



PORTRAITS

of the Masters

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ART APPRECIATION

PORTRAITS

of the Masters

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Leonardo da Vinci

(1452-1519)

"Knowing
is not enough;
we must apply."
Leonardo da Vinci

x Milan

x Florence

x Rome



Italian artist and polymath

The High Renaissance,
which lasted from 1490 to 1527,
produced influential artists such as
da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael,
each of whom brought creative power and
spearheaded ideals of emotional expression.



DAY 5 • THE RENAISSANCE

Would you rather pick one skill or career to focus on for the rest of your life, or do you want to work in many different fields where you get to learn about all kinds of things?

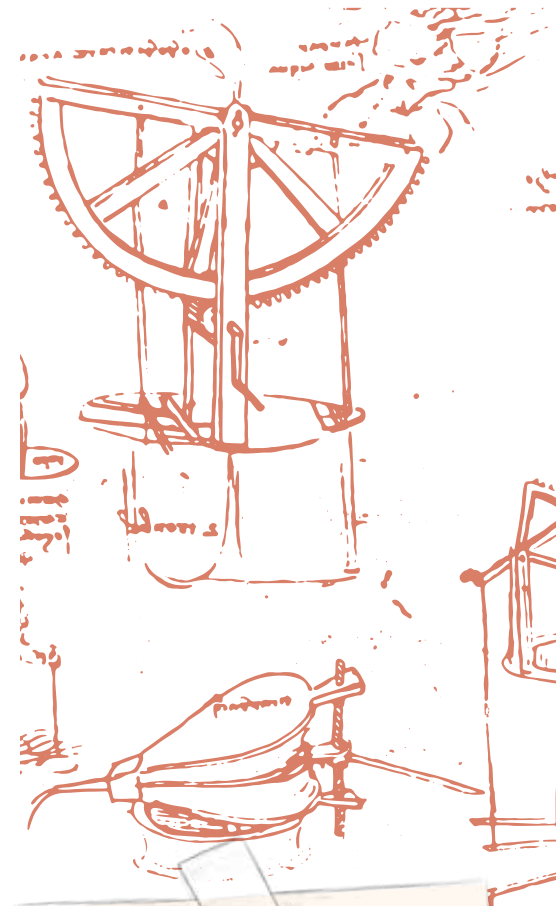
Leonardo da Vinci didn't choose just one career! Born in Anchiano, Italy, in 1452, da Vinci began an apprenticeship when he was 15 years old with Andrea del Verrocchio. His master trained him in many different disciplines such as painting, sculpting, and other technical-mechanical arts like architecture and engineering.

Da Vinci's accomplishments in so many different fields show his worthiness of being classified as a **polymath**—a person of wide-ranging knowledge or learning. A term you might be more familiar with is "Renaissance man/woman," which now refers to people like da Vinci who have diverse interests and skills.

The **Renaissance** was a time of revival and renewed interest in art which led to incredible advancement and learning in that realm.

Renaissance art is distinct in that it emphasized **realism**, attention to detail, and precision—especially concerning human anatomy. Da Vinci's personal journal and sketchbook show his intense interest and practice in these areas. Additionally, Renaissance art usually portrayed religious subject matter in a realistic style. We will study two of da Vinci's works in this course. One is religious, while the other is not.

Using sources from a library or online, do some research on the philosophy of art during the Renaissance. What were the main ideas that drove the Renaissance artists? Was the art influenced by religion? If so, how did religion influence Renaissance art? Record your notes on what you discover.



← "rebirth" in French

← the accurate, detailed, and unornamented portrayal of scenes, people, or objects from everyday life



His Work, Accomplishments, and Influence

Perhaps one of the most famous painters in history, Leonardo da Vinci was influential in many different ways during his career. Da Vinci's art is still well-known and referenced constantly in American culture. He worked with other artists, like Raphael and Michelangelo, and took on similar projects to the ones they were working on. He also kept a workshop in Milan where he apprenticed other young artists. While da Vinci did not live forever, his influence on other artists and the people of his day has lasted for centuries!

