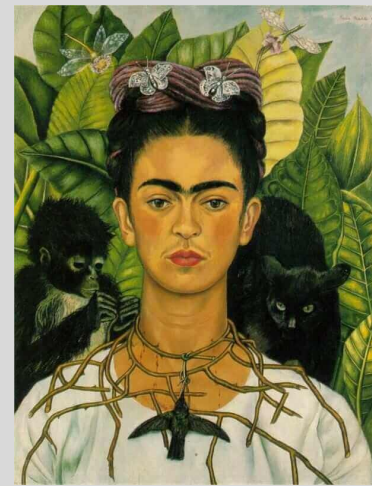
As stated previously, my personal piece is a self-portrait that was created with the medium of colored pencils. The entire piece was created only using different shades and brands of colored pencils. The only other thing used to create this piece was a graphite pencil and an eraser for shading and correcting mistakes. I chose this medium since I was making this piece with the realism movement as my inspiration.

The Two Fridas, *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, and *Self portrait with a Beret* were all created with paint. Oil paint to be more specific. This is the most notable difference between the materials between my original work and the studied pieces to the right. This has important significance because the choice of medium signifies what an artist is comfortable with and what was available at the time.

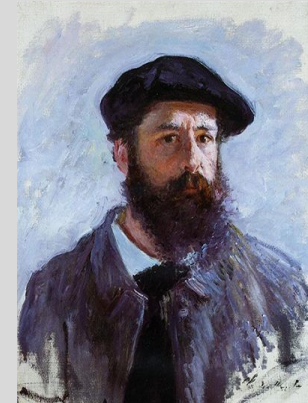
As far as the significance of the medium, we have to analyze how the mediums help to depict the message of the painting as well as the art movement. For my piece, the colored pencils allowed me to capture the realism in my piece. The precision of the colored pencils helped with the small details that help to convey the overall message. More specifically, the facial features are what help to convey the message of self confidence. Kahlo also is in the realm of realism and was able to portray this with the oil paint. She was able to use precise brush strokes to create the symbolism that shows the message. On the other hand, Monet was able to capture the elements of impressionism with the same medium. The medium that an artist chooses overall sends a message that improves the quality to the work.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/he-two-fridas.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.



Monet, Claude. *Self-Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

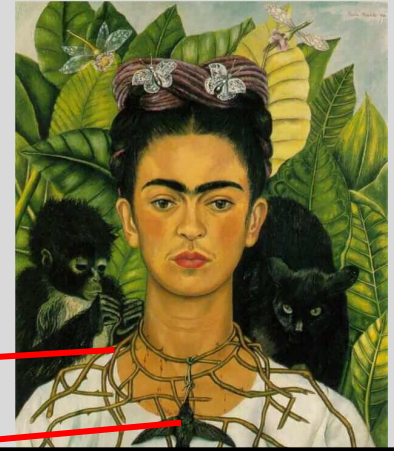
Function and Purpose

Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.



With the works of Frida Kahlo, the overall purpose is to symbolize and express her self-identity and how she viewed herself. In *The Two Fridas*, Kahlo depicts herself in two very different ways. The first way she depicts herself is in modern clothing with a broken heart and blood dripping out of a vein onto her white dress. The other way she depicts herself is wearing very traditional clothing relating to her heritage. In this one her heart is intact and she appears to be healthy. The purpose of this is to express her conflicting identities as she attempts to stay true to her culture, while also modernizing. This piece was created shortly after her and her husband, Diego Rivera, divorced, which could also play a large role in why she portrays herself in the very different ways.

Kahlo used specific images and shapes in her work to symbolize the pain she felt with her illness and also her ending marriage. Those symbols include the cut heart and veins in *The Two Fridas*. They symbols of the cut vein and blood were a way that Kahlo was able to express the pain she felt in light of the recent divorce she faced. This was a way for the viewer to be able to understand and resonate to how Kahlo was feeling. In *Self portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, the purpose is also to show her self expression through the symbolism. Upon further research and a deeper dive into the artwork itself there are many symbols that may not be super obvious. Firstly the thorn necklace that she portrays herself wearing is seemingly causing her pain as the monkey plays with part of it in the back. Also there is a lifeless hummingbird attached to the front of the thorn necklace, which is symbolic because hummingbirds are seen as a symbolism of hope and love. Considering the hummingbird is lifeless, the viewer can conclude that the purpose of this piece is to symbolism the loss of hope and love that Kahlo was facing at this time in her life. Overall, the purpose of both of the works of Kahlo is to symbolize her conflicting self-identity and to document her emotions as certain events took force in her life.

