

# *European Masters*

## *Leonardo da Vinci*

*Study*ladder

# Leonardo da Vinci

Born: April 15, 1452

Died: May 2, 1519

Style: High Renaissance

*Leonardo was considered a true 'Renaissance Man', which meant that he pursued multiple fields of studies and was highly skilled. He was in fact, a master painter, sculptor, architect, musician, scientist, inventor, anatomist and engineer and botanist.*

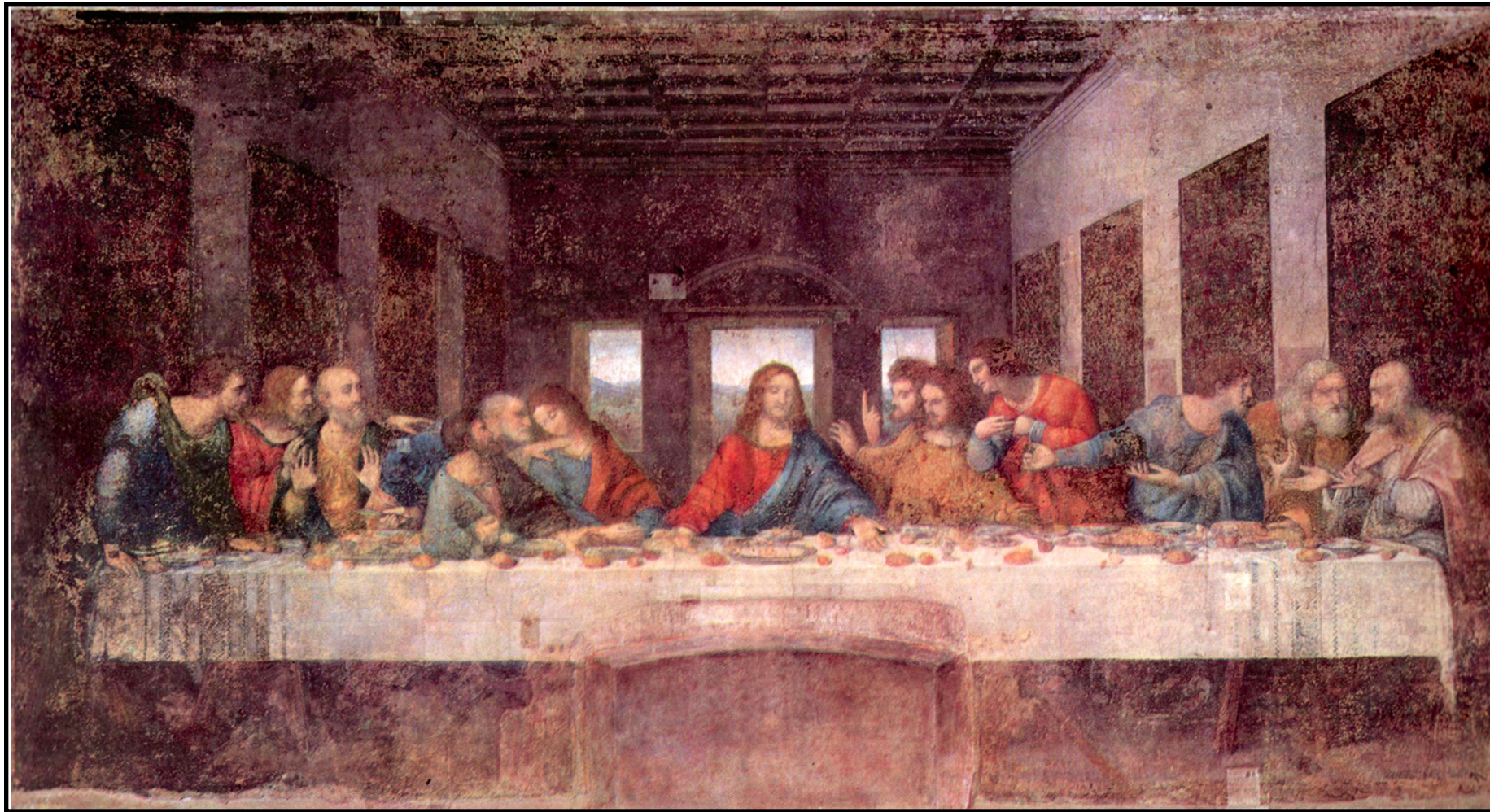
*He is also famous for his notebooks full of sketches and designs for scientific and engineering projects. Curiously he wrote much of his notes backwards in "mirror writing". Perhaps he didn't want others to know about his scientific inventions!*



*This is an engraving from the 1850s by J. Pofselwhite of the master Italian Painter Leonardo da Vinci.*

# Leonardo da Vinci

## The Last Supper



Leonardo drew extensive preliminary sketches and studies for this painting. Twenty survive today and are kept in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle in England.

Date Completed: 1494-1498

Medium: Oil pigments on gesso and resin

Dimensions: 460 cm × 880 cm (181 in × 346 in)

Location: Santa Maria delle Grazie , Milan, Italy

Leonardo was commissioned to paint this mural on the wall of the dining room of the former Dominican convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.

Unfortunately, Leonardo used experimental painting techniques with this work and over time the surface has deteriorated greatly.

Thankfully, the building survived World War II bombings in 1943. The painting itself has been restored many times, most recently in 1999.

# Leonardo da Vinci

## *The Virgin and Child with St. Anne*

Completed: 1508

Medium: Oil on wood

Dimensions: 168 cm × 112 cm (66 in × 44 in)

Located: The Louvre, Paris, France



*This painting was probably commissioned by Louis VII of France to give thanks for the birth of his only daughter in 1499. However, it was discovered in Leonardo's workshop in 1517, so it was never delivered. Leonardo was notorious for taking too long to finish paintings as he was usually working on many projects at the same time.*

# Leonardo da Vinci

## Portraits



### ***Ginevra de' Benci***

Completed: 1474 –1478

Medium: Oil on walnut wood panel

Dimensions: 38.1 cm × 37 cm

(15.0 in × 14.57 in)

Located: National gallery of Art,  
Washington D.C. USA.



### ***Lady with an Ermine***

Completed: around 1489–1490

Medium: Oil on walnut wood panel

Dimensions: 54 cm × 39 cm

(21 in × 15 in)

Located: The National Museum,  
Kraków, Poland



### ***La belle ferronnière***

Completed: 1490 –1496

Medium: Oil, tempera on panel

Dimensions: 62 cm × 44 cm

(24 in × 17 in)

Located: The Louvre Abu Dhabi,  
United Arab Emirates

# Leonardo da Vinci

## ***Mona Lisa (La Gioconda)***

Completed: about 1503–1519

Medium: Oil on Poplar (wood)

Dimensions: 77 cm × 53 cm (30 in × 21 in)

Located: The Louvre, Paris, France



*This is undoubtedly Leonardo's most famous painting.*

*It is thought to be a portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of a Florentine cloth merchant named Francesco del Giocondo. She is a very graceful figure, with the hint of a smile, painted in front of a misty atmospheric backdrop.*

*This is another example of a portrait that was never completely finished by Leonardo da Vinci. But this does not detract from her mysterious beauty!*