

# Leonardo Da Vinci

The Renaissance Man

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# Biography

- Name: Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci
- Birth: April 15, 1452
- Death: May 2, 1519
- Birth Place: Anchiano, near Vinci, Republic of Florence
- Occupation: Painter, Sculptor, Architect, Engineer and what not!





Becomes a member of the painters' guild; first known drawing is a landscape

c.1473

Collaborated with Verrocchio on the *Baptism of Christ*



c.1475



c.1478

Portrait of Ginevra de' Benci, daughter of a wealthy Florentine banker

1452

Born on April 15

End 100 Years' War; fall of Constantinople

Michelangelo is born

Ludovico Sforza becomes ruler of Milan; Magellan is born

Gutenberg prints the Bible

Machiavelli is born; Lorenzo de' Medici takes power

Copernicus is born

Johannes de Spira starts publishing house in Venice

Raphael is born

Becomes an apprentice in Verrocchio's studio in Florence

c.1468



science life world art

The *Adoration of the Magi* commissioned



1482

Moves to Milan and begins keeping notebooks

1481

The *Annunciation*: youthful experiment with perspective is flawed, but heralds brilliance

c.1472



*Lady with an Ermine*; clay model for the horse monument is put on display in Milan

1493

Studies anatomy & architecture

1489



Dias of Portugal rounds the southern tip of Africa

Christopher Columbus sails to the New World; Lorenzo de' Medici dies; Rodrigo Borgia becomes Pope Alexander VI

Süleyman I, of the Ottoman Empire, is born; Savonarola deposes the Medici in Florence; King Charles VIII of France invades Italy

c.1490



*Vitruvian Man*; *Feast of Paradise* is presented for the wedding feast of the duke's nephew; Salai comes to live with Leonardo

1483



Commissioned, along with the de Predis brothers, to paint *Virgin of the Rocks*

Begins *The Last Supper* in the refectory in the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie

1495



Does the drawings for Pacioli's *De divina proportione*

1496



1498

First attempt at a flying machine

Vasco da Gama finds a sea route to India; Louis XII becomes King of France; Savonarola's Bonfire of the Vanities; France conquers Milan

1499

Leaves  
Milan

1503

Returns to Florence,  
begins painting the *Mona Lisa*  
and works on it for the rest  
of his life

1505



Studies the flight of birds;  
second unsuccessful attempt  
to fly; struggles to paint  
the *Battle of Anghiari*, a major  
commission in Florence  
that is eventually abandoned,  
unfinished.

Michelangelo's statue of David;  
young Raphael comes to Florence to study  
with Leonardo and Michelangelo

Leonardo's friend, Amerigo Vespucci,  
publishes his account of sailing to the  
New World

The architect Donato Bramante  
is hired by the pope to rebuild  
St. Peter's church in Rome

1502



Begins to  
work for  
Cesare  
Borgia as  
military  
engineer

Returns to  
Milan, where  
he remains,  
on and off, for  
seven years

1506

1507

Painter and  
engineer to  
Louis XII

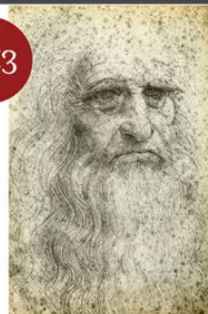


c.1508



Divides his time between  
Milan and Florence; studies  
of waterworks; designs the  
Trivulzio monument;  
second *Virgin of the Rocks*

1513



Moves to Rome; the iconic  
Turin drawing, a possible  
self-portrait done in the  
preceding years, often  
defines our image of  
Leonardo

Michelangelo finishes painting the Sistine Chapel;  
Gerardus Mercator, who produces the first map of the world, is born;  
Medici return to power in Florence

Andreas Vesalius, who publishes  
the first accurate book on human  
anatomy, is born in Brussels

