

Diego Rivera

1886-1957 | Mexican



Niño

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Charcoal and sanguine on rice paper | Dated 1935
Signed and dated "Diego Rivera 1935" (lower left)
Paper: 11" high x 9" wide | 27.94 cm x 22.86 cm
Frame: 19 1/4" high x 16 7/8" wide x 3/4" deep
49.9 cm x 42.86 cm x 1.91 cm

“

I know now that he who hopes to be universal in his art must plant in his own soil. The secret of my best work is that it is Mexican.

- Diego Rivera

”



A rebel against the traditional school of painting, Diego Rivera is revered as one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century. *Niño*, completed by Rivera in 1935, represents a masterwork within an important part of the artist's output — his portraits of children. It is a touching work paying homage to both childhood innocence and the cultural identity of the Mexican people. Through the innocent eyes of his subject, Rivera explores the dichotomy between the purity of youth and the austerity of life in rural Mexico. These sensitive depictions of children from Mexico's working classes are some of the best of his oeuvre.

Rivera often chose children as the subjects of his portraits for the hope that they represented. A symbol of Mexico's bright future, his young subjects had the most to gain from the improved social climate following the Revolution of 1910. The present portrait exemplifies this poignant perspective. The young boy's face conveys a sense of dignity and wisdom beyond his youth. His dark brown eyes express gentleness and hope, but also a vulnerability.

This important work was composed in 1935 while Rivera was living with Frida Kahlo in Mexico City; he had returned to his home country just two years before after a four-year sojourn in the United States. Today, their home is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Mexico City. There is an intense luminosity in the palette of Rivera's works from this period that is hardly seen in the paintings of his French and American contemporaries, for it was inspired by the light of the Mexican landscape and by colorful, traditional Mexican costumes. The present portrait reflects this cultural identity.

Born in Guanajuato City, Mexico in 1886, Diego Rivera showed a talent for drawing at a very young age. He began his formal art education at the Academy of San Carlos in Mexico. He moved to Paris in 1907 to live and work with the great gathering of artists in Montparnasse. There, he was exposed to the burgeoning of Cubism, and

his work fully embraced this new school of thought. In 1921, Rivera returned to Mexico, where he undertook government-sponsored murals that reflected his communist politics in historical contexts. Aside from the often-controversial reactions they received, these works focused on the working-class "everyman" of Mexico and reflected the folk ideals that were familiar and respected within the native community.

His works attracted the attention of the world's most prestigious art patrons, including Nelson Rockefeller, for whom he painted a controversial mural in 1934. While both his personal and artistic lives were at times tumultuous, it is his artistic vision and compassion for his homeland and people that have become the legacy of this incredible figure. ●



PROVENANCE

Acquired from the artist

Private Collection, New York

Thence by descent




Sale: Sotheby's, New York, Latin American Art, Nov. 17, 2010, lot 175

Private Collection, New York (acquired from the above)

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

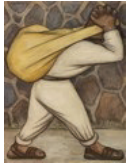




AUCTION COMPARABLES

	3	Diego Rivera	<p>Title Niña sentada con flores</p> <p>Description Diego Rivera (1886-1957)Niña sentada con floressigned and dated 'Diego Rivera 49</p> <p>Medium watercolor on paper laid on paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1949</p> <p>Size Height 23.6 in.; Width 19 in. / Height 60 cm.; Width 48.3 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 [Lot 0011B] Post-War and Contemporary Art Evening Sale</p> <p>Estimate 150,000 - 250,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 375,000 USD Premium</p>
	4	Diego Rivera	<p>Title Maria Felix (study)</p> <p>Medium charcoal</p> <p>Year of Work 1948</p> <p>Size Height 42.9 in.; Width 42.9 in. / Height 109 cm.; Width 109 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 [Lot 00522] Maria Felix: La Doña</p> <p>Estimate 150,000 - 200,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 360,000 USD Premium</p>
	9	Diego Rivera	<p>Title Cargador de flores andando (El vendedor de gladiolas y hortensias)</p> <p>Description Diego Rivera (1886-1957)Cargador de flores andando (El vendedor de gladiolas y hortensias)</p> <p>Medium watercolor on rice paper</p> <p>Year of Work 1954</p> <p>Size Height 15.1 in.; Width 10.9 in. / Height 38.4 cm.; Width 27.7 cm.</p> <p>Misc. Signed</p> <p>Sale of Christie's New York: Friday, March 11, 2022 [Lot 00003] Latin American Art</p> <p>Estimate 100,000 - 150,000 USD</p> <p>Sold For 239,400 USD Premium</p>



AUCTION COMPARABLES

	12	<p>Diego Rivera</p>
	Title	Hombre cargando bulto
	Description	Property of an Important North-Eastern CollectionDiego Rivera1886 - 1957
	Medium	Watercolor and charcoal on paper
	Year of Work	1937
	Size	Height 24.8 in.; Width 19 in. / Height 62.9 cm.; Width 48.3 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Thursday, November 19, 2020 [Lot 00109] Impressionist & Modern Art Day Sale - Online Auction
	Estimate	100,000 - 150,000 USD
	Sold For	201,600 USD Premium
	14	<p>Diego Rivera</p>
	Title	Madre con hijos (Dibujo a lápiz con dos colores)
	Description	signed and dated 1934 lower rightcharcoal and conté crayon on handmade p
	Medium	charcoal and conté crayon on paper mounted in rice paper
	Year of Work	1934
	Size	Height 23.3 in.; Width 17.4 in. / Height 59.3 cm.; Width 44.1 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Thursday, May 24, 2012 [Lot 00125] Latin American Art
	Estimate	80,000 - 120,000 USD
	Sold For	194,500 USD Premium
	15	<p>Diego Rivera</p>
	Title	Luz hilando
	Description	Diego Rivera (Mexican 1886-1957)Luz hilandosigned and dated 'Diego Rivera. 1936' (
	Medium	watercolor and ink on handmade paper
	Year of Work	1936
	Size	Height 22.8 in.; Width 20.7 in. / Height 57.8 cm.; Width 52.7 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, November 19, 2008 [Lot 00001] Latin American Sale Evening Session
	Estimate	60,000 - 80,000 USD
	Sold For	194,500 USD Premium



Diego Rivera | *Untitled (Sin título)*

1936

Medium: Watercolor on handmade paper

Dimensions: 10^{1/2} x 14^{3/4} inches | 26.7 x 37.5 cm



Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Los Angeles, United States



Diego Rivera | *Woman with Two Children*

1925

Medium: Red and black chalk on gray paper

Dimensions: 7 x 8^{7/8} inches | 17.8 x 22.5 cm



MoMA

Museum of Modern Art
New York, United States



Diego Rivera | *Portrait of a Boy*

c. 1918

Medium: Graphite pencil on cream laid paper

Dimensions: 18^{1/2} x 12^{1/8} inches | 47 x 30.8 cm



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