

Comparative study

Alphonse Mucha

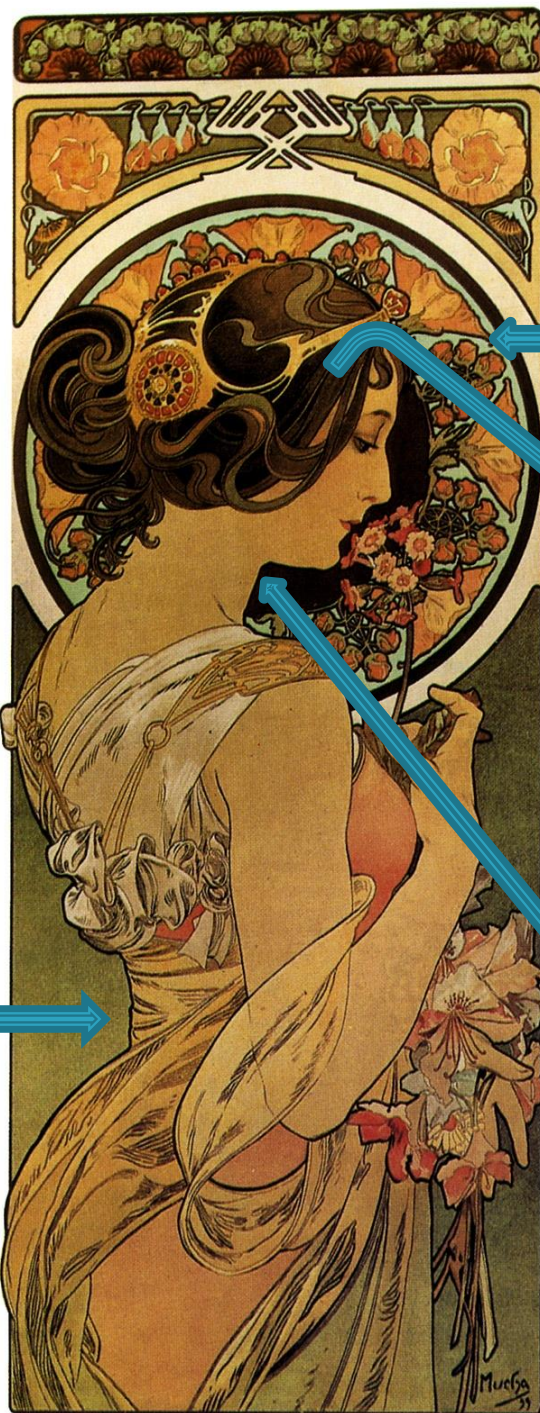
- ▶ Born on July 24, 1860 and died on July 14, 1939. His singing talent allowed Mucha to continue through high school and finish it even though he loved drawing even more. He had a job which was to decorate paintings in Moravia. This is how he informally studied art. Unfortunately the place where he lived got on fire and he had to move back. Later on he was employed again and his job was to decorate Hrusovany Emmahof Castle with murals. His employer was so impressed with his work that he decided to sponsor Mucha so he would be able to formally study Fine Arts.
- ▶ In Paris he got a contract with Bernhardt for 6 years. Mucha started painting paintings that were flurry. This includes posters, advertisings, book illustrations and more.
- ▶ Alphonse Maria Mucha was his full name and he was a Czech Art Nouveau painter.
- ▶ Many times in his work he would feature beautiful healthy young women that wore Neoclassical looking robes. The women he painting usually had beautiful lush flowers, which in some of his painting formed a halo behind their heads.
- ▶ Different from other artists doing advertisements, Mucha used pastel colors which the was known as the “Mucha style.”



- **Title:** La Primavera
- **Painted by:** Alphonse Maria Mucha
- **Medium:** Framed Giclee Print

Right here you can see the detail Mucha would put into his paintings. He focused on everything to make them look realistic.

You can see the amount of detail that he put in the robe of the women.



- ▶ Alphonse Mucha is an artist that portrays women as very sensual. They have to have a pretty face and a thin body. His style is very unique. He does add a lot of detail to his paintings, as you can see in “La Primavera”.

There is a lot of detail in the background. He paid a lot of attention to every part of this painting.