Martin Luther launches  
Protestant Reformation

King Henry VIII  
becomes king of England

Vasari is born

Giovanni de' Medici  
becomes Pope Leo X

Francis I becomes  
king of France



1509



Pursues his  
studies of  
anatomy and  
continues with  
hydraulics

Visits Parma and Florence;  
Plans to drain the Pontine Marshes

1514

1516

Moves to  
Amboise as  
a guest of  
Francis I

dies on May 2

1519

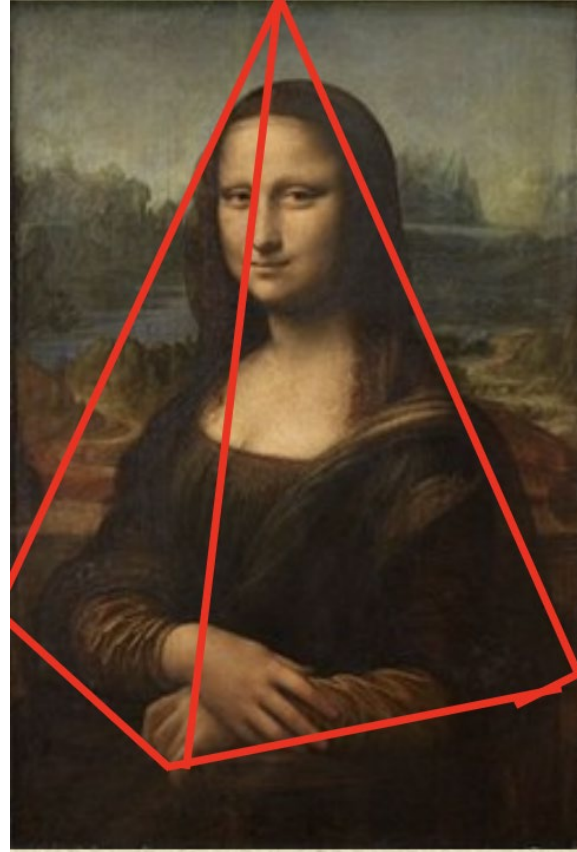


# Art

- The Mona Lisa
- The Virgin on the Rock
- The Last Supper
- Self Portrait
- Madonna of Carnation
- The Virgin and Child with St. Anne



