



Leonardo Da Vinci

THE ORIGINAL RENAISSANCE MAN

Leonardo da Vinci was the child of unmarried parents, born in the mid-1400's. His father was a notary and landlord. Fortunately, Leonardo was able to be educated as a "legitimate" son of his father, despite his parents not being married. This was basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. Leonardo loved learning and spent his life exploring and observing the world around him. He grew up to be an artist and engineer. He is often credited with the invention of the helicopter, parachute, and flying machines in addition to his many artistic masterpieces and technical innovations (such as incorporating geometry and anatomy into his artwork to create a deeper sense of realism.)



Born: April 15, 1452

-Vinci, Italy

Died: May 2, 1519

-Amboise, France



"**The Last Supper**" (1495-1498)

"**Mona Lisa**" (1503-1519)

"**Vitruvian Man**" (1490)

"**Lady with an Ermine**" (1489-1490)



Mother: Caterina di Meo Lippi

Father: Ser Piero da Vinci

Leonardo was never married and did not have any children of his own.



Renaissance Artist: Draftsman, Sculptor, Architect, Painter, Mathematician, Scientist, and Engineer



- He had 17 half siblings, but was the only child between his parents.

- Held the title of "Premier Painter and Engineer and Architect to the King" under King Francois I of France.

- Due to his wide range of interests (Math, Science, Art, Engineering, etc.) he would get distracted frequently and struggled to complete artworks.

- Leonardo was known to be able to write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

- Invented a form of writing to protect his ideas called "mirror writing".

Where to find more information

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leonardo-da-Vinci>

<https://www.biography.com/artist/leonardo-da-vinci>

http://mini-site.louvre.fr/trimestriel/2019/10c3%a9onard_de_vinciGB/4/



Michelangelo Buonarroti

THE MOST FAMOUS SCULPTOR OF THE HIGH RENAISSANCE

Michelangelo Buonarroti was born to a family of lower nobility in the late 1400's. When Michelangelo was 13, he held a painting apprenticeship with Domenico Ghirlandaio. After 1 year he left the apprenticeship and at the age of 15 he was invited to study and work at the school of sculpture in Florence, by Lorenzo de' Medici. Michelangelo thought of himself, primarily, as a sculptor, but he created well known artworks in other mediums as well (such as the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel). He saw art as more of an intellectual challenge than as a craft. Michelangelo was the first artist who was revered in his own time as a genius.



Born: March 6, 1475

- Caprese, Italy

Died: February 18, 1564

- Rome, Italy



"David" (1501-1504)

"The Dying Slave" (1505-1516)

Frescoes of the Sistine Chapel (1508-1512)

"The Creation of Adam" (1508-1512)



Mother: Francesca di Neri del Miniato di Siena

Father: Ludovico di Leonardo di Buonarroti



Renaissance Artist: Sculptor, Painter, Architect, and Poet



- His mother died when he was only 6 years old.

- Michelangelo's Pieta was the only artwork he ever signed. He signed it "Michelangelo Buonarroti, Florentine, was making this", when he overheard people crediting another sculptor with the work.

- Throughout his life, he wrote over 300 poems. Most of the poems were written to his friend Vittoria Colonna.

- He was the first Western artist to have his biography published while he was still alive.

- He is quoted as writing "men are worth more than money" and "going slowly, you make fewer mistakes" in his many letters.

Where to find more information

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Michelangelo>

<https://www.biography.com/artist/michelangelo>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/michelangelo>



Jan van Eyck

THE FOUNDER OF OLD DUTCH PAINTING

Jan van Eyck (or Johannes van Eyck) is considered the Founder of Old Dutch Painting. He comes from a family of artists but not much is known of his early life. (This suggests that he was not from a particularly prominent family.) In fact, the first record of Van Eyck comes from the court of John of Bavaria at the Hague, where he served as Court Painter from 1422-1424. After this assignment, he entered the service of Duke Philip the Good of Burgundy. He was a close confidant of the Duke and was sent on many secret missions for him that included responsibilities other than art. He is commonly referred to as the inventor of oil painting. This is not true. Although, he did master the medium and his contributions to the evolution of oil painting techniques inspired artists in the centuries to come.



Born: before 1395
- Maaseik, Netherlands
(There are no records to prove the exact date of his birth.)
Died: July 9, 1441
- Bruges, Belgium



"The Arnolfini Wedding" (1434)
"Portrait of a Man" (1433)
"The Virgin of Chancellor Rollin" (1434-1436)
"Adoration of the Lamb" Ghent Altarpiece (1425-1429)



Siblings: Hubert (or Huybrecht), Lambert (or Lambrecht) and Margaret
(Not much is known about Van Eyck's early life, but his siblings are listed as painters.)
Wife: Margareta
(Not much is known about his wife, but that they had at least 2 children together)



Dutch Renaissance Artist:
Oil Painter and Portraitist



- The majority of Jan's artworks have the inscription "IOHANNES DE EYCK," and several show his aristocratic motto, "Als ik kan" ("As best I can").

Where to find more information

- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jan-van-Eyck>
- <https://www.biography.com/artist/jan-van-eyck>
- <https://www.jan-van-eyck.org/biography.html>



Albrecht Dürer

THE GREATEST ARTIST OF THE GERMAN RENAISSANCE

Albrecht Dürer was the child of a goldsmith. When he was 13 he was working as a draftsman in his father's goldsmith shop. His father could see his potential and natural artistic skill. Albrecht Dürer the Elder arranged an apprenticeship for his son with a skilled woodcut illustrator and painter named Michel Wohlgemuth. Albrecht studied with Wohlgemuth for 3 years and then left for a period of travel. Albrecht Dürer was one of the first Northern European artists to travel to Italy. He travelled there in 1494 (after marrying Agnes Frey) and 1505. During his time there, he explored painting with watercolor and learned from Italian woodcut masters. The influence of the Italian Renaissance can be seen throughout his work from this period and in future works. In his later years, he mostly focused on scientific and theoretical illustrations and writing. Although, he did make some notable artworks, such as, "Four Apostles" which was created during this period.



Born: May 21, 1471
- Nuremberg, Germany
Died: April 6, 1528
- Nuremberg, Germany



"Melencolia I" (1513-1514)
"Four Apostles" (1526)
"Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"
(1498)
"Feast of the Rosary" (1506)



Wife: Agnes Frey
Father: Albrecht Dürer the Elder
Mother: Barbara Holper
Brother: Hans Dürer
(also a famous artist)



German Renaissance:
Painter and Printmaker



- His father's family was originally from Hungary and when they moved to Germany, they decided to 'Germanise' their name from Thürer to Dürer.
- Albrecht was the second child born in his family. His parents would go on to have a total of 18 children!

Where to find more information

<https://www.albrecht-durer.org/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Albrecht-Durer-German-artist>

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/durr/hd_durr.htm