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### **Frida Khalo**

This piece by Frida Khalo reflects her strength and her urge to resist the confinement of female gender roles. She cut off her own hair, a symbol of taking back the power from the expectations of society. The idea of conforming to femininity in order to be deemed worthwhile to men is confronted in this piece. The painting explicit pain and the strength that comes out of a period of great suffering. She's dressed in a suit, and her eyes are piercing into the viewer's soul. Fully conscious of what she has just done, she looks at the viewer with satisfaction.

*My Literary Fragment-* As she readjusted her long floral *tehuana* dress, she took a step back, letting herself admire her reflection. The image she saw of puffy eyes and frizzy braids, she no longer felt like herself. She wiped away her tears, and opened the cabinets, desperately trying to find a pair of scissors. Pacing back and forth across the room, she finally snapped. In a haze she cut straight through her skirt, ripping it to shreds. However, this wasn't enough for her. She cut straight through her braids, letting strands of her locs be tossed across the floor. She continuously hummed, "ahora que estás pelona, ya no te quiero", and by the time she realized this, her hair had been stripped down to a buzz.

Suddenly an overwhelming feeling of relief had consumed her. "Ya no te quiero". She let out a deep sigh and finished removing her dress. Completely bare, she felt lighter and free. She reached for her ex-husband's coat and draped it around her shoulders. Alongside another sigh of relief, her shoulders fell down. She eventually decided to get dressed, in his entire suit. Tears began to form once again. She laid back on her wooden yellow chair and said "But if no one wants me, I'm free".



[Photo submission: Eskarlen Ponce]