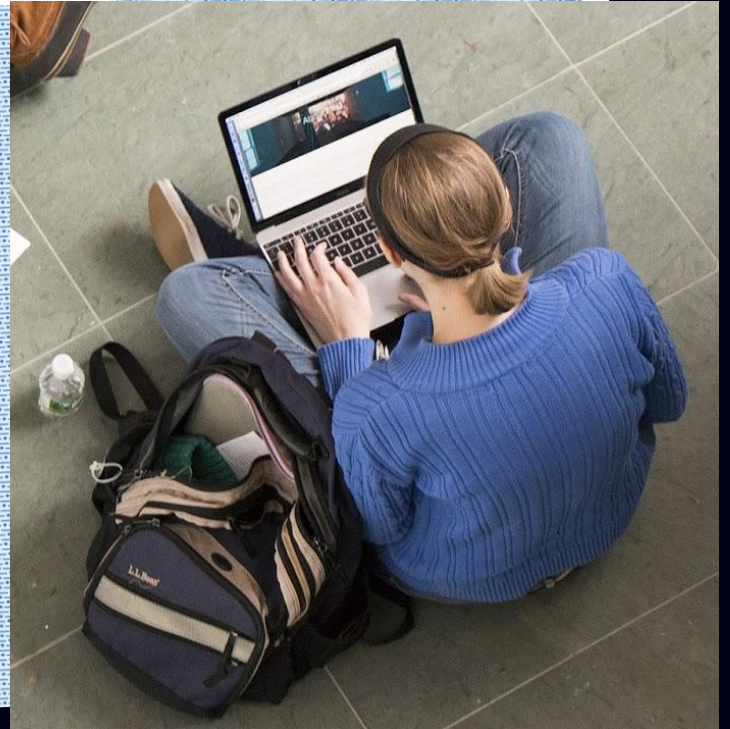


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Frida Kahlo

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia


This name uses Spanish naming customs: the first or paternal family name is Kahlo and the second or maternal family name is Calderón.

Frida Kahlo de Rivera (Spanish pronunciation: [ˈfɾiða ˈkaɫo]; born **Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón**; 6 July 1907 – 13 July 1954) was a *Mexican artist* who painted many portraits, *self-portraits*, and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naive folk art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class, and race in Mexican society.^[1] Her paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy. In addition to belonging to the post-revolutionary *Mexicayotl* movement, which sought to define a Mexican identity, Kahlo has been described as a *surrealist* or *magical realist*.

Born to a German father and a *mestiza* mother, Kahlo spent most of her childhood and adult life at her family home in *Coyoacán*, *La Casa Azul*, now known and publicly accessible as the Frida Kahlo Museum. She was disabled by *polio* as a child. Until a traffic accident at age eighteen caused lifelong pain and medical problems, she had been a promising student headed for medical school. During her recovery, she returned to her childhood hobby of art with the idea of becoming an artist.

Kahlo's interests in politics and art led to the next stage of her life. In 1927, she joined the *Mexican Communist Party*, through which she met celebrated muralist *Diego Rivera* whom she married in 1928. The relationship was volatile and included a year-long divorce; both had extramarital affairs. Kahlo spent the late 1920s and early 1930s traveling in Mexico and the United States with Rivera. During this time, she developed her own style as an artist, drew her main inspiration from *Mexican folk culture*, and painted mostly small self-portraits which mixed elements from pre-Columbian and Catholic mythology. Her paintings raised the interest of Surrealist artist *André Breton*, who arranged for Kahlo's first solo exhibition at the *Julien Levy Gallery* in New York in 1938. The exhibition was a success and was followed by another in Paris in 1939. While the French exhibition was less successful, the *Louvre* purchased a painting from Kahlo, *The Frame*, making her the first Mexican artist to be featured in their collection. Throughout the 1940s, Kahlo participated in exhibitions in Mexico and the United States. She taught at the *Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado "La Esmeralda"* and became a founding member of the *Seminario de Cultura Mexicana*. Kahlo's always fragile health began to decline in the same decade. She had her first solo