To me, the places Mucha paid attention to his painting, but the face and hair look plain compared to the rest of the painting.

The hair demonstrates a good blending technique that shows movement. Although the hair is not as detailed as the background or the clothing, it is more detailed than the face, arms and neck.

You can see a glimpse of shading in the neck to face area. The rest of the skin has no shading at all.

Frida Kahlo

- ▶ Frida Kahlo was born on July 6, 1907 and died on July 13, 1954. When Frida was only 3 years of age the Mexican Revolution started. Later in her life, when she was still a kid, her mom would send her and her sisters inside the house when she heard the echo of gunfire. At that time she lived in a very poor neighborhood. The revolutionary men would sometimes go into their house and her mom would then have to feed them. When she was six, she contracted polio. This caused a deformation on her right leg. It was much thinner than the left leg, which drove her to only wear pants and long skirts. When she was 18 she had an accident which led to her paralysis later in her life.
- ▶ After her accident, she no longer wanted to study medicine, and she dedicated her time to painting full-time. She painted many self-portraits but had many more paintings. Her artwork was described as surrealist even though she rejected that. She always said that her work was not fake, that it was real to her. But many people would argue that she was a surrealist artist.



Title: My Dress hangs there
By: Frida Kahlo
Date: 1933
Technique: collage, oil
Dimensions: 46 x 55 cm



Her techniques are very unique and very surrealist. She paints things out of the ordinary. Even though she paints things that are not life like you can see each of her paintings have a lot of meaning to it. For example, this painting shows her home sickness

The technique that Frida Kahlo used in this painting is really good. Everything is realistic in this artwork but it has many surrealist things in it. This is contradicting itself which leads to bigger meanings.

▶ Frida Kahlo was a great artist that based all her artwork on her experiences. In this painting she portrayed that she missed the Mexico. At this time she lived in the united states and she wanted to go back home. She loved the United States but loved Mexico even more and she wished to go back.

This portrays the part of the united states.

The dress is placed in the middles of the painting. Which essentially represents that she in between two countries that she loves. The one she is living, and the one she missed.



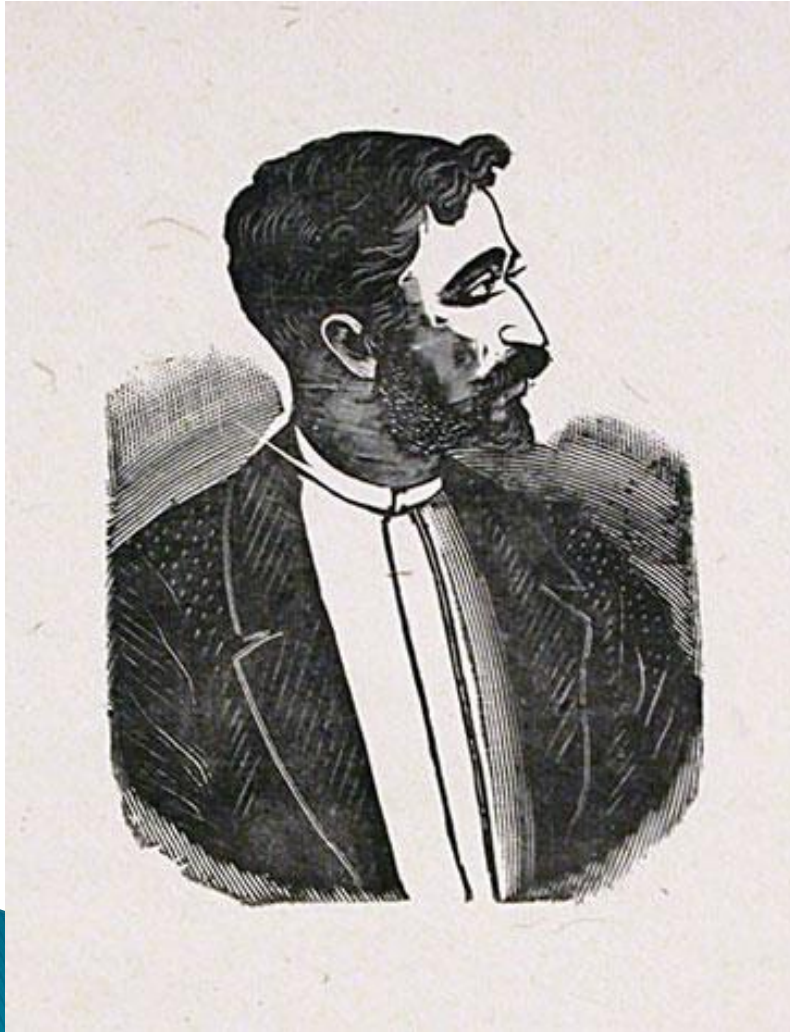
Mucha in the other hand is an art nouveau artist. Both of these painting have similar qualities. In this painting you see a girl, she's very pretty and sensual. Around her she has lots of details that are very hard to create.