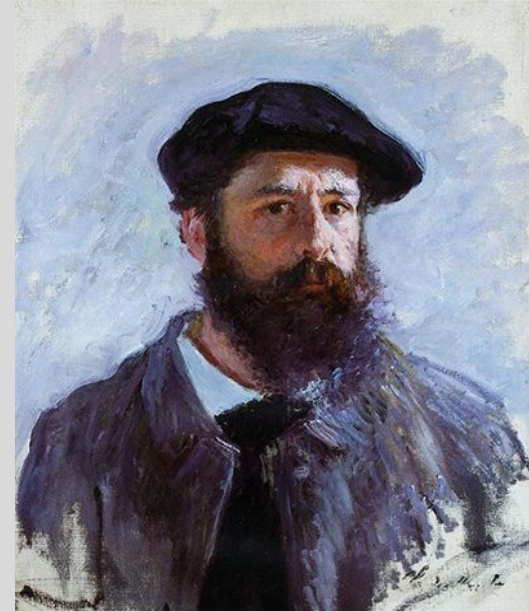


Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

Function and Purpose

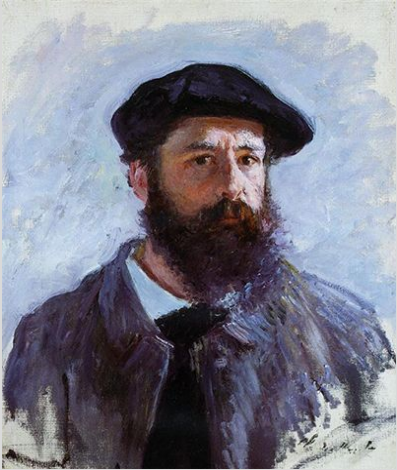
Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

The purpose of *Self Portrait with a Beret* is to capture the important aspects of the impressionist movement while also capturing the current state of Claude Monet at the present time in 1886. The overall goal of impressionist pieces is to capture the moment in its entirety, which includes the shapes, forms, and contrast of light and dark. This is heavily present in *Self Portrait with a Beret*, which was the goal. Monet is telling a story through this piece, from the impressionist part of his life to the events that have transpired. Shortly before Monet created this piece, he had lost his first wife and was challenged to raise his children himself. That is until he married his second wife and moved to Giverny, France. This is where he continued his works, finding a new source of inspiration. Some of his most famous pieces were inspired by this specific location. It is safe to say that all of these events that happened in the years before the painting had a significant impact in how Monet created *Self Portrait with a Beret*. I think that the purpose of this self-portrait was to portray his own self identity through the implied emotion in the piece. Monet painted himself with a straight face, almost looking upset in a way. This is most likely caused by the loss and grief that he had endured in the years leading up to the creation of this piece. It also appears that this piece has an outdoor setting, which is meaningful because that is where he found his happiness. This entirely ties back to his self identity.



With all of this being said, I think the most important purpose of this piece is to demonstrate and show off the impressionist techniques and characteristics. Monet worked to include the contrast to both the light highlights and also the dark shades in his works, while also capturing the realistic elements in the piece. *Self Portrait with a Beret* is a perfect example of when these contrasts were used. Monet was one of the founders of the impressionist movement, so it would make sense for him to want others to see those aspects of it in his works, which is one of the main purposes of the painting in general. This painting serves the function of educating and informing people on the movement as a whole, how the movement is present as a whole, and how he is able to show it in his painting to create that overall meaning.