Frida Kahlo



Kahlo in 1932, photographed by her father
Guillermo Kahlo

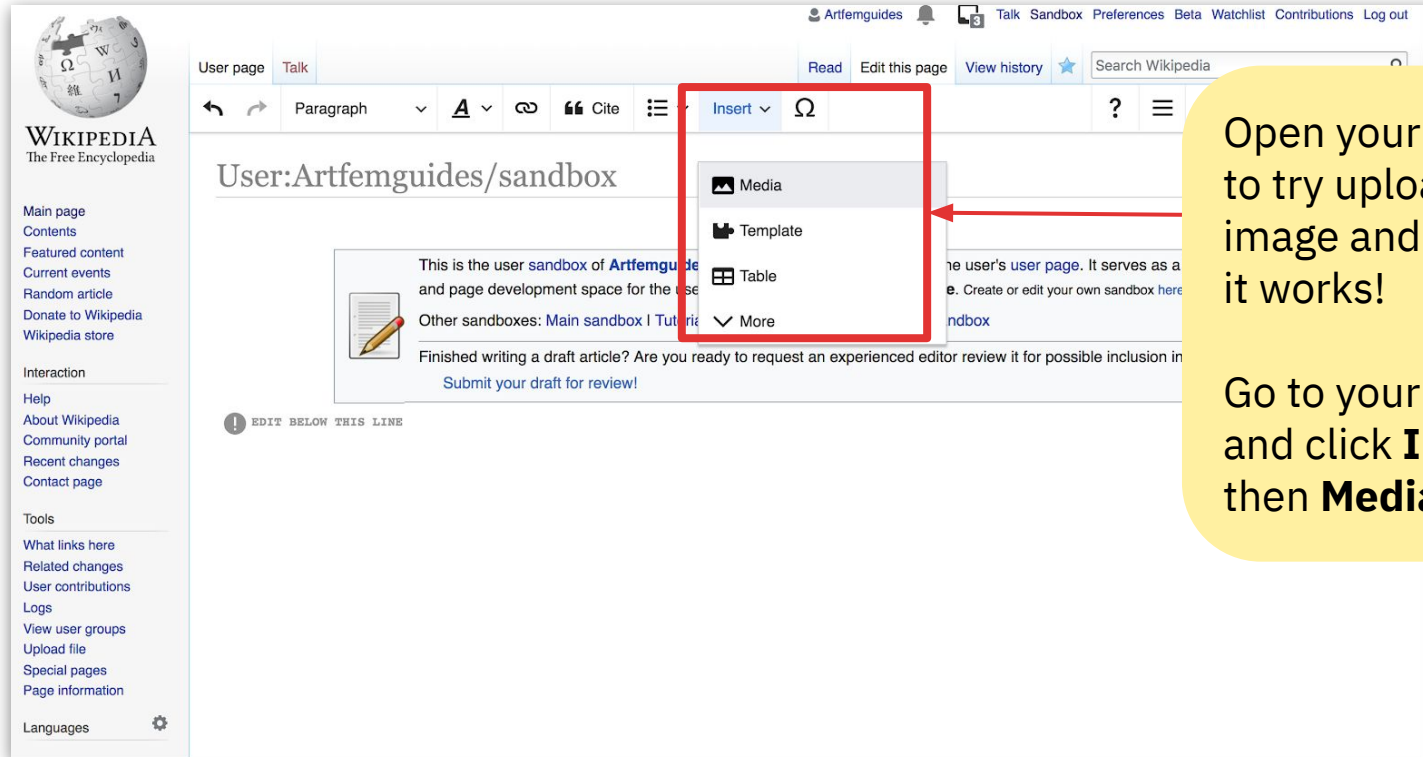
Born Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón
6 July 1907
Coyoacán, Mexico City, Mexico

