

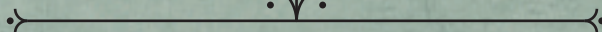


PETS AND THEIR FAMOUS HUMANS



PRESTEL

MUNICH · LONDON · NEW YORK



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OF

PETS AND
THEIR FAMOUS
HUMANS





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Granizo

↪ FRIDA KAHLO'S FAWN ↪

Frida Kahlo was born in Casa Azul, also known as the Blue House, in a suburb of Mexico City. She spent most of her life there. When she was eighteen, she was in a terrible bus accident that left her bed-ridden for many months. That was when she began painting.

Because it was difficult for Frida to travel outside her home, the courtyard of the Blue House became her little universe. Together with her husband, Diego Rivera, also a famous artist, she transformed the courtyard into a marvelous forest for her many exotic pet animals. In the center of the courtyard was a small Aztec pyramid built by Diego. The couple's pet osprey was usually perched on top. Because the bird pooped on everything, they named it Gertrudis Caca Blanca, which means Gertrude Whitepoop!

Frida Kahlo loved her animals very much and allowed them to roam freely about the house. She had spider monkeys, parrots, hens, and Mexican hairless dogs, of which Mr. Xoloti was her favorite. Granizo was a sweet fawn she raised in the house. Even when it eventually grew antlers, it nestled up to Frida in her bed.

The animals were more than companions and playmates. Like herself, they often appeared in her paintings. Granizo can be seen in two of Frida's most important works. In the larger of the two, *The Wounded Table* (1940), it is still a little fawn with white spots. Six years later, its fully grown body can be seen in the famous picture, *The Wounded Deer*. This painting shows how Frida felt when she learned that she would never fully heal from her accident. In many ways, Frida's paintings and her pets helped her to live with her lifelong pain.



Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

The Mexican painter was not only famous for her art, but also for the way she lived, wore her hair, and how she dressed. In her self-portraits, she painted herself just as she was, with big, bushy eyebrows and a body full of scars from the many operations following her accident. Casa Azul is now an art museum and her paintings have been declared a national cultural heritage by the Mexican government.



Archie

↪ ANDY WARHOL'S FRIEND FOR LIFE ↪

Andy Warhol never saw himself owning a dog. He had lived only with cats as a child, all of whom were named Sam. Then on Christmas day in 1973, a dark, short-haired dachshund named Archie entered his life. The two became lifelong friends. Andy was already a world-famous artist by then, best known for painting objects like soup cans and Coca Cola bottles, things familiar to everyone through advertising and everyday life. It was a completely new way of painting called "Pop Art."

Wherever Andy went, he always arrived with little Archie in his arms. At fancy restaurants, Andy would cover Archie with a napkin so no one could spot him sitting on his lap. If he did not feel like answering a question in an interview, he would turn to Archie and say, "You say something, Archie!" The dog, however, would simply turn up his nose. On the other hand, Archie seemed to like posing in front of flashing cameras, as if to show off the gold charm from Tiffany & Co. dangling from his collar.

In 1976, Andy Warhol found a playmate for Archie, a light-brown dachshund named Amos. Amos didn't

like being around people as much as Archie did. This led to Archie giving up the limelight to romp around with Amos. That same year, Andy immortalized Archie in the painting *Dachshund (Archie)*. The two dogs remained his faithful chums right up to his death in 1987.



Andy Warhol (1928-1987)

Andy Warhol's real name was Andrew Warhola. The son of Slovakian immigrants started out working as a commercial artist and illustrator before he began creating his own work in the 1960s. From 1962, he worked in a studio called the Factory in downtown New York, where he also made films. Many of his works were a series of the same image made in different colors. His love of animals can be seen in the series of pictures called *Endangered Species*.







Katze

↪ GUSTAV KLIMT'S FURRY COMPANION ↪

From an early age, the Austrian painter Gustav Klimt showed a keen artistic talent. Later, while studying in an arts and crafts school, Gustav and his brother ran a successful workshop painting murals and ceilings inside large, famous buildings. In 1888, Gustav received a Golden Order of Merit from Emperor Franz Joseph I for the murals he painted inside the Burgtheater of Vienna.

After his brother's death, Klimt preferred to work on his own in a light-filled studio where he could let his creativity run wild. His studio was in the center of Vienna, surrounded by a large garden. It was the perfect place to work outside the "art rules" of the time. For similar reasons, Gustav took off his clothes when he entered the studio and wore only a light, flowing tunic when he painted. His mosaic-like images were populated with plants, geometric patterns, and sweeping lines—a style that had never been seen before.

In addition to famous artists of the time, Gustav's studio and garden also swarmed with cats. They climbed the trees, traipsed among the canvases, leapt onto the laps of the women who were sitting as models for the artist, and played with the many sketches scattered about the floor. One of the few

photos of Gustav shows him in his tunic, cradling one of the cats. The cats also performed an important task. When visitors passed by the studio, they were struck by the strong smell of urine. Gustav used this as a varnish to preserve his sketches. He was especially fond of a black-and-white spotted feline he simply called Katze. Katze accompanied him for many years and was at his side during the creation of important works like *The Kiss* (1908), which brought him great success during his lifetime.



Gustav Klimt (1862-1918)

One of the most famous artists to emerge from the Art Nouveau period, Gustav Klimt was renowned for his golden paintings. His work is recognized for the decorative way in which people and objects were painted. Plants, flowers, or ornate lines adorn Gustav Klimt's portraits and landscape paintings. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was not only paintings that were created in this style, but also furniture and other everyday objects.



Pinka

↪ VIRGINIA WOOLF'S INSPIRATION ↩

As a small child, Virginia Woolf discovered that there were two things in life that made her happy: writing and dogs. Her childhood companions were Shag, Jerry, and Gurth. As an adult, she first got a boxer dog from a pet sanctuary, then a terrier mix called Grizzle, and in 1926, at the age of forty-four, the very posh Pinka entered her life. This pedigree cocker spaniel was a gift from a fellow author, Vita Sackville-West.

Virginia did not want her pedigree Pinka to be as snooty as some of the aristocrats in London, so Pinka was allowed to lead a normal dog's life, which included running through fields, rolling in mud, and splashing in rivers.

Throughout her life, Virginia suffered periods of heavy sadness. On such days, she would spend the day in bed. It calmed her to feel Pinka at her side, especially when the two took long walks together, even if it was cold and rainy. Walking helped Virginia recover and gave her ideas for her work. While out strolling with Pinka, she used to recite whole paragraphs of her new books and then type them up when she got home.

Pinka played a big part in one of her books. Virginia decided to write a biography of the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning as if it were written by the poet's

cocker spaniel, Flush. Virginia used Pinka as a role model since she knew nothing about Barrett's dog. In the end, there was so much of Pinka's personality in Flush that a photo of Pinka was used on the book's cover. Though *Flush: A Biography* (1933) was not as serious as Woolf's other books, to everyone's surprise it was a great success. Two years later in 1935, Pinka suddenly died. Virginia didn't just miss Pinka's companionship and affection, she also missed her as an inspiration for her writing. In her journal, Virginia noted that a part of her had been buried along with Pinka at her cottage, Monk's House. In 1941, the author's own ashes were buried there.



Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)

Adeline Virginia Stephen Woolf was born in London in 1882 and became interested in literature by spending time in her father's big library. Her novels are known around the world and translated into many languages. She also worked as a publisher and social critic. Today, she is seen as one of the most influential thinkers of the women's movement, which fights for equality between men and women.