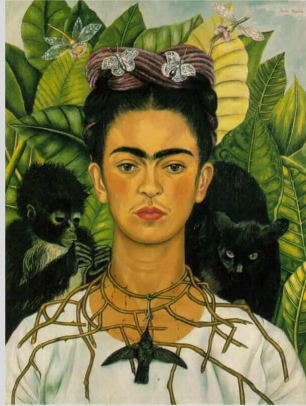
Compare and Contrast of Function and Purpose



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886,
www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939,
www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940,
www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

The function and purpose of the works of Claude Monet and Frida Kahlo are both similar in ways but also relatively different also. I believe that the main purpose of the self portrait that Monet created was to showcase the impressionist movement in his piece. Monet used very specific techniques of the impressionist movement in this piece, which is clearly prevalent. Also, I believe this piece was created as a way for Monet to express his emotions. As stated in previous slides, Monet had some major life changes before he created this piece. His first wife had passed and he just moved to Giverny with his second wife. I think this self portrait was created as a mode of self expression. This would be a contrast with the function and purpose of the two self portraits to the left created by Frida Kahlo. Kahlo also used the creation of her two self portraits as a way to express her identity and the emotions she was feeling at those given times. Through her health struggles and deteriorating marriage, she was able to express that through the self portraits that she had created. Kahlo used symbolism as a medium of expression.

A difference between the pieces goes back to the first point that I made. One of the purposes of Monet's work is to exemplify the impressionist movement. However, this is not seen in the works of Frida Kahlo. We can see the realism movement in the piece, but the pieces were not created as a way to express the movement.

Function and Purpose of Personal Work



A Summer Gaze

The broader function and purpose of *A Summer Gaze* is to portray myself at a time that I felt comfortable with myself. This illustration is a recreation of a photo that was taken of me for my senior pictures. When I was little I used to love when pictures were being taken of me, but as I have grown up I have stopped liking pictures. When these pictures were taken of me, it was the first time in years that I enjoyed the pictures being taken of me. As I was creating this illustration, I could tell through the pictures that I felt confident at this time. So the overall purpose in the creation of this piece was to portray the self-confidence that I had felt and to be able to depict a time in my life where I enjoyed the pictures being taken of me. This serves as an example of this happy time for me.

Similar to my first original piece, *Captured in Time* is another self-portrait that is used to depict self-portrait. This painting was created to depict a time that I may not be feeling as confident. Whether it is physically or mentally, this painting shows that sometimes I just feel very cold in my feelings. In this painting there is a lack of emotion which is sometimes something that I feel. Therefore the purpose and function of this piece is to relay the message that sometimes not everybody is having a good day or is feeling well with themselves.



Captured in Time

The meaning behind both of my original artworks, *A Summer Gaze* and *Captured in Time*, is self-confidence and how the feelings that I have about myself can change on a dime. My pieces are similar similar with that of Claude Monet because the messages that are being told through the art are being given through the choices in the background and the overall facial features. With Kahlo, she demonstrates the overall messages of her works through symbols such as the blood, thorns, and animals that are present in her piece. This is how the function and purpose of my pieces differs through that of Kahlo. On the other hand, there is one similarity between the function and purpose. The similarity is the overall messages of the pieces. With all three of the inspirational pieces, *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, *The Two Fridas*, and *Self Portrait with a Beret*, the message that is being conveyed is self-esteem and self worth.

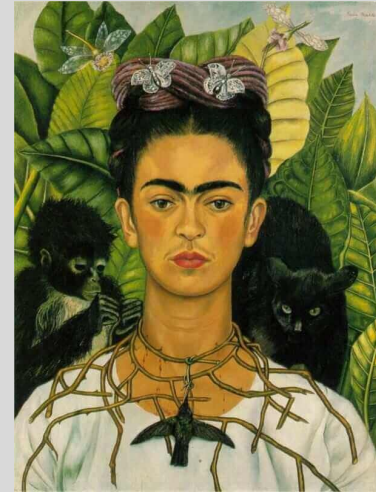
Formal Qualities

In the *Two Fridas*, Kahlo depicts herself in a traditional outfit and also a modern outfit. She uses a certain range of colors on the traditional outfit to make it true to the outfits that are native to her culture. She then uses brighter colors to create the more modern outfit. The brushwork details and the contrast in shading helped to make the clothing appear more realistic and in true form. The shading on the clothing helps to show that the clothing is laying on her body, so it creates the realistic appearance. Kahlo uses a very vibrant red and very fine lines for the hearts, arteries, and the blood in order for them to stand out.



The use of the dark blue and clouds in the sky is significant to the overall message to the piece. I believe that with everything that was going on in her life, the dark sky seems to symbolize the turmoil she was facing. She uses a dark blue as the base of the sky and layers on scumbles of white and light gray to create the clouds. The scumbling creates a sense of texture for the clouds and makes them realistic looking.

Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/g/the-two-fridas.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

In *Self Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*, Kahlo uses many aspects of symbolism that represents her culture and also the struggles that shape her identity. There is a repetitiveness to the bright green and yellow leaves in the back that act as the back layer to the piece. There is detailed line work used to create the thorn necklace that we see her wearing. The fine, red brushstrokes under the thorn necklace serve as blood, that represents struggle. The fine brushstrokes are carried over into the creation of the monkey and the cat to give them their realistic aspects. Many of the aspects have these thin brushstrokes to give a high level of detail.

There is a clear significance to the inclusion of the dead hummingbird that is attached to the thorn necklace that Kahlo painted herself wearing. Upon further research, the hummingbird is significant because it represents joy, love, and luck. Since the bird is dead we can assume it represents loss of joy, love, and luck.

Formal Qualities

In this specific part of *Self Portrait with a Beret*, there is a high level of contrast between the darker and lighter skin shades. With the impressionist movement, the artist's goal is to capture an image and depict it with the correct lighting. With this contrast of the light and dark, the viewer is able to see where an implied light source is. The clean blending of the darker and lighter shades help to create unity in this part of the painting.



Claude Monet was able to create this immaculate piece that helps to display the elements and characteristics of both the impressionist movement and his own talent. From the color to the lines and the shapes, there is a sense of harmony throughout the entire piece. The specific color palette that Monet used was significant in that he used warm colors in his facial features but contrasted that with the cool colors of the background and clothing. As far as brushstrokes, Monet used smaller ones to create the implied textures in his beard and facial features. Larger brushstrokes were used in the parts of the sky and the clothing so that he could lay down the colors in layers. The layers are mostly all visible while also being blended well together.



Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886,
www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.

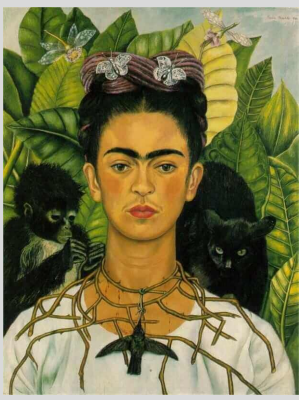
In this part of the painting we get to see the sky that Monet painted behind him. There is a gradation of shades of blue that were used to paint the sky along with a hint of purple. The brushstrokes are heavily present in all parts of the painting, however, they are very prevalent in this specific area of the painting. While the brushstrokes are heavily present they do not overpower the work. They work together in harmony. All of these elements in just this tiny section exhibit the immense talent that the Claude Monet had in being able to depict reality while also displaying his own elements as well.



This section of the painting is of the shoulder area of Monet. With the different shades and colors blended together in one space helps to create some implied texture to the shirt. Some of the colors and shades have dominance over the others.



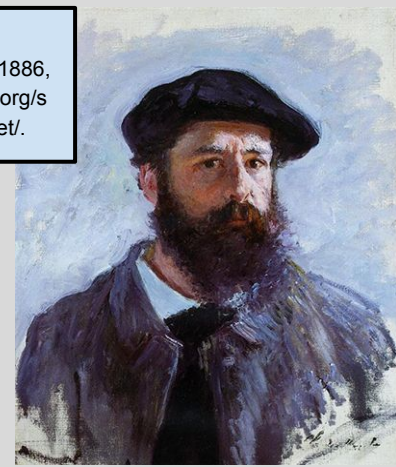
Kahlo, Frida.
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and Hummingbird*.
1940,
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Kahlo, Frida. *The
Two Fridas*. 1939,
[www.fridakahlo.org/
the-two-fridas.jsp](http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp).

Similarities in Formal Qualities

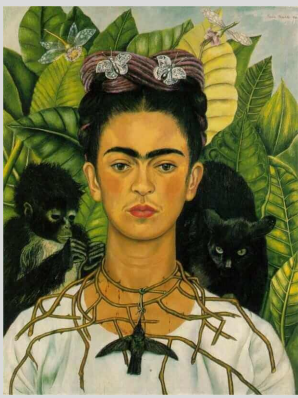
Monet, Claude. *Self
Portrait with a Beret*. 1886,
[www.monetpaintings.org/s
elf-portrait-with-a-beret/](http://www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/).