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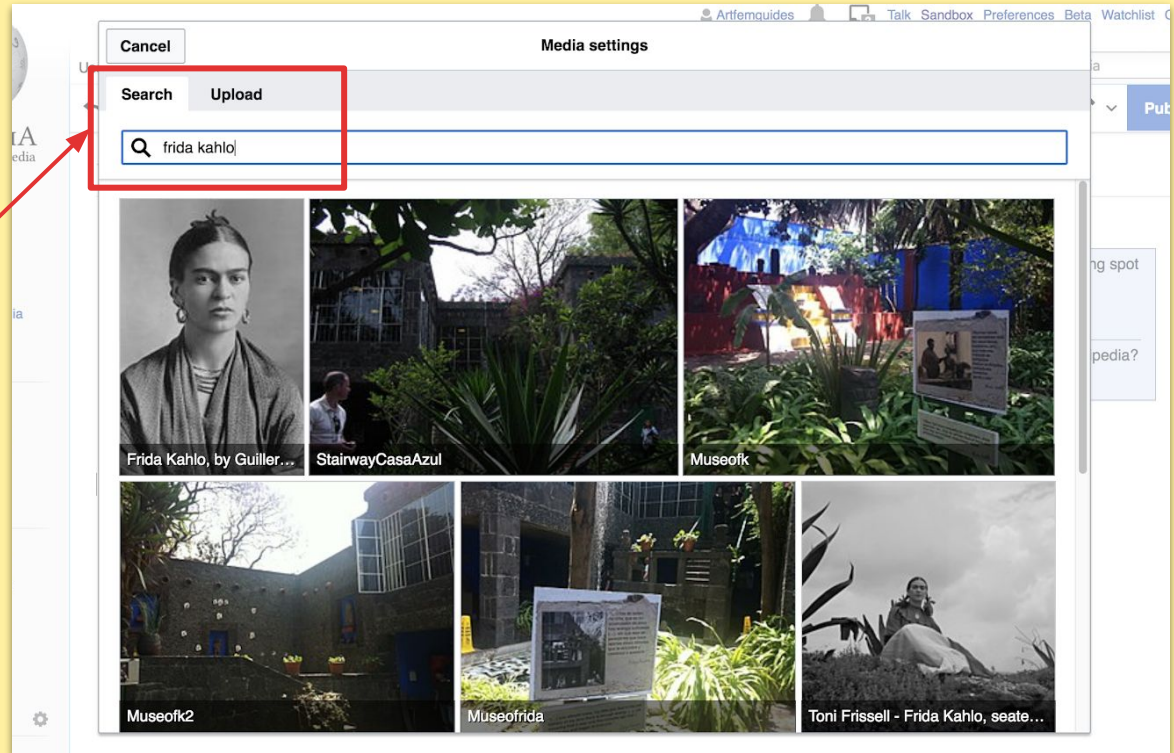
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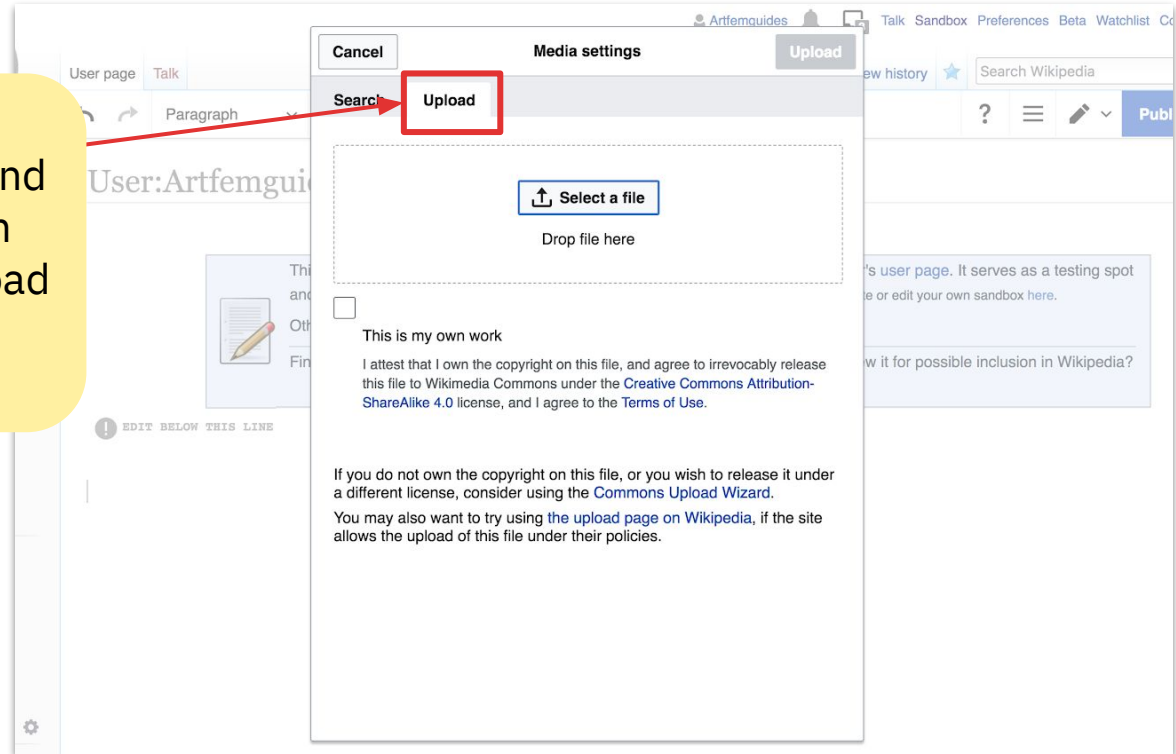
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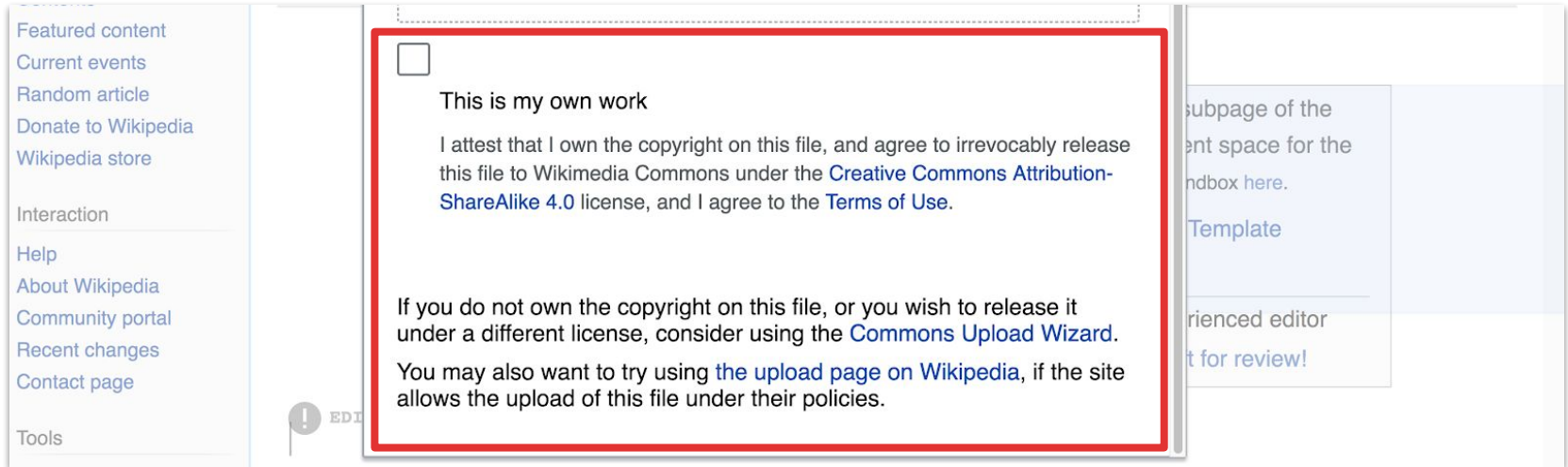