- ▶ Both Mucha and Frida Kahlo are both very good artist with very different techniques. Even though she is a surrealist painter she give a life like quality to her paintings sometimes. The garbage here looks very realistic as well as the building behind and the clock.

In Frida's painting there is detail but not as much as you see in Mucha's piece. They both are realistic paintings although they look very different. Mucha's work has pastel colors but Frida's art work does not. There is also more shading the clothing of the woman in Mucha's piece than the trash can in Frida's piece.



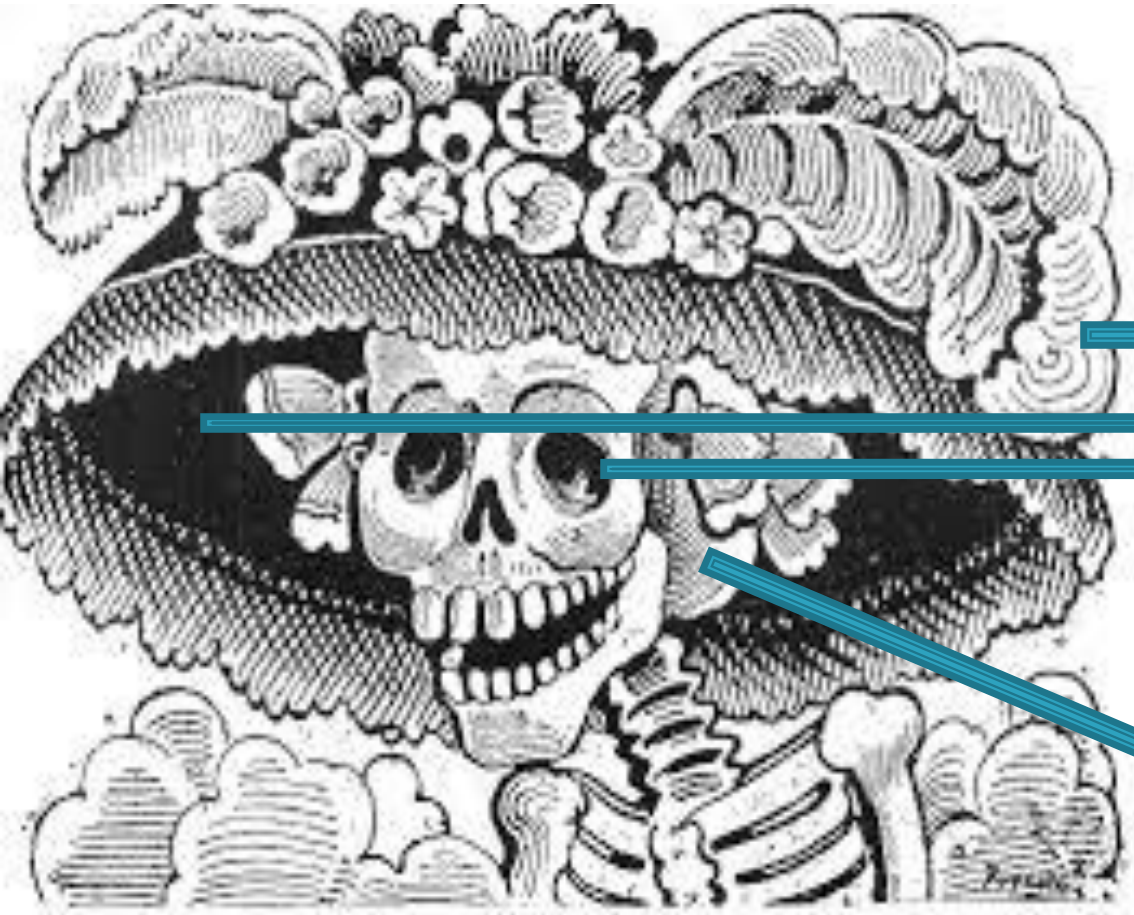
Jose Guadalupe Posada



- ▶ Jose Posada was born on February 2, 1852 and he died on January 20, 1913. He was born in Aguascalientes, Mexico. As a kid he had to work in a farm and in a pottery factory. He also taught school for a bit and then he began to draw. He grew a fan of print making and became really good at what he did. He became some sort of pictorial journalist and had many publications of broadside illustrations as well as covers of popular books and songs.
- ▶ He then became a political printmaker, engraver. Although he did not get acknowledged for the work that he made.
- ▶ He used skulls, Calaveras, and skeletons to make political and cultural critiques.
- ▶ His most famous work is La Catrina.
- ▶ He only became famous after he died.

La Catrina is his most famous work. It's a skeleton with a really fancy hat that portrayed that she was very wealthy when she was alive. The meaning of this work was that even if you were very wealthy, you are still going to die. That even if you were a bad person, or the nicest person alive, you were going to end up the same, dying.