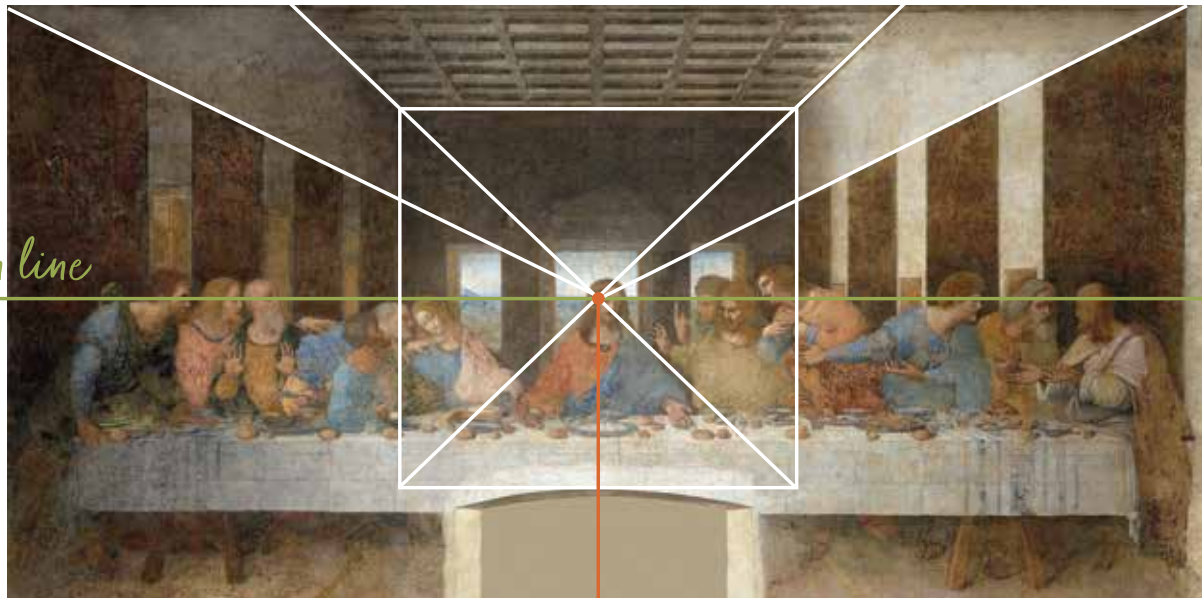
In keeping with the Renaissance ideal of **humanism**, which placed high value on the human form, da Vinci's art shows man-centered subjects and careful attention to what the human body truly looks like when reproduced on a painter's canvas.

Da Vinci's work shows the use of **sfumato**—gradual shading of tones and colors into one another to produce softened outlines and hazy forms. In addition, da Vinci used layering to further add dimension and achieve a realistic look in his paintings.

He also employed **perspective**, the utilization of lines and the **vanishing point** to create an appearance of depth. In *The Last Supper* we see that Jesus is the center of the vanishing point and everything draws your eye to Him.

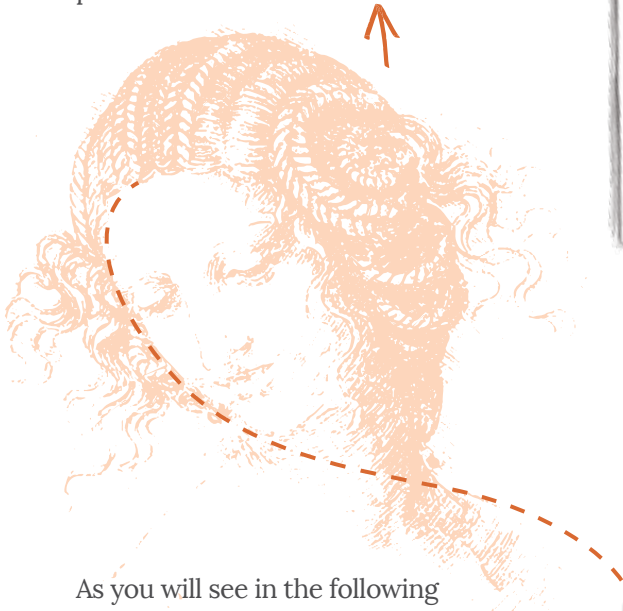
a movement of philosophy that prioritizes the human over the divine by emphasizing the goodness of humans and rational thinking →

the point on the horizon line where parallel lines appear to converge as they recede into the distance →



vanishing point

Da Vinci set a precedent for the Mannerist movement of art that followed the Renaissance with his figura **serpentinata** (Latin for serpentine figure). This involved a snake-like pose of a human body that communicates graceful yet powerful movement.



