



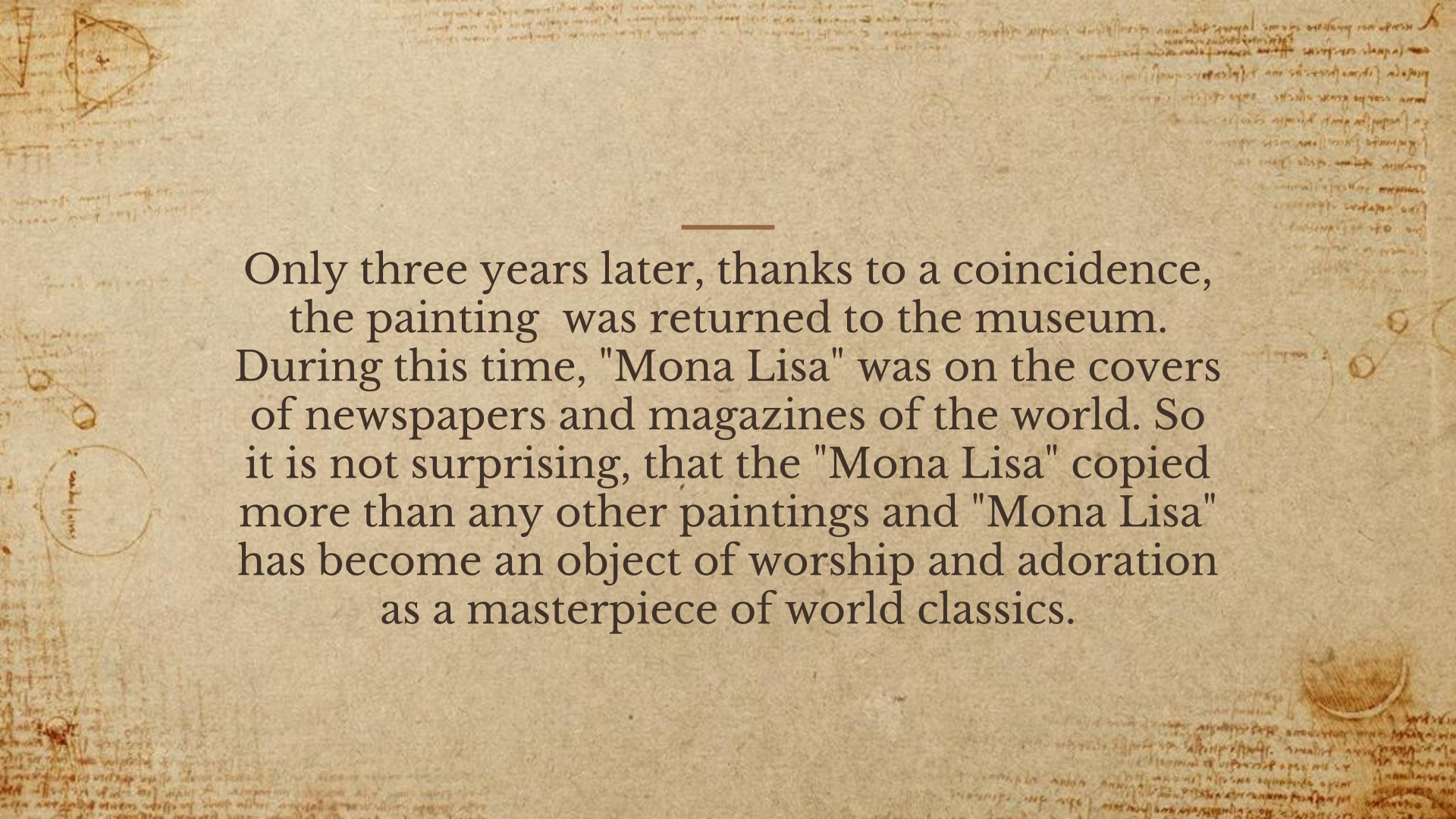
MONA LISA by
Leonardo da Vinci

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THE HISTORY OF MONA LISA

Mona Lisa has received worldwide fame not only for the quality of the Leonardo's work, which impressive like art lovers and professionals. This painting has been explored by historians and copied by other painters. It would have long remained unknown if not for its exceptional history. In 1911, the "Mona Lisa" was stolen.