- ▶ Diego Posada is another Mexican artist but with a very different technique. He used printing in most of his work. His work, La Catrina is an example of his pieces.



He uses the grading shading. He goes from his dark darks, to the lightest and in the middle of the gradation.

You can see the shading that he did in his prints. He had to do cross hatching in order to show shading in his pieces. He did a great job at it.

Title: La Catrina
By: Jose Guadalupe Posada
Date: December 31, 1912
Medium: zinc etching, 34.5 x 23 cm.



- ▶ Frida Kahlo's surrealist paintings have made us think and wonder everything that she is trying to portray in just one of her paintings.

You can see in both of these pieces that they are both made in very different techniques. Posada doesn't use color meanwhile Frida uses a lot of color. Although a black and white artwork is usually portrayed as sad or mysterious, posada uses it in a fun way. He laughs at people trying to be rich because he knew they were going to end up dying anyways.

In the other hand Frida Kahlo uses color but her color choice is really interesting because it make everything in the painting very depressing.



Posada always is portrays how it doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, white or black, bad or good, at the end everyone is going to die so it really doesn't matter. In the other hand Frida Kahlo Shows pain both physically and emotionally.



Jose Posada uses a grey tones that usually represent sadness and death. He does portray death but not in a sad way instead a happy way. He mocks people that try very hard in life like you can see in La Catrina. La Catrina was obviously a fancy lady that had a lot of money. You can see this because of the fancy hat that represents her wealth.

