

Siempre Frida



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Declaration

I hereby declare that all the information in this thesis is the result of my concerted efforts and my original work. This research work, to the best of my knowledge and belief, reproduces no material previously published or written, or that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma, apart from where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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DEDICATION

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Abstract

Title of project: SIEMPRE (always) FRIDA

Tagline: I am my own muse the subject I know best.

Introduction (background/inspiration):

Frida Kahlo a Mexican artist, is famous for her self-portraits, pain and passion, vibrant and bold colors. In Mexico, she's been acknowledged for her scrutiny to Mexican and indigenous culture. By feminists she is been celebrated for her portrayal of the female experience. For about 200 paintings, sketches and drawings by Kahlo, life experience is a common theme.

Objectives of project:

The Philosophy behind Frida paintings and depiction of her expressions and rich Mexican culture will be showed through the mixture of textile techniques with 3D embellishment and woven fabric and silk tread embroideries.

Plan of work:

Research boards will flaunt different aspects of Frida Kahlo's life and Mexican culture which she showed through paintings.

This project will comprise of series of steps starting from research on the theme, making a suitable color palette and mood board and then to general sketching of the ornaments. Making desired repeats and patterns both manually and on Photoshop. There will be some samples from which the final print will be selected.

Expected outcomes:

It will have different textures and colors made by mix mediums and it will give an exclusive and amazing look. It will be a great collection with up to date cutline.

Chapter 1

Introduction

When thinking of art who would not keep Mexico in mind for it is known for its folk art traditions coming from the native and Spanish crafts. Be it the valley of Oaxaca or the village of Tonala, remarkable handicrafts are created that include clay pottery. If we look around Mexico, bright colors have taken over the entire surroundings, it's not just a tradition but the colors reflect the warm and energetic culture which is a part of their daily life.

The overall Mexican city has a feel to it which can be seen through the buildings and structures in the style of pre-Columbian architecture. Reflecting in to clothing, bright-colored cotton or wool shawls and outward attires and vibrant in colors embroidered cotton garments take over the city. Colorful rugs and baskets are seen all over the place.



Figure 1

Moving back in times, the first artsy struggles were made at evangelization and building up the churches. Initially the people chose native stonemasons and sculptures to build churches, memorials and various religious arts. In this particular era the dominant style was baroque. After getting independence, around the early 20th century the fine arts style was mainly enthused by European traditions.

One of the significant crafts of Mexico is textiles. It not only signifies the continuance of tradition but also shows the blend with modern techniques. When there was not much of development the factories used machines having foot pedals which originated from colonial period.

In the fabric production the four types of fiber used are given as follows:

- Cotton
- Wool and silk
- Gold and silver thread
- Synthetics

There are two groups that come into the category of textile when it comes to raw materials. Smooth fibers and hard fibers. In the smooth category falls silk, cotton, and wool whereas in the hard category we have textile, reeds, twigs, palms and willow. In the native areas of Mexico, women used to be responsible for clothing the community. This process starts with reaping natural fibers, and then spinning, dyeing and weaving textiles.

In rural areas in the middle and south of the country existed the local ethnic groups around sixty in number produced most of the handcrafted textile. Some of them used old traditional designs. In craft fabric one of the common techniques is brocade. For raised designs to be woven in to the cloth this technique is used. Some textiles were made by women at home used for various uses. These include home, decorative and ceremonial use. These items were hand woven, hand embroidered, knitted and much more. In coastal areas people planted cotton and dyed it.

If we talk about clothing the dress that existed from the old age is kind of a wrap dress. It can be further explained as a rectangular or square short poncho. Originally women wore it directly on the upper body but today it is seen with a blouse. Huipils, were loose fitting dresses back in the time. They had heavy embroidery with straight stitching or cross stitching. They also had floral or geometric motifs on.