



NEWSLETTER – May 2025

Letter from the President

We have had a pretty spectacular year! We had two juried shows at Rochester Friendly home and Barnes and Noble. Thank you to everyone that participated. We also did The Spiegel Community Center -PAG paints Pittsford.

Our presenters were from all different venues, and we learned some valuable information from each one. Remember you can also watch the presenters again on the web site (members only). Presenter for the 2024-2025 included:

- September- Joan Margaret
- October- Betsy Liano
- November- Brian O'Neal
- December- Yen Ospina
- January- Michael Tomb & Marcia Zach
- February- Pat Deluca
- March- Sylvie Culbertson
- April- Victoria Brzustowicz
- May-Mike Kamish

Special Thank you to our members for being presenters.

We made a little money and spent a little as well. Ending balance is-\$1,772.23.

We are looking forward to Paddle and Pour and our annual Picnic in June! (See Newsletter for details)

The board will take some time off and enjoy the summer, but we are always planning for our next season starting in Sept 2025! Have a great summer, paint when you have the time, remember that our fall show is always in November!

See you at Paddle and Pour and Picnic!

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

It's May! Can you believe it? The past year has flown by. For me it's been a big year of painting – with probably 20 paintings completed and my basement, garage, and stairwell all covered with paintings of multiple shapes and sizes. My wife jokes that she will someday be squashed like in the movies, when a big stack of paintings falls on her! But if you had to have a dramatic end – that doesn't seem so bad to me!



The garage wall ... almost full!

I hope it's been a good painting year for you too. It seems like world events have provided a steady stream of drama these past few years, so that no matter what your political leanings may be or your backgrounds, you can't help but feel like the pressure at times. But painting is an escape and an interest that we all have and share – so a great way to see the beauty of the world around us. I hope you have that opportunity this summer and beyond.

See you at the picnic!

Mike Kamish

UPCOMING & CURRENT CLUB EVENTS

HOLD THE DATE for the PAG Picnic!

PAG PICNIC: Saturday June 14th, 2025

To be held this year at the Hopkins Point Lodge @Mendon Ponds Park



Our speaker for the event will be Debi Bloom's Artist sister, Sandy Ludwig!



Check out her work on-line at: <https://sandy-ludwig-art.square.site/buffaloes>

ARTIST STATEMENT

Art helps me breathe.

For as long as I can remember I have wanted to be an artist. My mom used to say that I only went to high school for the art classes and lunch periods. She was probably right.

I have been fortunate to do what I love in my career - teach art and share my knowledge and excitement with my students. Now retired, I get to do what I love on a regular basis. - make art almost every day.

My paintings and drawings draw from experiences in my life, whether from close to home or from my many travels. It is often in mundane images and objects that I find beauty. New places, the personality of an individual or the uniqueness of a culture also inspire me.

I work "plein air" (work done directly in outdoor daylight) when I can as the effect of light on shapes in nature has always intrigued me but when I can't work directly on site, I use my drawings and photos as reference in my studio.

My very first love was watercolor as I am fascinated to watch the colors mix, blend and pool, creating edges and blossoms of color. I also love the intense color of pastel, the lusciousness and luster of oil, and the sound and marks of drawing with pencil.

BIOGRAPHY

Sandy Ludwig was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. She attended Bennett High School, the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and University of Buffalo where she received a degree and certification in Art Education.

For 32 years Sandy taught art in the Buffalo Public at both the elementary and high school level. Currently Sandy is a member of the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society, Western New York Artists Group, Burchfield Penny Art Center, Buffalo Society of Artists.

Upcoming Art Show at Paddle & Pour

Promotional flyer courtesy of Linda Vannozi (Thank you Linda!)



Be sure to sign up as a volunteer and a participant.
You can find details and a link to the signup sheet in club emails sent by Club Secretary Joe Siriani.

RECENT EVENTS: May Speaker Mike Kamish



Member Mike Kamish was guest speaker in May, and we had a group “Paint Out”!

Mike’s mini-web site can be found at:

<https://mikekamish.wixsite.com/artclub/mikespaintings>

Slides from the Presentation Portion of the Meeting

At the meeting. Mike covered tools and techniques, and the topic of composition.

Tools & Techniques

Mike likes his textured canvases – and follows that with a pencil and then “painted sketch”.

Textured Canvases

- A rough coating of Liquitex Gesso
- Spread with a putty knife and left “bumpy” to dry

A very rough pencil sketch, a better paint sketch.



Skies are next, followed up with a limited palette painting, and finished off some time later with Liquitex acrylic gloss varnish.

Generally, paint the sky first – to set the tone. Is it a stormy day? Pleasant day? Dark and moody?



