

Leonardo Da Vinci

by Gabrielle L. Rieff

The Italian Renaissance was an inspiring time period filled with the development of new technologies, discovery of new continents, and some of the most breath taking paintings and sculptures of all time. Leonardo Da Vinci was known as the ultimate Renaissance man, and for his extraordinary paintings like *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, Da Vinci brought art to a whole new level during the Renaissance.

Leonardo Da Vinci was born on April 15, 1452 in Vinci, Italy. At the age of 14 he began apprenticing with the artist Verrocchio. For 6 years he learned various things such as technical skills, leather arts, drawing and sculpting. By age 20 he had established his own workshop and qualified as a master artist in the Guild of Saint Luke. Da Vinci has been called a genius amongst many other things; he didn't see a divide between art and science. He recorded his observations on 13,000 pages of notes and drawings, which included drawings of flying machines, war machinery, and architecture.

Between the years 1505-1507 arguably the most famous painting in all of history was created. The *Mona Lisa* was privately commissioned and is Da Vinci's most well-known painting. It has been said that the *Mona Lisa* was a pregnant woman and that she wasn't even a woman at all, but a man in a drag. For Da Vinci, the *Mona Lisa* was a forever work in progress; his attempt at perfection. The painting was never delivered to the commissioner, but stayed with Da Vinci until he passed. Today, the *Mona Lisa* hangs in Louvre Museum in Paris, France and is regarded as a national treasure.

The "Renaissance Man" died in Amboise, France in 1519. He was the leading man of the Renaissance whose works are still cherished today throughout the world. He is used as an inspiration for young artists today, and continues to influence the world now even if he's not alive to do so. Leonardo Da Vinci's works will never be forgotten and neither will his intelligence.