## The Mona Lisa (1503-1519)



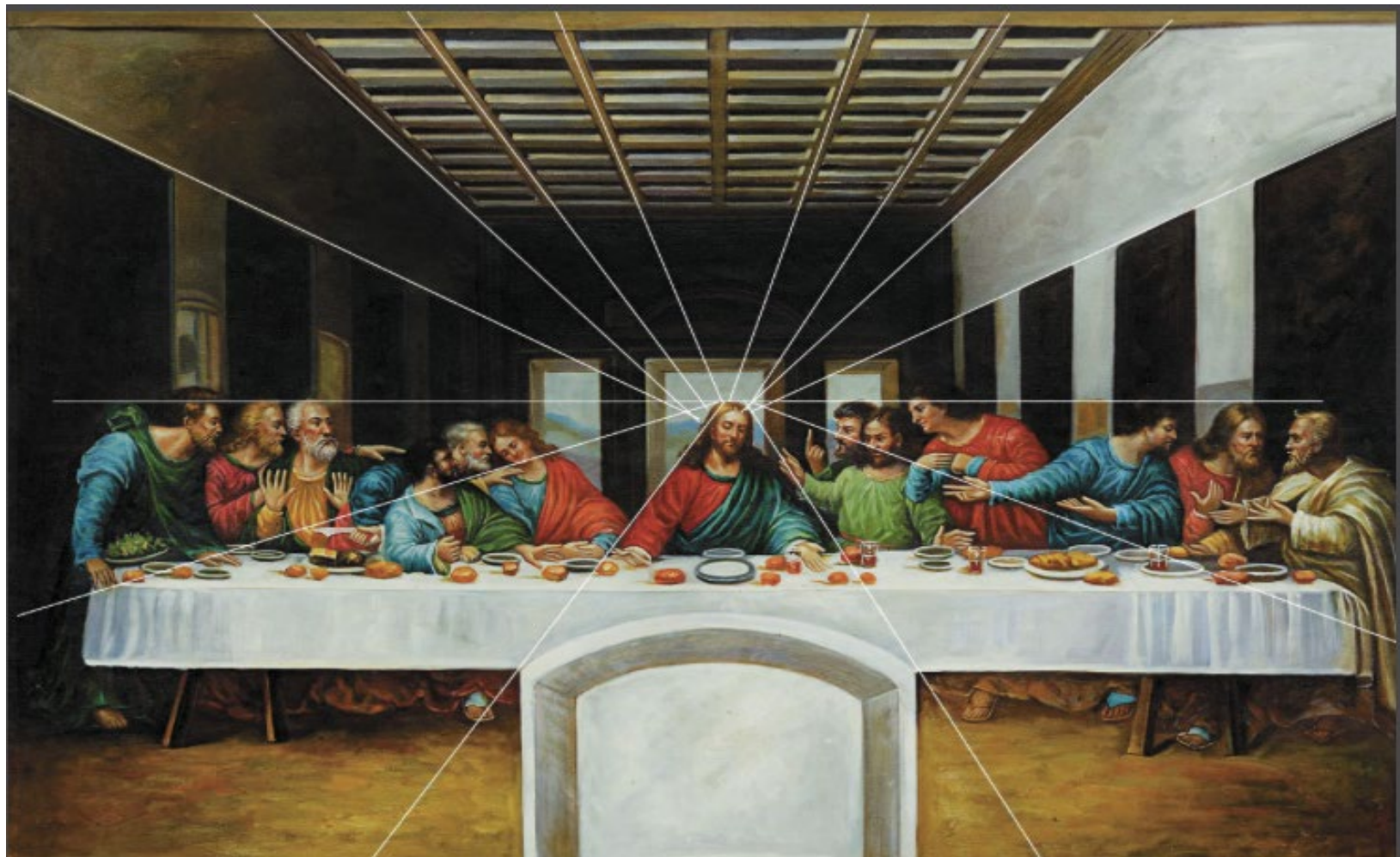
# The Virgin of the Rock





# The Last Supper







Madonna of Carnation  
1475-78



The Virgin and Child with St.  
Anne  
1508-17

# Characteristics of Da Vinci's Paintings

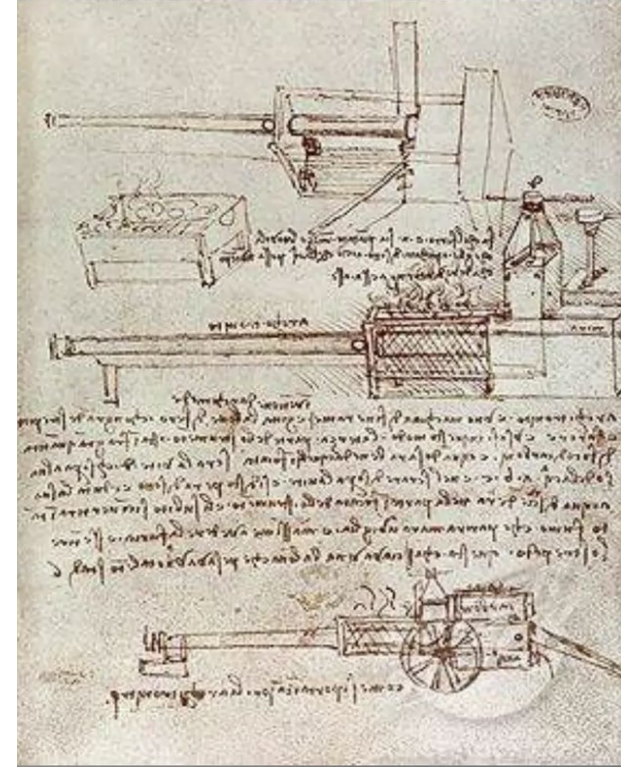
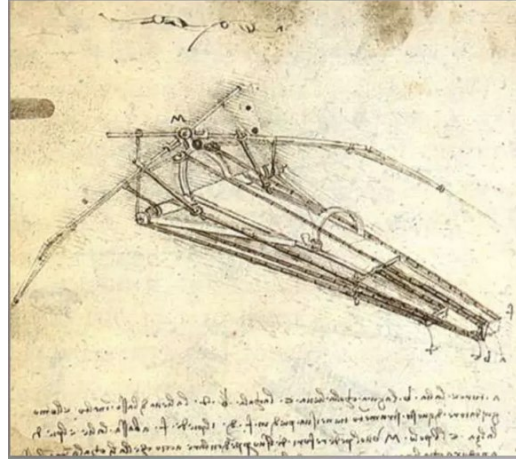
- Oil Painting
- Underpainting
- Monochromatic Shadows
- Sfumato (comes from Italian *fumo* which means smoke)
- Rocky Landscape
- Chiaroscuro (light/dark)
- Pointing Finger