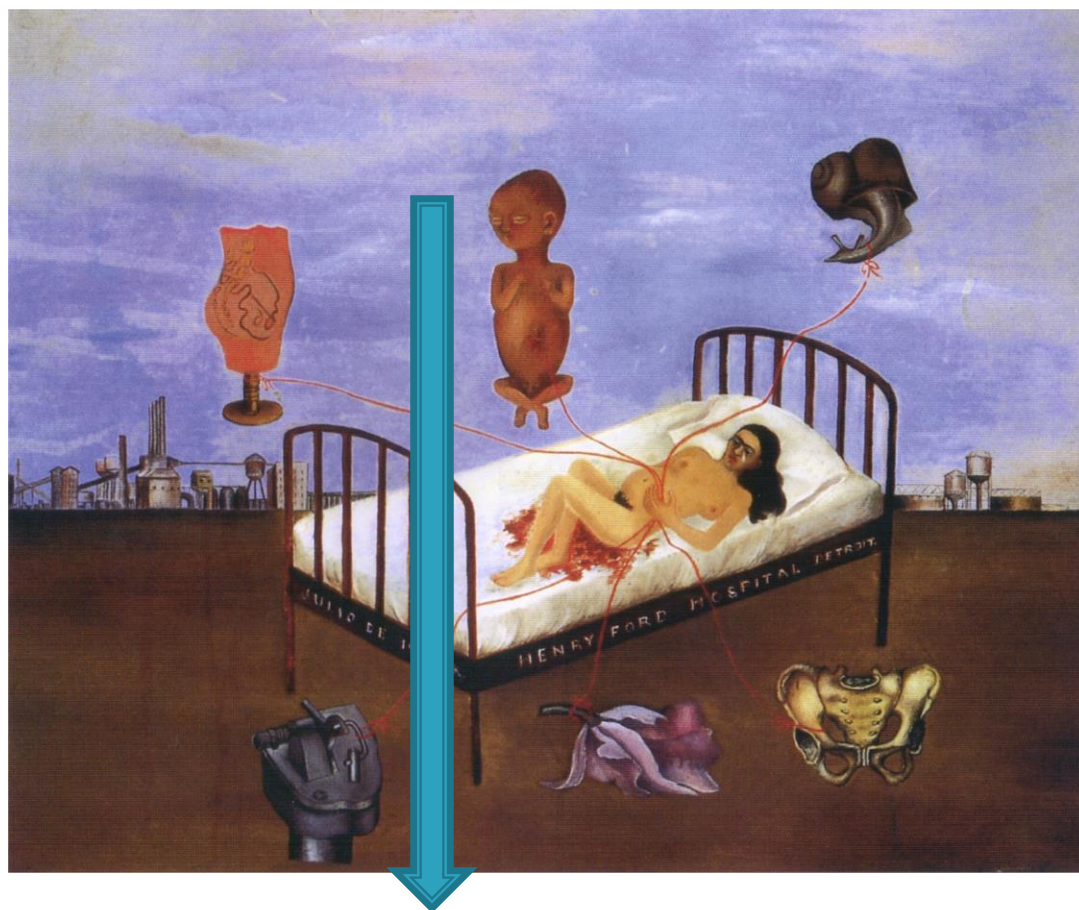


In Mucha's painting you can also assume that that this lady is very wealthy as well. But she is very much alive. She portray a roll of a beautiful woman with very fancy clothing.

That is a similarity between this two painting. And the very obvious difference is that Posada's is dead and it mocking the rich lady, and Mucha's is alive and is admired by her beauty and fanciness.

The shading in both these paintings are very different. Mucha does a great job working with the gradation. Frida though has very little shading.

Also, they both have details, although they are different. The details in Mucha's painting are much more than the ones in Posadas painting.



Her background is simply blue but it is not a solid blue. It has touches of red, white and white. Those are all the colors of the Mexican flag which are very symbolic. The background represents the sky. Since she is painting because of the death of her unborn child, the sky is symbolic for heaven. Which is what Frida believed her baby went to.

Title: Henry Ford Hospital, 1932

By: Frida Kahlo

Date: 1932

Technique: Oil on Canvas

Dimensions: 30.5 cm x 38 cm

This painting portrays the sadness Frida felt when she lost her baby. Losing her baby was one of the worse things she went through and you can see that very well in this painting. She always painted what she felt and most of her life was very sad and painful.

The bed in this artwork is just a simple bed, with no covers, no blankets and no pillows. She has different objects floating around the bed and one of them is symbolic for her dead kid. She is also naked and bleeding from her vagina. That also represents her kid's death.

This painting is not realistic. You can definitely observe what is what though.



Mucha and Frida Kahlo have very different styles when it comes to painting. Mucha does Art Nouveau meanwhile Frida does Surrealism paintings.

You can really see the difference between these two paintings. In Mucha's painting, La Primavera, there is a beautiful woman with a dress on portraying the beauty of women.

In the other hand, in the painting, Henry Ford Hospital, 1932, has a naked woman in which appears that she has gone through labor. Here you the not so pretty things about women, unlike the other painting.

- ▶ They are both extremely different. Frida's work has much less detail than Mucha's. Some will argue that Frida's painting has more meaning even if it looks much simpler.
- ▶ Both of them though lack shading, although Frida's had a tad more than Mucha's.





You can see the difference in the technique for shading. Although it was going to be different either way considering that one is a painting and the other one is a print.

