

***Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray* Exhibition Opens at Palm Springs Art Museum**

July 6 “Happy Birthday, Frida!” Party Planned



Nickolas Muray, *Frida on White Bench*, 1939, Carbon process print



Nickolas Muray, *Frida with Blue Satin Blouse*, 1939, Carbon process print

June 17, 2008 (Palm Springs, CA) - The Palm Springs Art Museum announced the opening of its newest exhibition entitled *Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray*, which will run until November 16, 2008. To kick off the event, the museum is planning a “Happy Birthday, Frida!” free community day on July 6 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

About the Exhibition

Approximately forty-six portraits of Frida Kahlo and three letters she wrote to Nikolas Muray comprise this exhibition. The photographs, dating from 1937 to 1941, were taken by Nickolas Muray, Kahlo’s friend, lover and confidant. Muray began photographing Kahlo in color in the winter of 1938-1939, while she was in New York attending an exhibition of her paintings at the Julien Levy Gallery. Muray photographed Frida more often than any other single person and his compelling photographs bring to light Kahlo's deep interest in her Mexican heritage, her life and the people significant to her.

Happy Birthday, Frida!

To celebrate the opening of this exhibition, the art museum will hold a free community day on July 6, 2008 (Frida Kahlo’s 101st birthday). Some of the events on this day will include making self-portraits and recreating a scene from Nickolas Muray’s photographic studio. Participants will also be able to listen to live music and enjoy birthday cake. Bilingual gallery talks are scheduled

throughout the day. Additional free programming about this exhibition will continue in the fall.

About the Artist

Nickolas Muray (1892-1965) came to America in 1913 from Hungary. During Muray's forty-five year career as a New York photographer, he developed a growing reputation that began during the decade of the 1920s when he photographed notable figures from high society. At the time of his death, most Americans had seen, at one time or another, Muray's portraits of celebrities, presidents, or advertisements that were regularly featured in *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vanity Fair*, *McCall's* and the *Ladies Home Journal*.

Muray and Kahlo were at the height of an on-again, off-again ten-year love affair when he began photographing her using the Carbro technique. Their affair had started in 1931, after Muray was divorced from his second wife and shortly after Kahlo's marriage to Mexican muralist painter Diego Rivera. The love affair outlived Muray's third marriage and Kahlo's divorce and remarriage to Rivera by one year, ending in 1941. Muray wanted to marry Kahlo, but when it became apparent that she wanted Muray for a lover, not a husband, he took his leave for good and married his fourth and last wife. He and Kahlo remained good friends until her death in 1954.

The presentation of this exhibition at the Palm Springs Art Museum is part of a national tour over a two and a half year period comprising forty-six photographic prints reproduced from the original negatives. The exhibition, courtesy of the Nickolas Muray Archives, was developed by Smith Kramer Fine Art Services, Kansas City, Missouri and is funded in part by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation. Funding for the "Happy Birthday, Frida!" community day is provided in part by Donna and Cargill McMillan.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free during July and August, 2008. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

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High resolution photos of this exhibition are available. Please call 760-322-4814 to request them.