Only three years later, thanks to a coincidence,
the painting was returned to the museum.
During this time, "Mona Lisa" was on the covers
of newspapers and magazines of the world. So
it is not surprising, that the "Mona Lisa" copied
more than any other paintings and "Mona Lisa"
has become an object of worship and adoration
as a masterpiece of world classics.



MODEL'S MYSTERY

The person drawn as model in the portrait was difficult to identify.

The surrounding mystery attracts millions of visitors each year. According to Giorgio Vasari (1511-1574), who was author of biographies of Italian artists, Mona Lisa (abbr. Of Madonna Lisa) was Francesco del Giocondo's wife. Her portrait by Leonardo has been drawing four years, but still it is unfinished.

Vasari expressed opinion about the quality of this picture:

«Anyone who wants to see how well the art can imitate nature, can easily verify this by the example of the head, which Leonardo reproduced very detail... Her eyes filled with shine and moisture.. like real people ... Delicate pink nose seems real. Red tone mouth perfectly matches the color of the face ... Who would look closely at her neck said that her heart beats ... ».

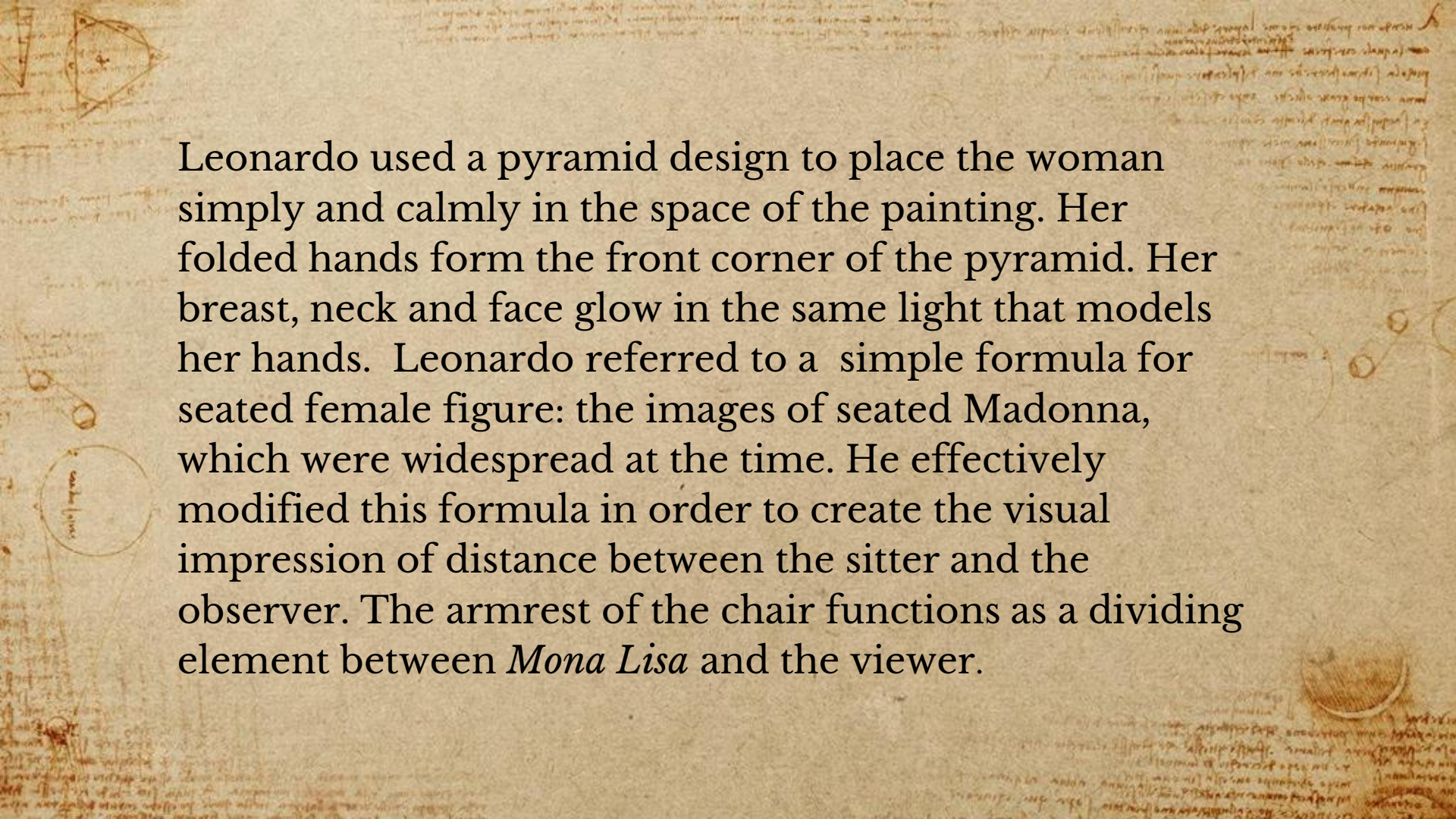


Composition

Leonardo didn't try to create an individual portrait. "Mona Lisa" was the implementation of the ideas of the artist. Leonardo's approach to his work has always had a scientific nature. "Mona Lisa", the creation, which he has been drawing many years, became beautiful, but at the same time insensitive. Despite the fact that Gioconda's gaze is directed at us, between us and she creates a visual barrier - chair handle. However, our gaze is returned to her illuminance face, surrounded by a dark frame, hidden under a transparent veil, hair, shadows on the neck and a dark smoky background.



Leonardo chose the position of the model, which is very similar with the position of the Virgin in Italian paintings of the fifteenth century. Additional distance creates sfumato-effect (non-precise shapes in favor of creating the impression of air). The illusion of the atmosphere and the living breathing body with the plane, paints and brushes. We will always remain a masterpiece Mona Lisa by Leonardo.