Both Kahlo and Monet used specific colors and brushwork to create fulfill their overall purpose is creating their pieces. Monet uses the range of wide and thin brushwork to create the facial expressions he is giving. Through these facial expressions, the viewer can get a sense of the emotions that Monet was feeling when this piece was created. This is similar to the works the two pieces by Kahlo in the way that brushwork was used as a mean of expression. One way we can see this is in the line work that was used to create the thorn necklace in the piece *Self-Portrait with Thorn necklace and Hummingbird*. The small details of the thorns and the blood are created to express pain and hurt. Both Kahlo and Monet were very strategic in the line work and the placement of elements in their works that help to display a message.

Another similarity of the pieces are the realisticness of all three of them. Monet paints in a way that is very true to the impressionist movement. With the impressionist movement, the goal of the artist is to depict an accurate version of reality, from the true form to even the light source. This is heavily prevalent in *Self Portrait with a Beret*. Monet depicted himself in some sort of outside setting, so it was important for him to depict where the light source would come from. He uses a contrast of light and dark shades for his skin tone, which helps add a more realistic element. Both *Self-Portrait with Thorn necklace and Hummingbird* and *The Two Fridas* by Frida Kahlo are extremely realistic as well. The brushwork and range of colors in *Self-Portrait with Thorn necklace and Hummingbird* make each of the elements stand out in their way while also coming together in unity to create a sense of cohesiveness throughout the entire piece. The accurateness of the facial features and the elements of the dead bird and thorn necklace help to convey the pain that Kahlo was feeling. This was also conveyed in the two fridas though the inclusion of the broken heart, blood, cut arteries, and the dark clouds. Each of these elements have very detailed line work to help make the elements stand out. The bright red of the heart and blood on the left contrasts with the crisp white so that it stands out. Also, the figures of Kahlo stand out against the dark blue and white background which appears to be strategic in a way.

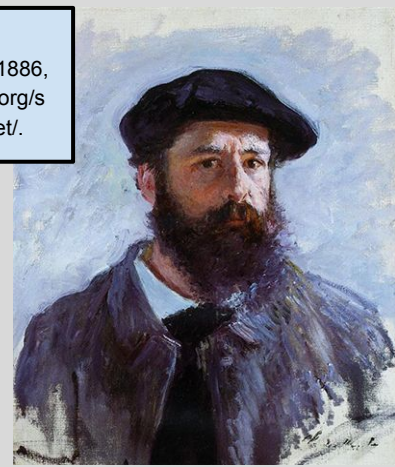
Kahlo, Frida.
*Self-Portrait with
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1940,
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d-hummingbird.jsp](http://www.fridakahlo.org/g/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp)
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Kahlo, Frida. *The
Two Fridas.* 1939,
[www.fridakahlo.org/
the-two-fridas.jsp](http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp).

Differences in Formal Qualities

Monet, Claude. *Self
Portrait with a Beret.* 1886,
[www.monetpaintings.org/s
elf-portrait-with-a-beret/](http://www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/).



While there are many similarities between these works of Kahlo and Monet, there are key differences as well. The first main difference is that Kahlo has very prevalent cultural elements to her pieces, specifically *The Two Fridas*. In *The Two Fridas* Kahlo depicts one of her figures in very traditional clothing to her culture and her other figure is dressed in modern clothing. Kahlo uses very detailed line work to include as many details as possible to truly depict the traditional clothing. The limited colors used on the traditional outfit are specifically how Kahlo intended to depict the traditionally clothing. On the other side, Kahlo depicts herself in modern clothing. The clothes were painted with very bright colors which is a stark contrast to her other depiction. This was a way for Kahlo to show the two sides of her, traditional and modern.

The second notable difference between the works are the color choices between *Self Portrait with a Beret* and the two works by Kahlo are very different. Monet stuck to a range of blue shades with a tint of purple for the sky and part of the clothing. The colors for the facial elements are shades of brown, which adds to the simplicity of the piece. The colors that Monet painted this piece with are overall pretty dull and flat, but still have elements to it that make the brushstrokes pop out. This is because of the range of shades were being placed one on top of the other adding the shading and highlights necessary to create the contrast. This is a very obvious difference from the works of Frida Kahlo. In *Self-Portrait with Thorn necklace and Hummingbird* and *The Two Fridas*, Kahlo uses very bright and vivid colors that are visually appealing to the viewer. The brightness of the colors help to contrast with the whiteness in certain point of *The Two Fridas*. In *Self-Portrait with Thorn necklace and Hummingbird* the vividness of the green and yellow for the leaves serve as a background that doesn't overtake the entire piece like the viewer may anticipate it would. The blackness of the animals and the dead hummingbird act as symbols that are important to the piece. They stand out against the green of the leaves but are still not the focal point of the piece. As a viewer, the focal point for me is facial features of Kahlo. The colors and shading used are extremely realistic.

