

NEW LEONARDO DA VINCI DISCOVERY

June – July 2008

ORIGINALLY PURCHASED 20.000 US \$ AT NYC...

WHO IS THIS YOUNG WOMAN DEPICTED BY LEONARDO DA VINCI ?

In one of the most amazing recent examples of intuition, detective work, technical innovation and connoisseurship, a new addition to the very limited corpus of paintings by Leonardo da Vinci has now come to light. The painting, actually a mixed-media of white, red and black chalks with additions of watercolour, and executed on vellum, was discovered in a private Swiss collection. Originally purchased in a New York auction 10 years ago, the painting was catalogued as 'German early 19th century', and sold for 20 000 dollars. A mitigating factor for the experts of the auction house is that the work was somewhat over painted during a very sensitive restoration, probably in the 19th century. And the fact that it is executed on vellum, in this case the first example by the master in this medium to come to light, probably convinced the experts that it was done by a German 'Nazarene' artist in the 19th century. The work, a **'nuptial' portrait of a young woman in profile**, dating from Leonardo's first Lombard period, ca. 1485, measures ca. 24X33 cms. The first to have fully understood the importance of this work was Dr. Nicholas Turner formerly curator of drawings at the British museum and the Getty museum. This was followed by positive opinions by Mina Gregori, Carlo Pedretti and Alessandro Vezzosi, director of the Da Vinci museum in Vinci who will be featuring the work in his new monograph on the artist 'Leonardo Infinito' which will be published in Italy July 5th. The technical analysis and visual elements for the attribution by the experts and art historians was done by the independent research group, Lumiere Technology, a Paris based institute. (Under the guidance of inventor Pascal Cotte who has digitized the *Mona Lisa* & *the Lady with an Ermine*.) For a full technical analysis one may consult the website--www.lumiere-technology.com

Photo can be downloaded at this address:

http://www.lumiere-technology.com/images/Profile_Vinci_D65.zip

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PDF files of Extracts of the Monograph 'Leonardo Infinito' can be downloaded at this address:

1/ http://www.lumiere-technology.com/images/Download/Abstract_Pr_Pedretti.pdf

is the presentation made by Professor Carlo Pedretti,

*Director of the Armand Hammar Center for Leonardo Studies,
University of California, Los Angeles*

e della sua sede europea presso l'Università degli Studi di Urbino

translated from Italian by Nicholas and Jane Turner.

2 http://www.lumiere-technology.com/images/Download/Profile_Pr_Vezzosi.pdf

is the description of the Profile of the young Fiancée, a notice made by Professor Alessandro Vezzosi

Director of the Museo Ideale, Vinci, Italy.

translated from Italian by Nicholas and Jane Turner.

Dr. Nicholas Turner, independent scholar, United Kingdom (formerly Curator of Drawings at the Getty Museum, Los Angeles [1994-1998] and Deputy Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum, London (1974-1994))

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With the agreement of the owner, this work of digitalization will, for the first time, be made freely available online on this page for all connoisseurs and interested parties.

<http://www.lumiere-technology.com/discoveries.html>

The study of this major new discovery has only just begun. This is a first in the history of art, enabling everyone to share the importance of this astounding work.

(Be patient to load the images provided on line by zoomorama.com. By clicking on the top right on this flash page, you can zoom and unzoom full screen, in all the Lumiere Technology pictures, from visible to the invisible, original, UV, IR, restorations, etc, 14 pictures today unmatched.)



Lumiere Technology is best known for having digitalized the *MONA LISA* only to discover the secrets that lay beneath the world's most famous masterpiece. The company, based in Paris, France, has demonstrated an exceptional contribution to multispectral scanning for art historians and painting restorers. Lumiere Technology has redefined the limits of optic laws with their ability to scan images at 1000 dpi or 1600 pixels per square millimetre with a resolution of 240 million pixels, effectively establishing the DNA of a work of art.

It is finally possible to make a comparison of one painting to other established works by the same artist - thus allowing an in-depth study of the visible and invisible aspects of the work, which was until now impossible.

Lumiere Technology offers a method of unprecedented precision now available to curators and collectors. Previously' Pascal Cotte made an in-depth analysis of *THE LADY WITH ERMINE* and hopes to digitize eight other Leonardo da Vinci paintings in museums around the world

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