

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends:

I am delighted to be here this evening to celebrate two of Mexico's most recognized artists: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.

TASCHEN has captured the dimension and power of Diego Rivera's work and influence in this magnificent book "Diego Rivera: the complete murals" and Pallant House Gallery has brought together for the first time ever in the UK works of this couple who have attained mythological status.

I would like to thank Stefan Van Raay, all the trustees and staff at Pallant House Gallery, Robert Littman, Magda Caranza de Akle and the Trustees of the Vergel Foundation, James and Clare Kirkman and the Aldama Foundation, Catherine and Franck Petitgas, Keith Clark, as well as a special thanks to the Khalo Rivera support circle.

Thank you Jonathan Colechester and Christian Flackett from GAM for your continuing support of Pallant House Gallery and its Mexican bonanza.

I recognize you all for your vision and efforts.

And of course, TASCHEN thank you for hosting this event with us. The presentation of Diego Rivera: The Complete Murals gives the exhibition a greater presence in England.

In the last decades museums and galleries around the world have widely celebrated Mexico and those artists who have played a part in shaping and documenting its history, life and passions. Of course, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo could be recognized as the most emblematic of these.

We are very grateful for this openness and celebration and hope such good relations continue to grow and benefit our

communities and future generations, allowing all to enjoy and celebrate Mexico and its artistic talent and influence.

Thank you all for being here this evening and I hope you will all have an opportunity to enjoy the exhibition at Pallant House Gallery.