# Inventions

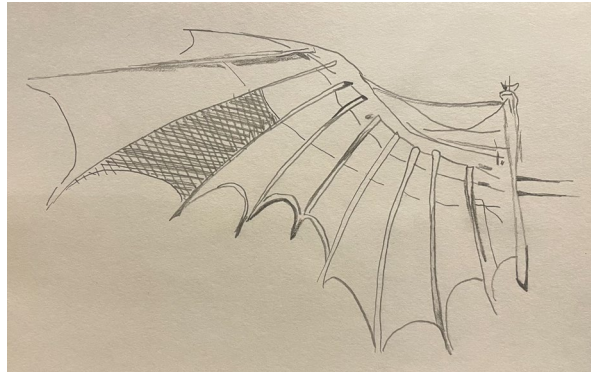
## Concepts -

- Helicopter
- Parachute
- Calculator
- Tank
- Solar Power
- A basic theory of plate tectonics



## Studies -

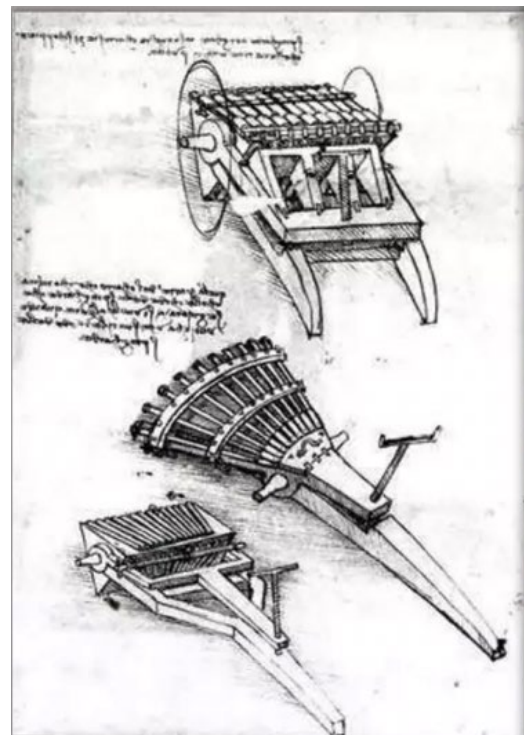
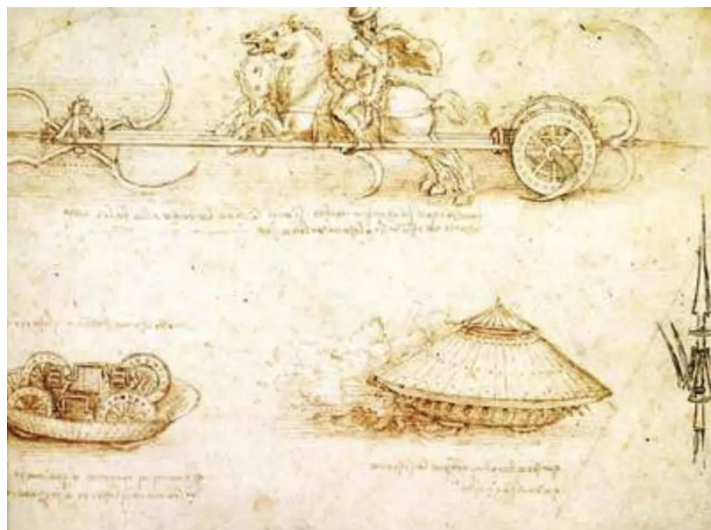
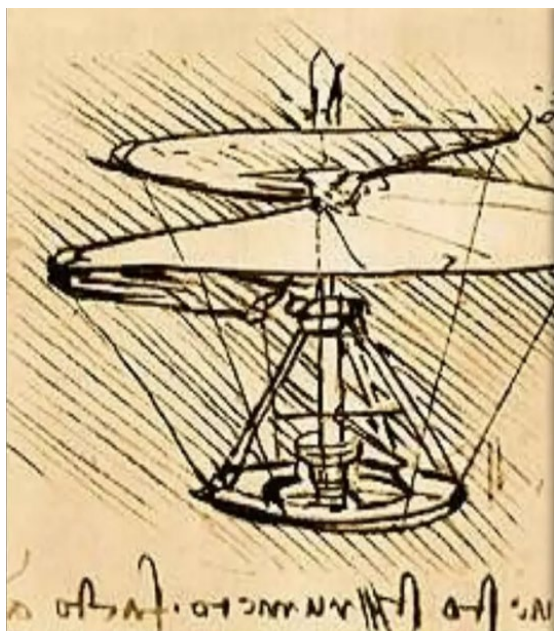
- Hydrodynamics
- Astronomy
- Anatomy
- Optics