Formal Qualities of Personal Work



A Summer Gaze

A Summer Gaze is a self portrait that I created entirely out of Crayola and PrismaColor colored pencils. I used this medium because it is one that I often tend to not work with often because I never saw it as a professional kind of medium. However, I realized that illustrating with colored pencil allowed me to enhance the elements that I was including in the piece. The first element that I want to highlight is the detail in the shirt. I used two shades of colored pencils for this and an eraser. This element helps to highlight my figure. Along with this there is a high level of detail in the facial features that mimic my face in the original photograph. Lastly the detail in the brick highlights the setting and my surroundings.

For my second original piece, Captured in time, I created it with acrylic paint and it was inspired by Monet's self portrait and the just the impressionist movement in general. I kept the lines, shapes, and color of this piece simple so that it contrast with the my other piece. With this piece I emphasized the hard lines that I was able to create using my smaller brush set as well as the blended background that was created with larger brushes. I used small brushes to add emphasis on the facial features such as the eyelashes and eyebrows.



Captured in Time

Both of these paintings were created with a lot of thought and inspirations in mind. A summer Gaze was created with the realism movement in mind, while on the other hand, Captured in Time was created with inspiration from the impressionist movement. The painting on the left was created in colored pencils with the focus being on the warm colors. The warm colors are the red shades, oranges, and the different shades of brown. On the other side of the spectrum, my second piece was created with a focus on the cool colors. The main color used in this painting were the differing shades of blue. When these paintings are seen together they contrast because of the use of warm colors in one and the cool colors in the other. These colors are intentional in delivering the overall message and the movements that were seen as inspiration for the two pieces.

Compare and Contrast of Formal Qualities with Personal Work

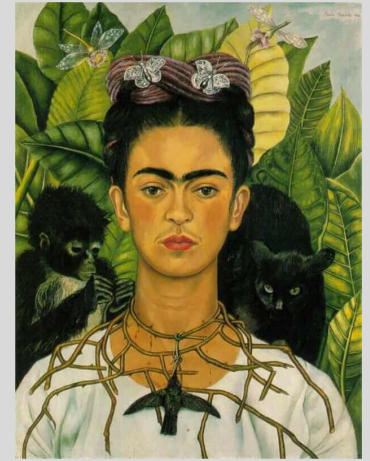


A Summer Gaze

When I consider where the most similarities and differences would be, I think of comparing and contrasting my first piece, *A Summer Gaze*, with the works of the amazing Frida Kahlo. The function and purpose of both of our works is very similar. It is to express ourselves and the way we perceive ourselves. With this being said the portrayal of these purposes is done through the formal qualities in the creation of the piece. We both put careful thought into the background of our pieces and also put some careful consideration into small details, especially in the facial features. The poses that are present in the works also plays a role in portraying the overall meaning.



Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.



Kahlo, Frida. *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird*. 1940, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

While there are some very notable similarities between my piece and the inspirational pieces that were created by Frida Kahlo, there are also some very notable differences. The first obvious difference is the mediums. Both pieces that were done by Kahlo were done with paint, whereas mine was created with colored pencils. This allows for different blending techniques, vividness in color, and implied textures. There is more of these that are noticeable with the paintings because they are easier to layer. Colored pencils are harder to blend with. Another difference is the color choice. My illustration, as stated earlier, is composed of shades of warm colors. On the other hand, Kahlo uses a range of colors and they are all bright and vivid.

Websites:

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“Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird, 1940.” *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird, 1940, By Frida Kahlo*, www.fridakahlo.org/self-portrait-with-thorn-necklace-and-hummingbird.jsp.

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Images:

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Kahlo, Frida. *The Two Fridas*. 1939, www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp.

Monet, Claude. *Self Portrait with a Beret*. 1886, www.monetpaintings.org/self-portrait-with-a-beret/.