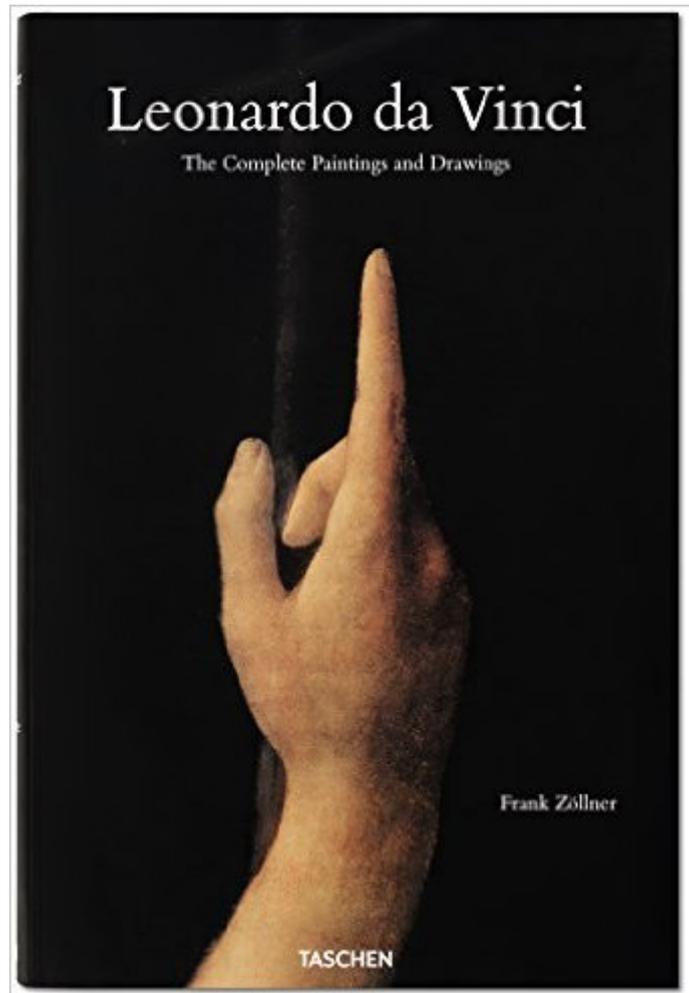


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# Leonardo Da Vinci: Complete Paintings And Drawings



## Synopsis

Da Vinci in detail: Leonardo's life and work " all pictures, all drawings! One of the most fully achieved human beings who has ever lived, Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) is recognized the world over as a figure of infinite curiosity, feverish imagination and sublime artistic ability. This updated edition of our XL title provides the most comprehensive survey of the life and work of this master painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, and inventor. Its catalogue raisonné of Leonardo's paintings covers both his surviving and his lost painted works. With full-bleed details of many paintings, the reader is able to inspect the subtlest facets of brushworks that came to revolutionize Art History. A further catalog of Leonardo's drawings arranges nearly 700 of his drawings by category (architecture, technical, proportion, cartography, etc) and showcases his fabulous observational finesse, from anatomical studies to architectural plans, from complex engineering designs to pudgy infant portraits. It includes a fresh chapter exploring the artist's mesmerizing manuscripts. The accompanying account of Leonardo's life and work includes a special in-depth exploration of his masterworks The Annunciation and The Last Supper.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Taschen has always done an amazing job on their high-end titles. They have, however, out done themselves on Leonardo Da Vinci. The book is huge, the binding and paper quality excellent. It is the reproductions though that are the most riveting. As mentioned in one of the above editorial reviews you can almost enter into the paintings, the detail is so close. I have spent hours looking into the works and find new detail each time I do. Highly recommended.