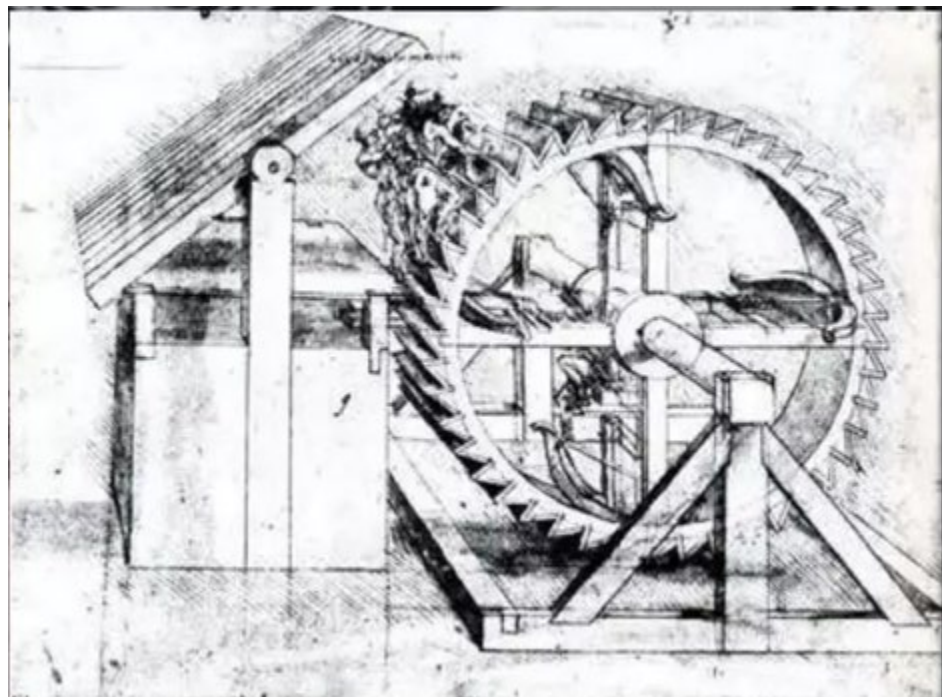
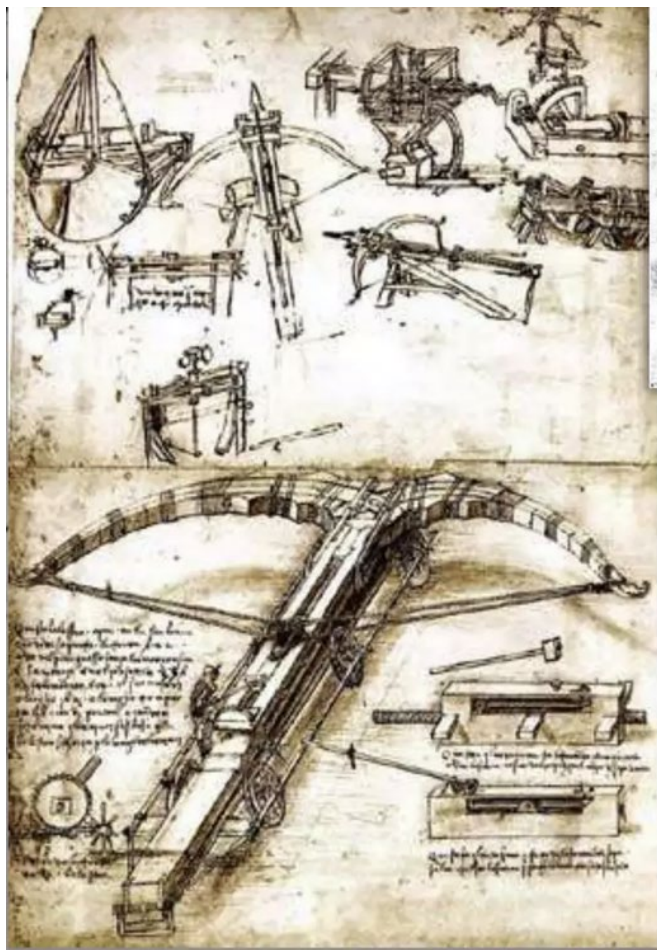




