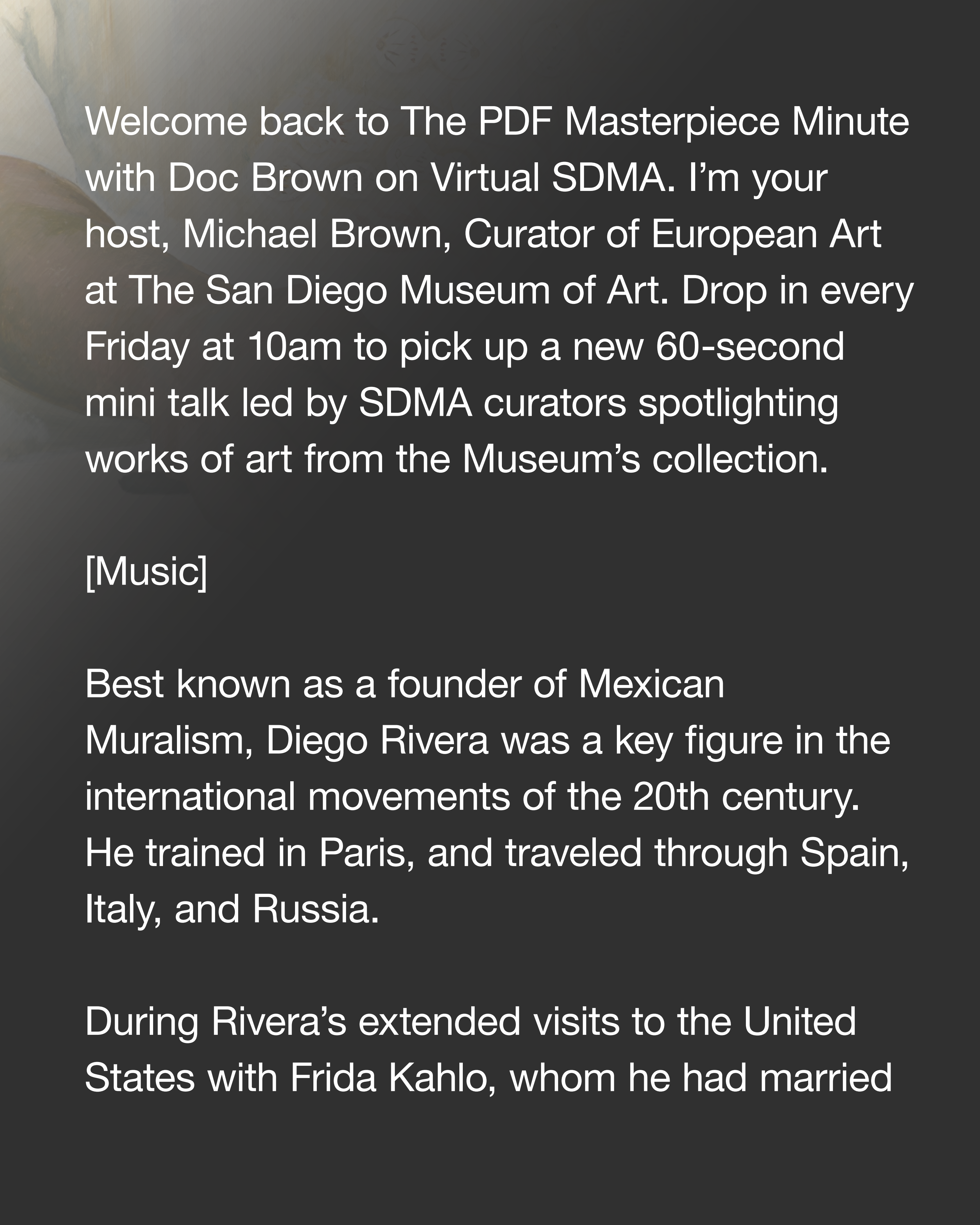


# MASTERPIECE MINUTE



Estas son las manos del Doctor Clarence Moore de Los Angeles California, pódame el  
Árbol de la Vida para que refloresca y no muera, las retrató Diego Rivera en 1940





Welcome back to The PDF Masterpiece Minute with Doc Brown on Virtual SDMA. I'm your host, Michael Brown, Curator of European Art at The San Diego Museum of Art. Drop in every Friday at 10am to pick up a new 60-second mini talk led by SDMA curators spotlighting works of art from the Museum's collection.

[Music]

Best known as a founder of Mexican Muralism, Diego Rivera was a key figure in the international movements of the 20th century. He trained in Paris, and traveled through Spain, Italy, and Russia.

During Rivera's extended visits to the United States with Frida Kahlo, whom he had married

in 1929, he painted large-scale murals in Detroit, New York, and San Francisco. These murals had an enormous influence on American modernism.

His portrait of Dr. Clarence Moore, made during a visit Moore and his wife made to Rivera's Mexico City studio, depicts only the surgeon's hands.

In a surreal twist, he performs surgery on the tree of life, which takes on a female form and according to the inscription is “renewed and does not die.”

In this work, Rivera not only closely follows the style of Frida Kahlo, but also employs the composition of the centuries-old Mexican tradition of ex-voto or votive paintings, which were made as thank offerings and typically

painted on sheets of tin about the same size as this canvas.

Dr. Moore's wife, who had retired to San Diego, left the portrait to SDMA in 1970. Fun Science Fact! In the branches of the tree, we can see the artist's rendering of the process of cell-division known as mitosis, a crucial phase in the human life cycle.

This has been Doc Brown with Masterpiece Minute. Thanks for joining us here on Virtual SDMA—catch ya next Friday!