



ABOUT THE ARTIST

In the 20th century, the name of Diego Rivera was recognized by more people in Latin America than that of any other artist, and he has been called the most famous Mexican artist in the world. Encouraged at a young age by his parents, he received an art scholarship at age 10 and trained as an artist in Mexico. Later, he continued his studies in Europe where he lived for some time before returning to Mexico. He was familiar with the artistic traditions of the past as well as new developments in the art of his own time. Although in his more well-known murals Rivera often created visual stories that highlighted injustice or suffering, he also made works such as *Man Loading Donkey with Firewood* emphasizing the pride and dignity of the working people of Mexico.

LOOKING CLOSELY

What is happening in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that?

What is the relationship shown between the man and the donkey? What work are they doing?

Why do you think the man's back is turned to us?

What do you think might happen next, after the moment depicted?

If you were telling the story of this work, what would you call it, and why?

Look closely at the image of this painting on the second page. How does color connect the figures of the man and donkey? What shapes are repeated?

When you color this line drawing, you might want to try bolder, brighter colors, add another figure, or perhaps draw the scene you imagine will happen next.



Diego Rivera, *Man Loading Donkey with Firewood* (1938). Graphite and watercolor on paper. SBMA, Gift of Barbara J. and Robert K. Straus.