Ode to Frida

by Dylan Parsons

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remember,
      in the 5th grade,
             we all laughed
                    at you?
      what an ugly
      woman,
             what
is that caterpillar
      on her face?
      what strange
      paintings, from
      a deranged mind,
             surely.
      but every hair,
             every brush stroke,
                   every thought as
      revolutionary
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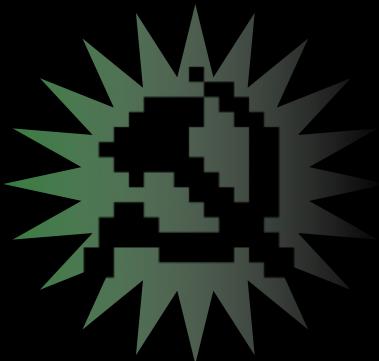
as the hammer

draped over your

casket.

your broken columns

and sickle



upheld your radical
femininity, free
as a doe in the meadow.

your spirit defied
the colonizer's beauty,
defined yourself as a model
of liberation,
wishing bread and roses
to the workers
and health
to the sick.