As you will see in the following lessons, da Vinci also captured emotion, mystery, and ambiguity in his paintings. This shows up in the expressions on the faces of his subjects and even in the effect of the sfumato he regularly employs.

The humanistic focus of the Renaissance influenced Leonardo da Vinci's work, and it influences us when we study his work. Do a little more research on humanism. Then, read the verses on each card. Mark the check box to indicate whether those verses do or do not support a humanistic worldview. Then, briefly explain why you chose that answer.

Genesis 1:1

☐ supports ☐ does not support

Psalms 8

☐ supports ☐ does not support

Matthew 6:19-21 & 33

☐ supports ☐ does not support

The Last Supper

The first work of da Vinci we will discuss is *The Last Supper*. This painting captures the artist's interpretation of the scene that unfolds in John 13:21 when Jesus announces to His 12 disciples that one of them seated there at dinner will betray Him.

Title: *The Last Supper*
Artist: Leonardo da Vinci
Date: c. 1495–1498
Medium: Tempera on gesso, pitch, and mastic
Subject: The Last Supper
Location: Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan, Italy

a painting executed directly on a wall



The Last Supper is a **mural** painting where da Vinci used his own technique of mixing mediums in order to paint. He used tempera mixed with oil paints so he could paint directly on the stone of the building where the painting was commissioned. Though da Vinci's special technique allowed him to produce brighter colors than other techniques used at the time, it was not a particularly durable form of art. *The Last Supper* has degraded, flaked, and faded over the hundreds of years since da Vinci finished it, and attempts to restore or preserve it have been minimally successful.



As you answer the following questions, remember what you learned about the elements of art on Days 1-2. Consider the lines, shapes, forms, space, colors, value, and textures that are present in the painting and what they could be telling you or pointing your eye to.

1. Who is the center of attention in this painting? How can you tell? (Hint: Think about the spacing, highlighting, and where the lines in the painting point.)



2. Do you see any clear groupings or clusters in this painting? If so, describe them.

How much did you like this painting? Give it a rating! ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PART 1

Midterm

For the next 4 lessons, you will get to show what you've learned so far by analyzing works of art on your own!

Carefully study the art, noting your observations in the space below. Record at least 5 observations about the painting's composition, atmosphere, and how you see various elements of art being used to show emotion or inform.



Decide what period you believe the art belongs in and which master painted it (it will be one we have covered)
Then, give 3 reasons to support your choices.

I believe this painting is from the _____ period and that
_____ painted it because...
artist's name

Reason #1

Reason #2

Reason #3

Final Project

DAY 104–109 • FINAL PROJECT

Now, you're going to take all you've learned and put it all together!

Choose 1 of the 3 options listed below as your final project for this course.

Option #1: Art Through the Ages Collage

Create a digital or physical collage timeline showing the scope of art history you have studied in this course.

Option #2: Art Through the Ages Podcast Series

Create a 6-episode podcast series talking through the scope of art history you have studied in this course.

Option #3: Art Through the Ages Report

Write a 6–10 page report on the scope of art history you have studied in this course.

Your project should include:



- Major periods of art and their dates
- Explanation or visual examples of the distinctives of each art period
- Explanation or visual examples of techniques typical of each art period
- Key artists from each period and their influence or contributions through technique or style (if applicable)
- Examples or discussion of some works of art that showcase your key artists' styles
- Events, inventions, or advancements in history that majorly influenced the development of artistic philosophy and styles

Day 1



PORTRAITS

of the Masters

DAY 2, THE 7 ELEMENTS OF ART: PART 1

1. Shape
2. Line
3. Shapes
4. Shape, form
5. Lines
6. Shape
7. A shape is a 2-dimensional outline of an object, while a form is 3-dimensional and shows height and width as well as volume and depth.

