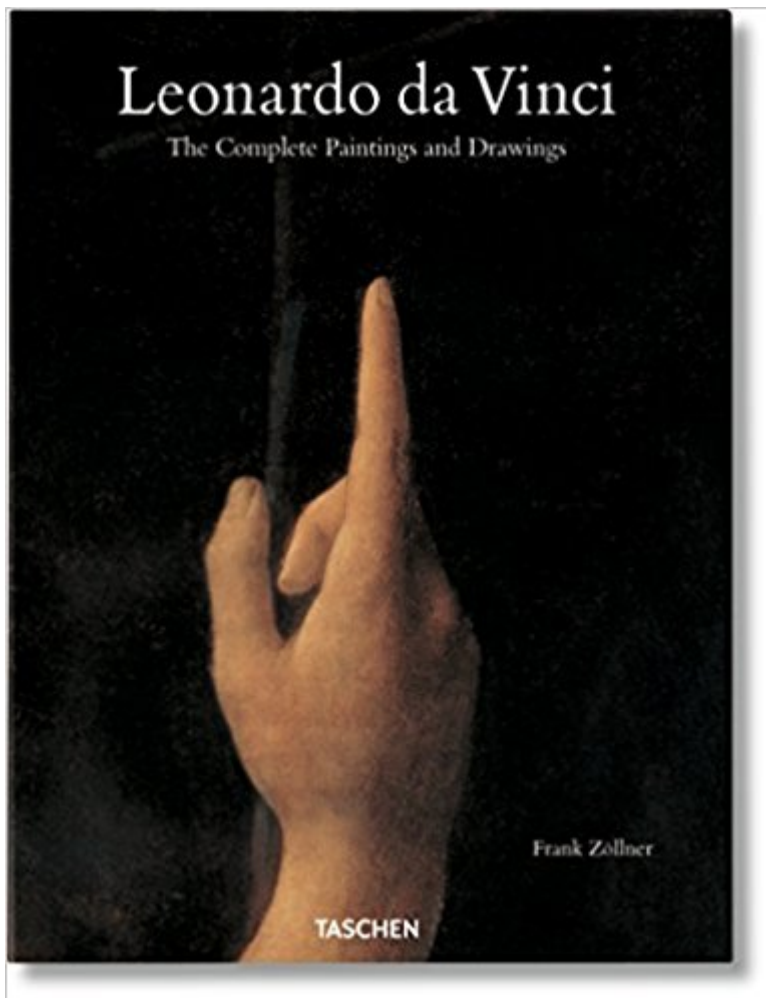


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Leonardo Da Vinci



Synopsis

Da Vinci in detail: Leonardo's life and work - the definitive edition — Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) possessed one of the greatest minds of all time; his importance and influence are inestimable. This two-volume, midsize format comprehensive survey is the most complete book ever made on the subject of this Italian painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, scientist and all-around genius. With huge, full-bleed details of Leonardo's masterworks, this highly original publication allows the reader to inspect the subtlest facets of his brushstrokes. Part I explores Leonardo's life and work in ten chapters. All of his paintings are interpreted in depth, with The Annunciation and The Last Supper featured on large double-spreads. Part II comprises a catalogue raisonné of Leonardo's paintings, which covers all of his surviving and lost painted works and includes texts describing their states of preservation. Part III contains an extensive catalogue of his drawings (numbering in the thousands, they cannot all be reproduced in one book); 663 are presented, arranged by category (architecture, technical, anatomical, figures, proportion, cartography, etc). Now available as a two-volume edition at an irresistible price!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lying open, this unutterably wonderful book is almost the size of the Mona Lisa and about as hefty as a slab of The Last Supper's monastery wall. All 34 paintings are here (including what we know of the lost ones), many with huge and immensely illuminating details, plus 663 drawings. The reproductions are stunning, on paper sturdy enough to serve as wings on some of the flying

machines depicted on pages 644 to 671. The precision of the images amazes: the delicate petals fingered by the larger-than-life-size baby Jesus in Madonna of the Carnation; the wailing, dismembered victims of Leonardo's scary scythed chariots; Mary's transparent drapery in the Annunciation; the bands of sunlight streaking each swirling curl of Ginevra de Benci; Mona Lisa's gossamer veil and intricately embroidered gown; even, unless my eyes deceive me, one of the fingerprints Leonardo famously left while daubing paint by hand. The text by Frank Zollner (and Johannes Nathan, who discusses the drawings) teases out meanings and sketches historical context without overloading his scholarly brush. Without it, one might have overlooked the dim crucifix on which St. Jerome fixes his blazing gaze, and quite misunderstood the sexist Hippocratic delusions that inform The Sexual Act in Vertical Section: "A tube-like duct leads from the woman's breasts to her womb, while the male organ is directly linked not only to the testicles but also to the brain." (Zollner's discussion of the erotic subtext of some of the artwork suggests that Leonardo's male passion was not necessarily so rational.) The brief accounts of Leonardo's esthetic combat with Michelangelo and Raphael suggest that you don't need a scythed chariot to cut off an opponent at the knees. The famous quotes by everyone from Nietzsche to Warhol are well selected, especially Freud diagnosing Leonardo's genius as residing in his childlike sense of play. That's a key to the spirit of this book: it's more fun than a week in the Louvre.

–Tim Appelo --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"...the wealth of Leonardo's surviving drawings provide an extraordinary direct and intimate view of the artist's hand..." -- World of Interiors, London "A scholarly work and a sensual delight...offering a moth's-eye-view and the ability to "enter" the works of art..." -- Associated Press, New York "Sumptuously made and beautifully produced, is the most thorough Leonardo comprehensive survey ever published." -- Soloarte, London "[N]o better catalogue raisonn © of the paintings - scrupulous in every respect - it has no equal currently in print." -- Brian Sewell, The Evening Standard, London "[S]tart making serious room on your bookshelf. The XXL tome features supersized blowups of Leonardo's works.... A truly sumptuous undertaking." -- artnet.com, New York --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Superb reference book on Leonardo. Very well-researched, adding much interesting history to his life works. I also highly recommend the Michelangelo reference in a similar format. I enjoy using a page magnifier to see into images and techniques better. Lighted page magnifiers are great for detailed images.

I love how large the illustrations are in this book, this is a hardback book and it does add some weight to my bookshelf but it is well worth it.

I was able to take a look at the bio part of this set at my local library. After reading half of that book I knew I wanted to own my own copy. As an added plus it came with the drawings and notes book as a set. Wonderful idea.

Beautiful quality and great detail.

This book is part of a two-book volume. The pages are well laid out, images clear, and lots of information on Da Vinci. I especially enjoy Vol. 1, the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci. There are lots of drawings of men and women in action, faces bent upward or down, bodies moving and twisting. Since I love to draw, these illustrations have opened up a new world for me. I am seeing how to make the human body more fluid and less static from his examples.

After visiting a small but very nice exposition about Leonardo in Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes it was clear to me how little I knew about this genius and realized that I needed to get the best possible book about him... And I'm sure I made the best choice as this book is amazing, perfectly printed, with beautiful images and very thorough and well explained texts, not to mention it's a bargain. Definitely worthy.

Awesome edition! The shipment was extremely quick and perfectly packed. I'm so happy for this purchase. The book contains lots of illustrations unlike many other books about Da Vinci. It came in a beautiful cover slip and the quality of paper is perfect. Totally worth much more than I paid. Thank you guys!

Love this book. It comes with a nice book holder to lay in. It's a large book with full page color images, fold out pages for full viewing of Leonardo's work and detail. Gorgeous reference.

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