The background of the image is a page from Leonardo da Vinci's manuscript, featuring various technical drawings and handwritten notes in a cursive script. In the top left corner, there is a drawing of a pyramid with a square base and a circular cross-section. To the left of the main text, there are several circular diagrams, some with lines extending from them, and a small diagram of a human figure. The text is written in a clear, black serif font, centered on the page. The overall tone of the image is historical and scholarly.

Leonardo used a pyramid design to place the woman simply and calmly in the space of the painting. Her folded hands form the front corner of the pyramid. Her breast, neck and face glow in the same light that models her hands. Leonardo referred to a simple formula for seated female figure: the images of seated Madonna, which were widespread at the time. He effectively modified this formula in order to create the visual impression of distance between the sitter and the observer. The armrest of the chair functions as a dividing element between *Mona Lisa* and the viewer.

DETECTIVE STORY OF "MONA LISA"

Since the beginning of the sixteenth century, painting, acquired by Francis I after the death of Leonardo, remained in the royal collection. Since 1793 it has been placed in the Central Museum of the Arts at the Louvre. Mona Lisa was in the Louvre always as one of the assets of the national collection. August 21, 1911 the painting was stolen by an employee of the Louvre, the Italian master of mirrors Vincenzo Perugia.



The aim of this abduction is not clear. Maybe Perugia wanted to return the "Mona Lisa" to their historical homeland. The picture was found only after two years in Italy. The thief responded to an ad in the newspaper and offered to sell the "Mona Lisa." In the end, 1 January 1914 the picture has returned to France. In the twentieth century the picture almost did not leave the Louvre, having been in 1963 in the USA and in 1974 in Japan. Travels consolidated the success and fame of the picture.