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Murray Hill
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Biography of Diego Rivera, famous Mexican artist, whose frescoes and paintings will be on exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art opening December 23, 1931.

Diego Rivera is at present working on frescoes for an exhibition of his work opening December 23 at the Museum of Modern Art, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Rivera is possibly the foremost living master of fresco painting. True fresco painting employs the technique of painting with ground earth colors, mainly the oxides of manganese and iron, on wet plaster. The color incorporated in the dried plaster gives to the work a unique surface texture and a remarkable enduring quality.

Diego Rivera was born December 8, 1886 in the Mexican mining town of Guanajuato. His grandfather under Juarez had been chief of military administration. His father was a consultant chemist, school teacher and editor of a small paper.

When six he was taken by his family to Mexico City. Here he began to draw under the direction of José Guadalupe Posada. In 1898 he entered the studio of an academic painter, Félix Para.

In 1907 in Madrid he worked under Eduardo Chicharro. Dissatisfied, he went to Paris where his interest in painting united with a growing interest in politics. His work was influenced by Cézanne, Picasso, Renoir, and Henri Rousseau. He returned to Mexico in 1910.

He went again to Paris in 1911. His interest in painting as an important factor in the portrayal of the growth of a people or a civilization (his political sense) turned his attention to a medium greater in scope and more lasting than oil - that of fresco. It was not until 1918, however, that he began experimenting in this medium. He had already journeyed to Italy.

In 1922 he began the first great frescoes in the Ministry of Education Building in Mexico City.

In 1927 he went again to Paris and to Moscow. Here he made cartoons for frescoes never carried out.

Interest in Rivera's work in this country was heightened when he was commissioned to do frescoes in the San Francisco Stock Exchange and in the Academy of Fine Arts in the same city. This work was completed last year.

Important work in Mexico by Diego Rivera included the frescoes in the Ministry of Education Building, in the National Preparatory School, in the National Agricultural Academy, Chapingo and those in the Palace of Cortez, Cuernavaca, commissioned by the late Ambassador Morrow.

342 Madison Ave
Suite 1221