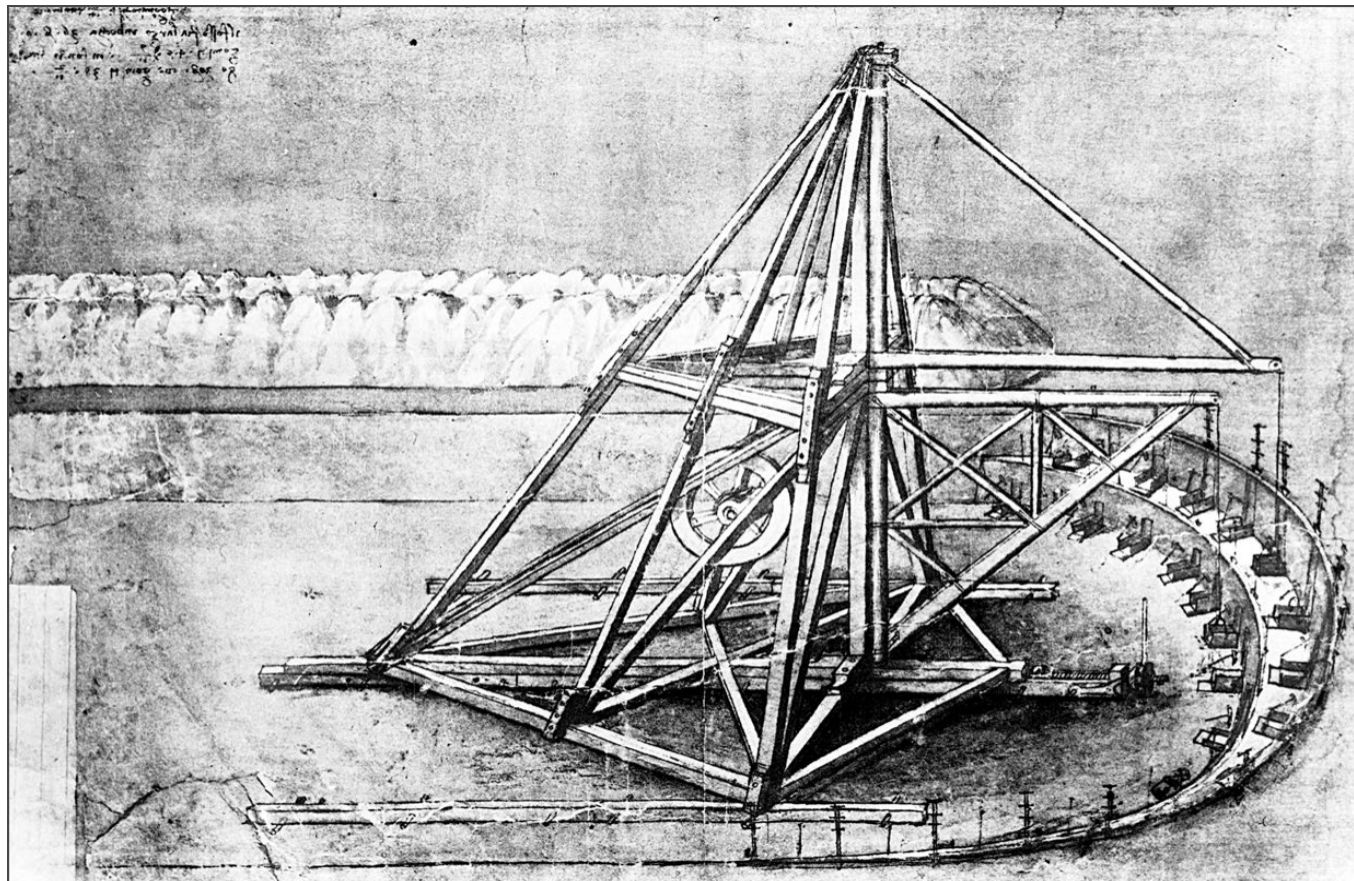
# Media

- Flying Machine
- Steam Cannon
- The Aerial Screw/Helicopter
- Armoured Vehicles (The Tank)
- Gun Array
- Giant Crossbow
- Treadmill Machine Gun