- ▶ These two paintings were done by Mexican artist, which like to embrace their culture in there are work.
- ▶ They have a big difference and that difference is the style each artist used.
- ▶ Frida used surrealism techniques. In the other hand Jose Posada use his original Etching on Zinc.
- ▶ La Catrina has a lot of shading meanwhile in My Dress Hangs There, there is shading present but it is more vague.





- ▶ These two artworks are both were both painted by the surrealist artist Frida Kahlo.
- ▶ Henry Ford Hospital, 1932 is clearly more surrealist than My Dress Hangs there.
- ▶ She does use the same technique and that is oil on canvas.

In both paintings, the sky is very similar. Although, Henry Ford, doesn't have as big of clouds than, My Dress Hangs There.

They are simple paintings, but they have a good portion of details in them.



- ▶ Contrasting them, my work is a painting and his work is a print.
- ▶ The *Penacho* is very colorful with both bright colors and dark colors. His print is just in black and white.
- ▶ Posada focused his *Catrina* on El Dia de los Muertos and I focused on the Aztec tribe.
- ▶ The *Penacho* represents superiority, the leader of the tribe wears it to show that he is in charge. In *La Catrina*, the big hat with feathers and flowers also show superiority. It shows superiority in a different way, it represents wealth which back then, being rich automatically superior to the poor people.



- Posada always made something that represented his culture and that is what I did with my painting.
- He chooses to show something sad and make it into something happy, and I choose to make my painting very colorful which gives it a happy feel to it.



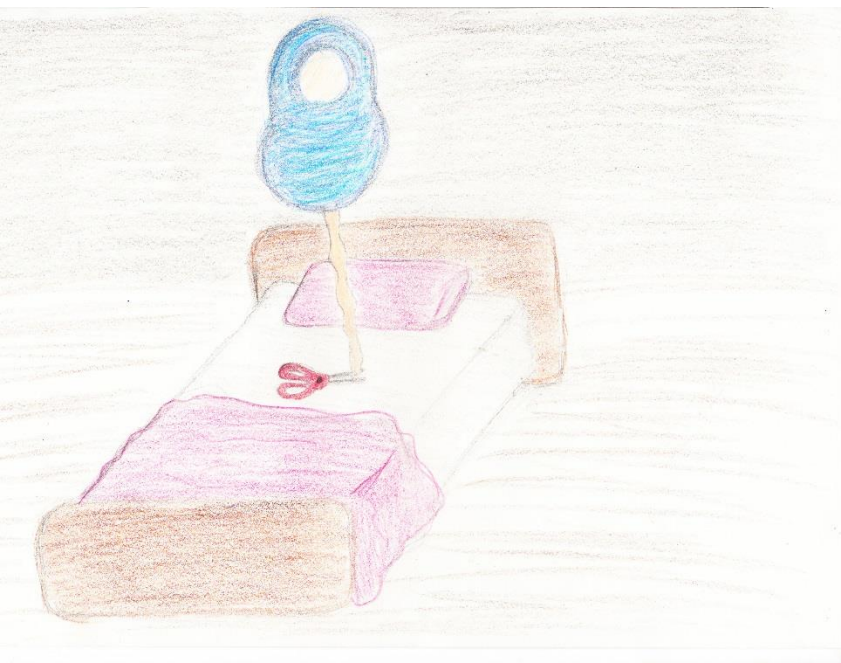
- ▶ For my Painting, I separated the idea of day and night.
- ▶ The dress is not a culture based. It has nothing to do with a traditional Mexico dress.

- In both paintings the dress is in the middle of the painting separating two different things.



- For Kahlo's painting she is separating her idea of the United States and Mexico.
- In My dress hangs There, the dress does look more traditional which is something Frida would wear frequently.

- ▶ Frida's surrealist painting, *Henry Ford Hospital*, inspired me to create a surrealist painting myself.
- ▶ I liked the color scheme that she chose which is for the most part cool colors. She used blue for the background which sets the mood of the painting to be really sad. She is in the bed with the umbilical cord out and a floating fetus attached to the umbilical cord giving it a balloon type of appearance.
- ▶ This represents the death of her baby that didn't even get the chance to live.



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