



# Leonardo Lives: The Codex Leicester and Leonardo Da Vinci's Legacy of Art and Science

Chiyo Ishikawa, Chiyo Ishiskawa

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Like other notebooks by Leonardo, the manuscript now known as the Codex Leicester was a working record of observations, experiments, and arguments. In it he rendered observations of natural phenomena in words, images, and diagrams. When Microsoft founder Bill Gates purchased the Codex Leicester in 1994, it made headlines around the world; this volume makes Leonardo's notebook accessible to everyone. The Codex Leicester is a product of Leonardo da Vinci's restless intellectual curiosity. By about 1508, when the Renaissance master began to work on this notebook, he had already painted his most acclaimed work, the Mona Lisa, and was working in Milan on the enigmatic Virgin and Child with Saint Anne. Both pictures feature meticulously painted landscape backgrounds that testify to Leonardo's study and scientific understanding of geology, weather, rivers, and mountains -- issues that he pursued in the Codex Leicester. Leonardo Lives explores the close relationship of art and science in Leonardo's work, but it also presents the variety of ways in which he has continued to inspire artists from the 16th century to the present.



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