This study group will explore the lives of Mexican muralist painter, Diego Rivera and his first wife, Russian artist, Angelina Beloff while living in France between 1910 and 1920. Presentation and discussion will be focus on exactly a moment of great artistic transformation in Paris, the 1910s. We will read Elena Poniatowska’s novel, *Dear Diego*. The novel acknowledges the professional and private life of Diego and Beloff when they met Picasso, Léger, Modigliani, Chagall, Mondrian, and numerous important artists of the time. In *Dear Diego*, Poniatowska highlights the "pull" of Mexico for Diego, and the reason for his return in 1921 which corresponds to the   period of national reconstruction under President Obregon after the Mexican Revolution of 1910.  This movement of national reconstruction brought about a diverse and active artistic climate in which the Mexican government sponsored programs such as the legendary mural projects under the directorship of the Minister of Education, José Vasconcelos.

Readings:

*Dear Diego* by Elena Poniatowska. Katheryn Silver, translator. New York: Pantheon Books, 1986.

Suggested readings:

Beloff, Angelina.  *Memorias*. México: Secretaría de educación Pública, 1986.

*The Diary of Frida Kahlo. An Intimate Portrait*. introduction by Carlos Fuentes and with essay and commentaries by Sarah Lowe. New York: H. Abrams, 1995

Additional reading:

*Tinísima* by Elena Poniatowska. Mexico City: Ediciones Era, 1992

*Borders* by Gloria Anzaldúa

"Letters from Tina Modotti to Edward Wetson".

Slides of works by: Diego Rivera, Angelina Beloff Maria Blanchard, Frida Kahlo and Tina Modotti.



**Angelina Beloff by Diego Rivera 1909, oil canvas.**

**Tentative reading schedule:**

**Week 1**: Introduction to the course.

Readings: The Cubist Paintings of Diego Rivera, Politics and Place.

Link:

<https://culturacolectiva.com/art/the-forgotten-lover-of-diego-rivera-who-proved-to-be-a-better-artist-than-frida-kahlo>

**Week 2:**

*Dear Diego*, Postscript, page 89 and 3-9.

[*https://www.latinamericanart.com/en/artist/angelina-beloff/*](https://www.latinamericanart.com/en/artist/angelina-beloff/)

**Week 3:**

*Dear Diego*, pp. 10-25.

<https://www.diego-rivera.net/motherhood-angelina-and-the-child-diego/>

**Week 4:**

*Dear Diego,* pp. 26-44.

<https://www.twtd.co.uk/wiki/Angelina_Beloff>

**Week 5:**

*Dear Diego,* pp. 45- 57.

<http://museoblaisten.com/en/Artista/62/Angelina-Beloff>

**Week 6:**

*Dear Diego*, pp. 58-69

<https://glasstire.com/2009/07/10/diego-rivera-the-cubist-portraits-1913-1917-at-the-meadows-museum/>

**Week 7:**

*Dear Diego*, pp. 70-83

<https://www.scribd.com/document/452666386/Angelina-Beloff-Munecos-Animados-MX>

**Week 8:**

*Dear Diego*, pp.84-87.

<https://www.arteinformado.com/agenda/f/angelina-beloff-trazos-de-una-vida-59416>

<https://artoftherussias.wordpress.com/2012/04/14/angelina-beloff/>

<https://www.academia.edu/8508748/Man_at_the_Crossroads_Diego_Rivera_s_Mural_at_Rockefeller_Center>

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