



## Américas Award Books about Mexican Muralists

***Come Look with Me: Latin American Art.*** Kimberly Lane.

Reproductions of twelve masterpieces are accompanied by questions that encourage young readers to learn through visual exploration and interaction. Works from artists such as Diego Rivera (Mexico), Fernando Botero (Columbia), and Ramón Fradé (Puerto Rico) are included. Background information on the artist, the period, the medium, the technique, and the subject of the painting provide context for the art experience. 32 pages. (Grades K-5) **2008 Commended Title**

***Diego: Bigger Than Life.*** Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, Illustrated by David Diaz.

Diego Rivera was indeed bigger than life. In a series of short narrative poems, Bernier Grand treats all of the aspects of Rivera's life that make him such an influential artist and man. Each short poem is accompanied by an illustration which supports the theme, such as politics, romance, intellectual and artistic truth. Several are accompanied by actual artwork by Rivera. While Diego Rivera lived a life of great excess, at times making choices not sanctioned by mainstream culture, readers can appreciate how his passion also allowed for breathtaking and ambitious art, which for many, is the artistic face of 20th century Mexico. The detailed end matter includes a glossary, a timeline of Rivera's life, sources for further reading, and a page which reveals that many lines in the poems come from his own words. 64 pages. (Grades 6-10) **2010 Commended Title**

***Diego Rivera: An Artist for the People.*** Susan Goldman Rubin.

With *Diego Rivera: An Artist for the People*, Susan Goldman Rubin highlights the life of one of Mexico's most celebrated painters and muralists. The engaging text thoughtfully connects the biography with the art, while Rubin expertly covers Rivera's complexity as an artist or as a person, without exaggeration. Carefully selected artwork and photographs, as well as Rivera's own words, bring added depth to the text. The book highlights murals from Mexico City, San Francisco, and Detroit, along with Rivera's own paints and those from artist influential in his development. Rivera's political and personal identities illuminate but never overshadow the focus on his art. The beautifully designed book features extensive back matter, including a note on the history of Mexico relevant to Rivera's work and his artistic influences. These notes, along with a glossary and bibliography will further expand classroom use. 56 pages. (Grades 5-10) **2014 Honorable Mention**

***Frida.*** Jonah Winter. Illustrated by Ana Juan.

Sparse text frames the visual narration that effectively recreates the intense life of Mexico's premier female artist. The stunning illustrations, though surreal, are child-

centered and reflect the intriguing painting style that Kahlo herself incorporated in her artwork. 32 pages. (Grades PreK-3) **2002 Honorable Mention**

***Frida: ¡Viva la Vida!/Long Live Life!*** Carmen T. Bernier-Grand.

Frida Kahlo, a native of Mexico, is described here in biographical poems accompanied by her own artwork. Both text and images reveal the anguish and joy of her two marriages to muralist Diego Rivera, her life-long suffering from a crippling bus accident, and her thirst for life, even as she tasted death. Her favorite motto was: ¡Viva la vida! (Long live life!) Back matter includes excerpts from Frida's diary and letters, a prose biography, a chronology of the artist's life, a glossary of Spanish words, sources, and notes. 64 pages. (Grades 8-12). **2008 Commended Title**

***Me, Frida.*** Amy Novesky, Illustrated by David Diaz.

Novesky tells the story, along with David Diaz's stunning illustrations, of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's experiences upon arriving in the United States. Rather than presenting a biography of Kahlo's entire life, the author concentrates on a time in which Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera lived in San Francisco, California. "She was in a foreign city. She didn't speak much English and she didn't have many friends." As Kahlo makes herself more comfortable in her new surroundings, she feels less like a "little bird" next to her husband, and gains confidence in herself as a developing artist. 32 pages. (Grades 3-6) **2011 Commended Title**

***Murals: Walls That Sing*** George Ancona.

George Ancona photographed outdoor community murals for this book. The murals, Ancona says in the introduction, "portray the people of the neighborhood and their concerns." He begins with a mural depicting Father Miguel Hidalgo during the 1810 Mexican Revolution and continues with murals honoring saints, neighborhood people, and individuals who have made important contributions to society. The photographs are vibrant and beautiful, exactly what one would expect from George Ancona. 52 pages. (Grades 3-5) **2003 Commended Title**

***My Papa Diego and Me: Memories of My Father and His Art / Mi papa Diego y yo: Recuerdos de mi padre y su arte.*** Guadalupe Rivera Marín and Diego Rivera.

Guadalupe Rivera Marín, daughter of Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, shares her personal memories of her father in this touching and informative book, written both in English and Spanish. Rivera Marín uses her own personal photographs as well as her father's artwork to talk about her father, his art, and Mexican history. This book will be enjoyed by children and adults alike. 32 pages. (Grades 4-7) **2010 Honorable Mention**

***The Tree is Older than you are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems and Stories from Mexico with Paintings by Mexican Artists*** Naomi Shihab Nye.

This bilingual collection is remarkable, both in terms of the poetry and the illustration. Works of all lengths for all ages are included. Shihab Nye has done a commendable service to Mexican culture and U.S. readers by producing such a book. 101 pages. (Grades 8-12) **1995 Commended Title**