

Artist Statement

While reading about the life story of Frida Kahlo, Bernadette Peña's granddaughter began to identify similarities between herself and the Mexican artist. She related to Frida's eyebrows, her love for painting, and their shared experience of living with a disability. Curious to learn more about Frida, Peña's granddaughter dressed with bright flowers in her hair and a flowing rebozo. Unknowingly, this moment set the course for a creative movement.

After finding minimal representation of women of color and diverse voices in children's literature, Peña founded the Brava: A Celebration of Women™ photo collection. This exhibit features thirty-one visionary women through storytelling and imagery. Represented by the future female leaders of tomorrow, Brava: A Celebration of Women honors the vital roles and historical contributions of women who have shaped and influenced history and culture. This photo collection inspires and serves as a call to action for individuals to support the empowerment of women and girls.



Frida Kahlo by Ella (2017)