Research Information Goal:
To find a style of a product.

Subject to be researched:
I have found famous artist Frida Kahlo’s works as an interesting subject for working on. Her style is unique. In order to understand her style we need to know her biography, so here is a short biography of her.

Biography of Frida Kahlo
"I am not sick. I am broken. But I am happy as long as I can paint." -FK

Frida Kahlo is a Mexican painter, born on July 6, 1907 and dead on July 13, 1954. Frida claimed to be born on 1910, the year of the outbreak of the Mexican revolution,

Her mother was a Mexican catholic; her father a European atheist. She was beautiful, spirited, and bold. She was proud of her Mexican roots and often dressed in bright, unique Tehuana costume. Clothing had an important role in her self-presentation.

Her life was marked by physical suffering, started with the polio contracted at the age of five and worsen by her life-dominating event occurred in 1925. A bus accident caused severe injuries to her body owing to a pole that pierced her from the stomach to the pelvis. The medicine of her time tortured her body with surgical operations (32 throughout her life), corsets of different kinds and mechanical "stretching" systems.

Lots of her works were painted laying in the bed. Because of these physical conditions Frida was never able to have any children and this was a great sorrow for her.

She had a great love, Diego Rivera (she married twice with this man and dedicated to him a passionate diary). Diego was fat, ugly, and much older than Frida, but she loved and admired him. However, he frequently had affairs with other women, including Frida’s sister. This caused Frida a lot of pain, but she retaliated: she had affairs of her own, with men and with women. The most notable of her lovers was Leon Trotsky, the great Russian revolutionary who spent time with Frida and Diego in Mexico while in exile.
Work and Style

"I paint self portraits because I am so often alone. Because I am the subject I know best." – FK

Frida Kahlo was considered a naive painter even if she was well-read and educated. Frida's work combines dreamlike imagery with realism. For these reasons Frida may be understood as a surrealist.

Her paintings share stylistic and technical characteristics with traditional Mexican retablos or devotional paintings. Many of her works are small paintings, some on tin. They were executed with great attention to detail and sometimes include text.

She said, "I paint self-portraits because I am the person I know best. I paint my own reality. The only thing I know is that I paint because I need to, and I paint whatever passes through my head without any other considerations." Her paintings, like Tori Amos's music, are very open and honest. They reflect her emotions, the events in her life, changes in her feelings—whether good or bad. She recorded her life in paint. Her imagery and style were very original, dramatic, and courageous. Her husband, the famous Mexican muralist Diego Rivera, said: "Frida is the only example in the history of art of an artist who tore open her chest and heart to reveal the biological truth of her feelings. The only woman who has expressed in her work an art of the feelings, functions, and creative power of woman."

In 1953, when Frida Kahlo had her first solo exhibition in Mexico (the only one held in her native country during her lifetime), a local critic wrote: 'It is impossible to separate the life and work of this extraordinary person. Her paintings are her biography.' This observation serves to explain both why her work is so different from that of her contemporaries, the Mexican Muralists, and why she has since become a feminist icon.

One central theme of Frida Kahlo's work includes the evocation of dualities in life, nature, and society. Such dualities as life/death, earth/industry, woman/man, and dark/light are found in the majority of her work. Self-portraits define Kahlo's work.

A second theme is her adaptation of elements of Mexican folk art into a contemporary evocation of social and personal identities. Self Portrait Between the Borderline of Mexico and the United States is a notable example of this theme. The traditional Mexican art form is the retablo, painted on tin, which has the function of providing a devotional image. Kahlo uses the traditional medium but alters it rather drastically, even iconoclastically. Instead of a traditional, serene, divine image to whom someone would normally pray, she uses the retablo medium to represent a duality between the U.S. and Mexico and a duality in her own persona. Kahlo's persona thus becomes the center of attention, not as an object of reverence or awe, but as an example of contemporary dualities, complexities, and confusion. Whereas Yolanda López, radically offers an alternative image of a divine figure, Kahlo substitutes her own persona instead of a divine image.
Her paintings are often violent-looking, bloody, and severe. But they simply represent the truth of what was happening to her. Since she could not be a mother, Frida lavished her attention on her many pets: dogs, cats, monkeys, and birds, as well as on her plants. Her plants and animals often are featured in her self-portraits, taking the place of children. Frida longed to be part of the flow of the universe, the connectedness of life. This is evidenced in her painting *Roots*, which shows her desire for fertility and to be a part of the life cycle. Her best-known painting, *The Two Fridas*, was painted around the time she and Diego got a divorce. One Frida is the loved Frida, dark-skinned and wearing Mexican dress, holding a picture of Diego. She is holding hands with the other Frida, who is paler and in European dress and who has a broken, exposed heart. Her torn emotions are clearly displayed on the canvas.

**Conclusion:**

Frida Kahlo was an incredibly amazing woman. Her life was filled with physical as well as emotional pain. She put her emotions into her painting, and as it were, she wore her heart on her canvas. Her work is a rare blend of true emotion, heartbreak, love, and life, as well as death. Most of her paintings were self-portraits. She has a unique style. Nobody ever has have painted like her.

Frida lived her life to the fullest, despite immense pain, handicaps, and suffering. She had a gift for communicating her emotions to the world through painting. Her paintings are beautiful, often heartbreaking works, and are uniquely her style. Yet she is an amazing woman in her own right, for what she has endured, how she persevered, and how she was an inspiration and example of strength.

'It is impossible to separate the life and work of this extraordinary person. Her paintings are her biography.'