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Artist's exhibition is inspired by Frida Kahlo

LOCAL Tugun artist Beverley Cosgrove was inspired to pick up a paintbrush as a form of diversion therapy after suffering some health issues.

Now the Papua New Guinea-born freelance writer will exhibit her work *I Love Frida* at Kirra Hill Gallery until August 12 as a tribute to prolific artist Frida Kahlo.

"Few artists have inspired me in the same way as Frida Kahlo," she said.

"Her work has been described as naive folk art, but Frida's paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy.

"Family and friends were very supportive, encouraging me



Artist Beverley Cosgrove will display her *I Love Frida!* art exhibition at Kirra Hill.

Photo: SUPPLIED

to keep soldiering on.

"So drawing on their encouragement, and with no formal training, I picked up a brush and started painting in February 2017.

"The result is a creative interpretation of photos and self-portraits of Frida Kahlo.

"I think Frida downplayed her beauty in her portraits, so they have been interpreted in my own naive style. I hope she would have approved."

Born in Mexico in 1907, Kahlo died in 1954 after many years of ill health but despite her trials and tribulations she remains a revered artist to this day.

I Love Frida is at Kirra Hill Gallery until August 12.