Leonardo Da Vinci epitomized the Renaissance humanist ideal. He possessed one of the greatest minds of all times. Painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, scientist, Da Vinci personified creative genius and had an immeasurable effect on modern culture. This compilation of his work, probably the most complete collection ever made, is spectacular. The reproductions are riveting. Taschen has reproduced here Leonardo Da Vinci's 34 paintings in glorious color. The paper quality is excellent as is the binding. From "The Last Supper" to the "Mona Lisa," the paintings' details, even Da Vinci's brushstrokes, are clearly visible and exquisite. This 700 page book measures 22" X 17" when open and many of the artist's masterworks are shown with full page or double page details. Frank Zollner's biographical text is beautifully written and the book's first ten chapters explore Da Vinci's life, with excerpts from his letters, contracts and diaries. His paintings are also discussed and interpreted here. A complete catalogue of Leonardo's paintings is included in Part II. Da Vinci's extraordinary talent as a draftsman is documented in the six hundred and sixty-three drawings which are presented in Part III. The drawings are arranged by categories, i.e., figures, anatomy, architecture, etc. Johannes Nathan's excellent commentary on Da Vinci's drawings and the artist's sensitive lines, both fine and bold, are truly a feast for the eyes. "Leonardo Da Vinci: The Complete Paintings and Drawings" is one of the most visually stunning books I have ever seen. This was a "must have/must own" item for me, and I have spent many leisurely hours reading, perusing and enjoying this phenomenal collection. I can't think of a better gift for anyone who admires this master's works. This is a very rare and special book. JANA

This book of 600 pages is monumental in size and content. It covers all paintings and almost everything else Leonardo did in his lifetime, including what went lost. The author provides the meaning and the historical context of Leonardo's work, the publisher provides an outstanding outlet to showcase the immense work of Leonardo the painter, the engineer, the architect, the sculptor, the anatomist, the genius ahead of his time. The book is divided in three parts (each one a book in itself): Life and Work; the Complete Paintings; the Graphic Work. The book is beautiful to read and to watch and whatever is the price, take it! It is worth every cent. You will not be able to stop to watch its brilliant paintings and drawings. Highly recommended.

Very little text, a lot of drawings. If you're looking for analytical reviews and explanations of Leonardo's art, this isn't the book for you. If you are an admirer of his incredible drawings, this IS the book you need. This volume is an oversized hardback (the copy I have is) with nice reproductions of

his pencil, ink, chalk and other dry media drawings. He did way more drawings than paintings, but it seems people most often remember the Mona Lisa or the Last Supper. His anatomical drawings, horse sketches and studies, preliminary layouts for paintings, machines, drapery studies, notebook sketches and notes are here, full color (for the colors he used, like sanguine and sepia) and large enough to appreciate. It is amazing that a of his couple head studies look very similar to MRIs I have had taken of my head. There are machine drawings for flying machines and other mechanical things that weren't to be for centuries. Detailed skeleton and organ sketches, proportional scales for anatomy, grotesque heads with great expressions. It is fascinating to see how many subjects interested him, and how well he analyzed and understood each one. There's a lot to be learned from this book, despite minimal text. The proper human body proportions are in here, the bones and muscles and such are an excellent study of anatomy for an artist, the drapery studies, besides exhibiting great patience on his part, are an excellent exploration of shadows and lighting. It is a tremendous lesson if one were to copy a drawing of his, to see how a master drew and to learn from his pencil marks and pressure and shading. Obviously, I highly recommend the book. It's a great price for a superb collection from this brilliant artist.

This is a beautiful book with great reproductions, probably worth buying, but I found some of the design choices frustrating and baffling. The modern preoccupation with quick sketches determines much of the layout--tiny thumbnail scribbles are blown up to fill entire pages, while exquisitely detailed drawings are reproduced quite small; as a result, one can't appreciate either as they were meant to be seen. I had always wanted to see a complete collection of Leonardo's incredible drapery studies; this would've been an ideal place to show them at their best, but only a few are presented full size. Given the massiveness of the book, it would've been so logical to simply reproduce all of Leonardo's drawings at actual or near-actual size, but publishers often seem to go for flashy graphics instead of sensible presentations. An ambitious art director needed to make his mark on this product, and decided that his "vision" was more important than fidelity to the work of Leonardo da Vinci...what a shame...The paintings look wonderful, although--again--the hyper-magnified closeups are pointlessly extreme--a full page reproduction with several actual-sized closeups of each painting would've been ideal. Final complaint: only one version of Madonna of the Rocks was shown with details; for some reason they used the later one, which was painted by assistants, rather than the master's original work. Considering that this is probably Leonardo's most complex, fully-realized surviving painting, such an omission seems criminal!

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