DAY 3, THE 7 ELEMENTS OF ART: PART 2

1. Texture 2. Value 3. Color 4. Value
5. Space 6. Value 7. Space 8. Value

DAY 5, DA VINCI

1. Does not support; Answers will vary but should include reference to God being the beginning of all things and most important, not human beings.
2. Does not support; Answers will vary but should include reference to man's insignificance in God's amazing creation yet God-given role to care for it.
3. Does not support; Answers will vary but should include reference to human value being placed on heavenly realities and truth.

DAY 6, THE LAST SUPPER

1. Jesus is the center of attention. We can tell by his placement at the center of the table and by the various lines that point to Him.
2. The disciples are all in groups of 3.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Jesus looks calm and undisturbed while the disciples are agitated. Specifically Judas appears withdrawn and even ashamed.
5. See the answer to question 4; Answers will vary.

DAY 7, MONA LISA

1. Answers will vary. Sample answer: Her slight smile seems to hint at an emotion felt by her, yet not fully displayed to us. Her expression as well as the soft and blurred effect of sfumato contribute to an overall atmosphere and appearance of mystery or enigma.
2. Sfumato can be seen in her hair as well as in the hills and mountains in the background behind her.
3. Answers will vary. Sample answer: The softness and gradual shading communicate the emotions of calmness, serenity, and peace. These elements also add a sense of mystery or wonder to this work as well.

4. Answers will vary. Sample answer: At ease because of her soft smile and the overall softness and muted color palette.
5. Answers will vary.

DAY 10, THE CREATION OF ADAM

1. Answers will vary. Sample answer: The space between the two hands reaching out to each other.
2. Answers will vary. Sample answer: The lines of both arms reaching towards each other and the empty space behind this interaction.
3. Answers will vary. Sample answer: God's appearance might suggest His wisdom and power.
4. Answers will vary. Sample answer: This might symbolize man's responsibility to respond to God's effort in reaching out to us by reaching back out to Him. Michelangelo may have been trying to convey man's imperfection and apathy when it comes to seeking God, as well as the truth that we all fall short of God's glory.
5. Answers will vary.

DAY 11, PIETÀ

1. Answers will vary. Sample answer: sadness, compassion, empathy, despair, hope. The pose of the figures with Mary cradling her dead Son as well as the draping of the fabric and Mary's facial expression all contribute to those emotions.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.
4. Answers will vary. Sample answer: Christians recognize the sorrow and pain of the crucifixion and Jesus' burial yet the joy and hope that come from the fact that Jesus did not stay dead, but instead, rose from the grave 3 days later. Without the resurrection, Jesus' death would have been the end of any hope for us.

DAY 14, THE DEPOSITION

1. Answers will vary. Sample answer: Sadness, despair, emotional pain. The poses of the people, their facial expressions, and the crosses in the background add to these feelings of sadness.
2. A halo appears over the heads of 8 people in this painting. This symbolizes righteousness and holiness. In this painting, it may distinguish Jesus and His followers from those who do not follow Him.
3. The young girl on the right in the foreground who is reaching up towards Mary exhibits this twisted, lithe pose.

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Ministries is to help your family
GROW in faith so you can live
#NotConsumed by life.

Thank you for your purchase!
Your support makes it possible for
us to help even more families
get into God's Word.



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Do you ever wonder why works like da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* or Van Gogh's *Starry Night* are so famous and important? Have you ever thought about what makes some paintings stand out from other art or distinguishes one artist from another? Maybe when you look at art, you don't know what you're looking for or even what should be considered "good" or "bad."

Portraits of the Masters is a high school art appreciation elective course that will help answer these questions! From Renaissance masters like da Vinci and Raphael to Romantic painters like Eugène Delacroix and Thomas Cole and continuing on to later movements of Realism and Impressionism, you can learn why these artists are "masters" and what makes their work so lasting and impactful. In this course, you'll learn about 21 master painters as well as some of the works they created. As you study these works, you'll discover the ways that these masters used color, line, value, texture, and other elements of art to produce beautiful works with emotional, historical, real, and symbolic meanings that we can still understand today.