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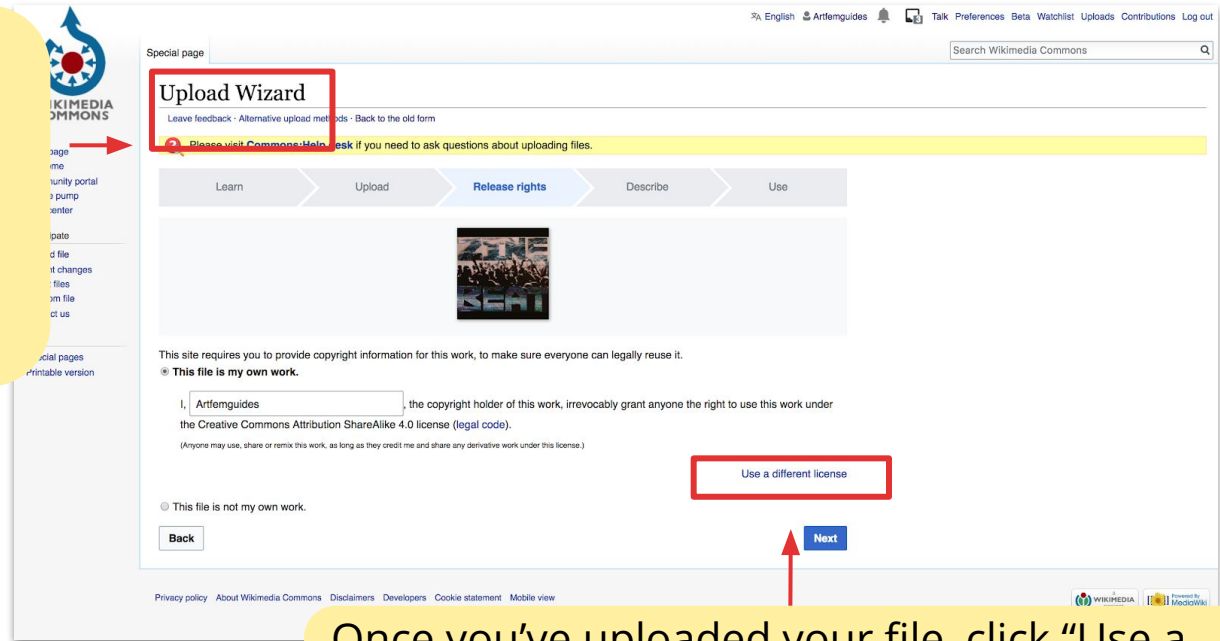


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The Means to an End--A Shadow Drama in Five Acts, etching and aquatint by Kara Walker, 5 panels, 1995, Hong Kong

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