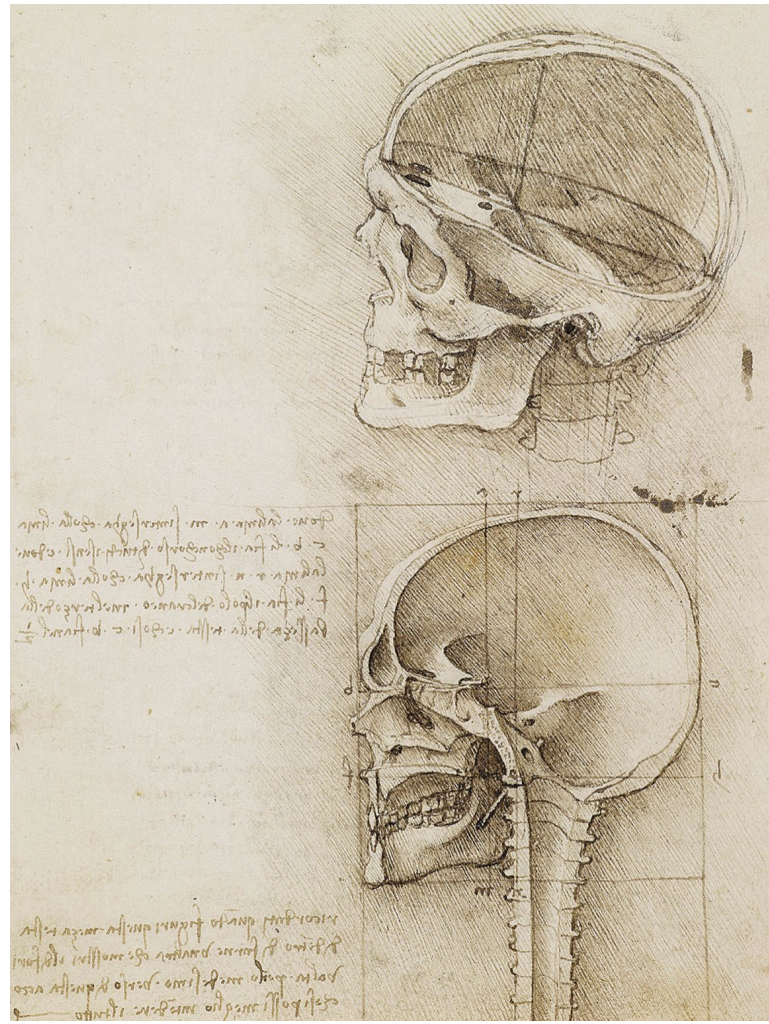








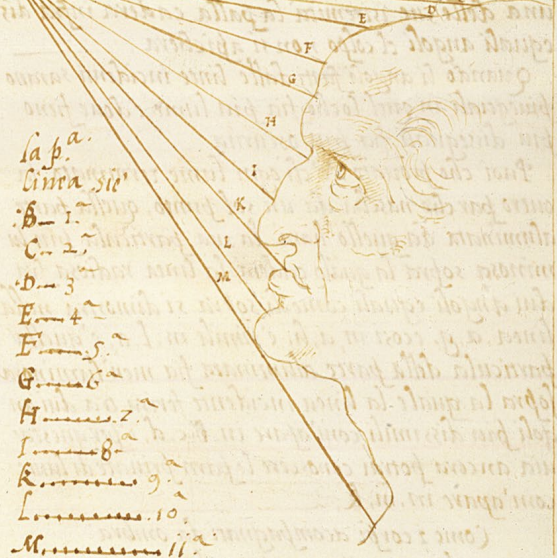




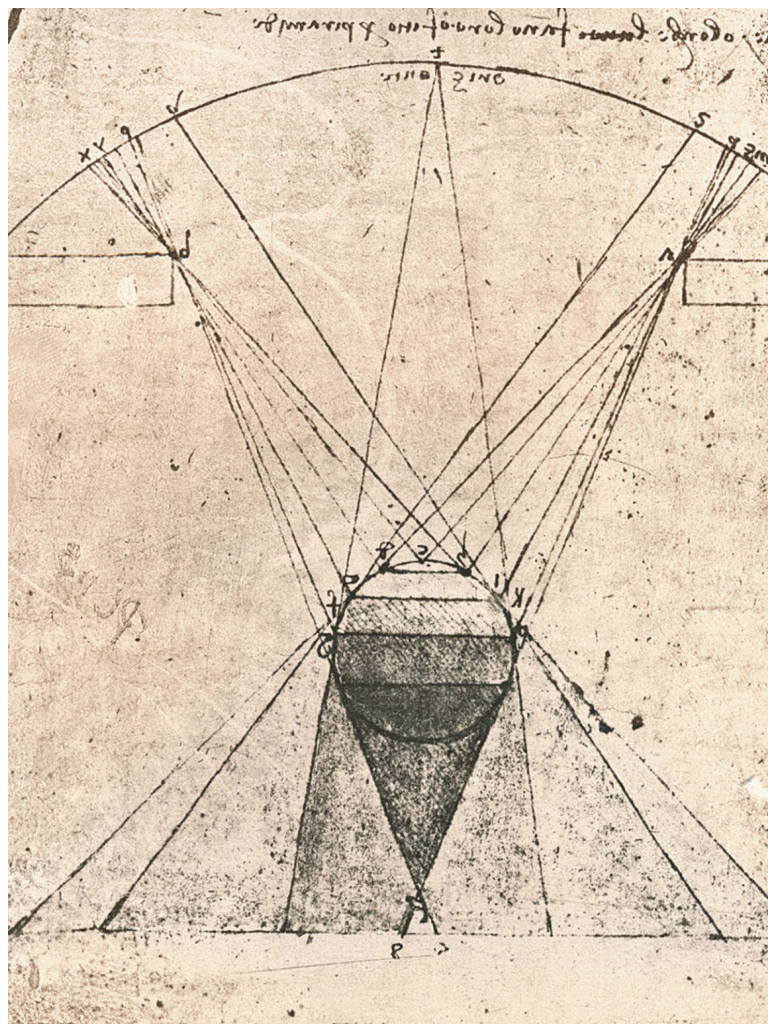


Se sia, fia il lume d'la Testa e' sarà il corpo da quello  
aluminato e' quella parte d'essa Testa che riceua so-  
pra di se il raso fia angoli più equali sarà più alu-

minato e' quella parte che riceua i razi infra  
angoli meno equali fia meno luminosa e' fa  
questo lume nel suo ufficio a similitudine del colpo



minata e' quella parte che riceua i razi infra  
angoli meno equali fia meno luminosa e' fa  
questo lume nel suo ufficio a similitudine del colpo





# Things to learn

- Be Curious, relentlessly curious.
- Seek knowledge for its own sake.
- Retain a childlike state of wonder.
- Start with the details.
- Respect facts.
- Think visually.
- Indulge fantasy.

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# Tongue of the Woodpecker

- The tongue of a woodpecker can extend more than three times the length of its bill. When not in use, it retracts into the skull.
- When the bird smashes its beak repeatedly into tree bark, the force exerted on its head is ten times what would kill a human.
- But, its bizarre long tongue and supporting structure act as a cushion, shielding the brain from shock.

There is no reason you actually need to know any of this. It is information that has no real utility for your life, just as it had none for Leonardo. But I thought maybe, after learning about him, like Leonardo would want to know, just out of curiosity. Pure Curiosity, period.