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Diego Rivera: Legendary Mexican Painter (Latino Biography Library)



Synopsis

"Discusses the life and work of Diego Rivera"-- --This text refers to an alternate Library Binding edition.

Book Information

Series: Latino Biography Library

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8-This biography of one of the world's most well-known muralists is not just for reports. The author captures readers' interest with the opening chapter that describes the controversial incident in which Rivera included a portrait of Vladimir Lenin in the RCA Building mural. Debate ensued over who had the final say on an artist's work-the creator or the commissioner of the work. Unfortunately for the art world, Rivera's mural was destroyed on Nelson Rockefeller's order. The following chapters go on to cover the artist's life from his birth to his death. Many anecdotal stories are included in this unusually well-documented biography. Among the sources cited is Rivera's autobiography, *My Art, My Life*. The muralist's nonconformist lifestyle and his controversial politics are presented in an interesting, yet appropriate way for the intended audience. Boxed paragraphs give additional information to explain people and events mentioned in the main text. Numerous full-color photographs and reproductions of artworks show Rivera, the people he loved and admired, and the artists who influenced him.-Carolyn Janssen, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 7-10. This accessible, well-documented title in the Latino Biography series begins suitably with a dramatic scene: Nelson Rockefeller's ideological conflict with Rivera and the destruction of one of the artist's great works in progress. Following chapters trace the artist's early life--his extraordinary family, influences, and training--and then his prolific, renowned painting career. Throughout, the author is frank about Rivera's stormy, complex relationships with women, and she frequently backs up assertions with quotes from Rivera, who called Frida Kahlo "the most important fact in my life." Litwin's clear, straightforward language includes succinct references to the background political and cultural history, from Zapatistas to Trotsky. Archival photos and color reproductions of Rivera's works are among the illustrations. A chronology, endnotes, and suggested further readings close this valuable title for reports or personal interest. Other titles in the series cover Frida Kahlo and Isabel Allende. Gillian Engberg

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