The Two Fridas (1939), Oil on canvas, 170 x 170 cm, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico.
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• Created shortly after her divorce from Diego Rivera.
• Self-portrait of two different personalities.
• Originated from her memory of an imaginary childhood friend.
• Records the emotions surrounding her separation and martial crisis.
• First large-scale artwork.

The Two Fridas (1939), Oil on canvas, 170 x 170 cm, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico.

http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• On the right, Mexican Frida in her Tehuana costume, the part of her person which was respected and loved by Diego.

• Visible through an open chest, the heart of the loved Frida remains whole.

http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp
http://www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/worksofart/
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• In her hand she holds an amulet bearing the portrait of Diego.

• From the egg-shaped frame a long red vein emerges symbolizing that Diego was not only her lover, but her child as well.

Amulet: An ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp
http://www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/worksofart/
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• On the left, a more rather European Frida in lacey white Victorian wedding dress, the Frida that Diego abandoned.

• Visible through an open chest, the unloved Frida’s heart is broken.

Amulet: An ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease.

http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp
http://www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/worksofart/
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• From the amulet that Frida is holding springs a vein that travels through both women’s hearts and is finally cut off by the surgical pincers held in the lap of the rejected Frida.
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• In despair, Frida tries to stop the flow of blood from Diego, but it keeps dripping.
• She is in danger of bleeding to death.
• The blood drips onto her crisp white dress, a possible reminder of her abortions, miscarriages and many surgeries, as well as the physical pain felt at the loss of Diego.

http://www.fridakahlo.org/the-two-fridas.jsp
http://www.pbs.org/weta/fridakahlo/worksofart/
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

• Frida once said to Diego “My blood is the miracle that travels in the veins of the air from my heart to yours”.

• In an attempt to sever all emotional ties with Diego, the surgical pincers held by the unwanted Frida try to staunch this shared blood flow.
‘The Two Fridas’ (1939)

- The stormy sky filled with agitated clouds may reflect Frida’s inner turmoil.
- Holding her own hand, she is her own companion.

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