

DIEGO RIVERA (1886-1957)

Portrait of Enriqueta G. Davila

Signed 'Diego Rivera' lower left; dated and inscribed 'Señora Doña Enriqueta G. de Dávila. Fue pintado el año de MCMLII.' upper center

oil on canvas

79 1/8 x 48 3/8 in. (86 1/2 x 55 1/2 x 2 5/8 in.) 1952

38836

PROVENANCE:

Enriqueta Goldbaum de Dávila Enriqueta Dávila Goldbaum, by descent from above Private Collection, Houston Private Collection, acquired from the above

EXHIBITION:

Geneve, Italy, Palazzo Ducale Frida Kahlo y Diego Rivera, September 20, 2014 – February 8, 2015

Mexico City, Mexico, Museo Dolores Olmedo, Homenaje a Diego Rivera. Retratos, October 20, 2007 – January 2, 2008

Houston, United States, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, on short-term loan during 2007 Orizaba, Mexico, Museo de Arte del Estado de Veracruz., La brillantez previa al pincel, May 11 – August 21, 2006

Xalapa, Mexico, Pinacoteca Diego Rivera, Los Cuatro Grandes, March - June, 2006 Mexico City, Mexico, Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, Diego Rivera: Una Retrospectiva, September 1986 - January 1987

LITERATURE:

García, Josefina. Homenaje a Diego Rivera: Retratos. Mexico City: Museo Dolores Olmedo, Patiño, 2007. p. 129. Print

Gutiérrez L. Cortés. Diego Rivera: Catálogo General de Obra de Caballete. Mexico City: Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Dirección General de Publicaciones, 1989, p. 265. Print

Diego Rivera: Una Retrospectva. Ciudad de México: Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, INBA, Secretaría de Educación Pública, 1986. Print

Los Cuatro Grandes. Xalapa. Veracruz: Pinacoteca Diego Rivera, 2006. Print. Prignitz-Poda, Helga. Frida Kahlo e Diego Riera. Milano: Skira, 2014, cat. 252, pp. 146, 265

As famous for his art as his tempestuous marriage to Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera's talent for historical murals and his tributes to earthy folk traditions made him one of the most influential artists in the Americas and one of Mexico's most beloved painters. Influenced by Cubism and inspired by Post-Impressionism, it was when Rivera began to study the Renaissance frescoes that he discovered his medium. Rivera is credited with the reintroduction of fresco painting into modern art and architecture and his vision and strong belief in public art led to his painting of some of the most famous and controversial murals in America.

Diego Rivera incorporated his radical politics, being a life long Communist, and his

intense devotion to his cultural heritage into this art and saw his medium as an antidote to the elite walls of galleries and museums. He gained fame as a muralist and altered the course of American painting through his ability to incorporate his politics while maintaining a sense of simple historicity. His ability to condense a complex historical subject down to the most essential parts: the struggle of the working class, the effect of war and industry in the name of progress, the life on the American worker, was one of his greatest gifts.

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