Then it's usually background to foreground, left to right.

My typical color palette:

- Paines Gray
- Ultramarine
- Sap Green
- Naples Yellow
- Yellow Ochre
- Titanium White
- Magenta
- Cerulean Blue

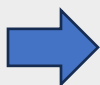


At the end, I add highlights in white and Naples yellow and darken a few foreground darks with Ivory Black. After a month or so when there will be no more changes, I often paint on a thin layer of Liquitex Gloss Varnish with a house-painting brush.

Composition

We talked about composition and how simple photos can transform into something different. The message was that if you are a photorealist and want precision in your rendering, that's okay. But if you want to take some liberties and literally "move mountains" to get the look that you prefer and will enjoy painting, that's okay too.

Example 1 of moving mountains:



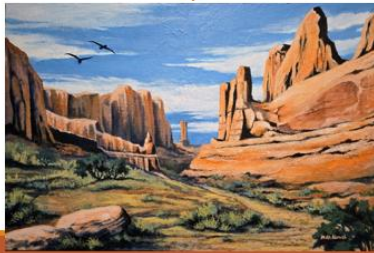
Example 2 of moving mountains:



The Paint Out

Each person was given a textured canvas and with some share brushes and paints we went to work painting renderings of these paintings or your own choice.

Reference Photos



Photos of the Group at Work





Jim



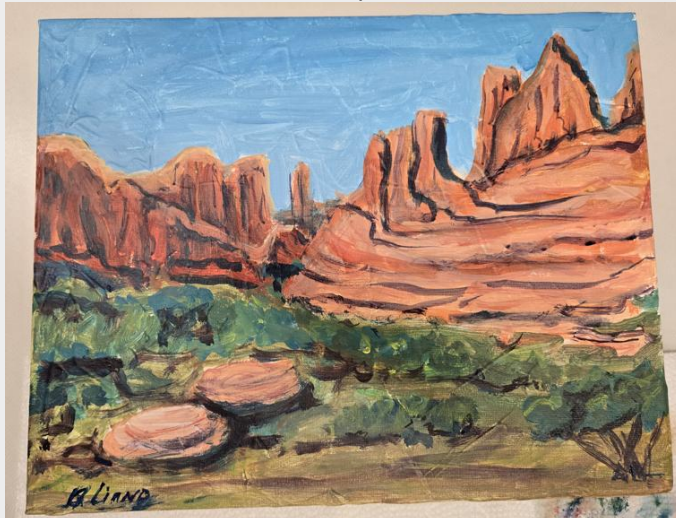
Nina



Barbara



Betsy



Ron



Debi



Anyone else have a painting they want to share? We can include those in the next newsletter!

ROTATING EXHIBITS

The rotating exhibits are an opportunity for members to display their work at various locations around town. If you have questions about this schedule, please contact **Laura Davis**. Remember - you can share any of these exhibit spaces with other members!

	Town Hall	Friendly Home	Star P.T.	Presbyterian Church
Jan - March	Barbara Jablonski	Debbie Ingerick	Paula Fahy	Katherine Herman
April - June	Sylvie Culbertson	Niesdri Walsh	Denise Johnson	Laura Davis
July - Sept	Debi Bloom	Margaret Mitchell	Sylvie Culbertson	
Oct - Dec	Ann Limbeck	Oct: Mike Kamish Nov-Dec: Show	Ron Boehner	Karin Wallin

OTHER REMINDERS

Check the PAG website for a list of all upcoming events and meetings. <https://pittsfordartgroup.com/>

Guest Policy

GUESTS interested in joining are welcomed and encouraged to join us at our monthly meetings to hear and see what is going on and to watch our wonderful demonstrators. Please let Carol Schott or Margie Mitchell know of any guests in advance so that we can welcome them to the meeting.

Sunshine Committee

Sylvia Ball will send occasion-appropriate cards to members or their families. If you know of someone who is ill or a member that has passed, please contact Sylvia.

CLUB LEADERSHIP 2024 – 2025 Positions

Current Positions

Executive Board Officers

- President, Margaret Mitchell
- Vice-President, Mike Kamish
- Treasurer, Debi Bloom
- Recording Secretary, Carolyn Dey Lobkowicz
- Corresponding Secretary, Joe Sirianni

Standing Committees

- Membership, Carol Schott & Maryanna Meuller
- Refreshments, Paula Fahey
- Rotating Exhibits, Laura Davis
- Sunshine, Sylvia Ball
- Website, Joe Sirianni
- Publicity, Linda Vannozzi
- Newsletter, Mike Kamish
- Speakers, Margie Mitchell & Mike Kamish

Open Positions

We are now seeking new Board and Committee Members to replace leaders that have been at it for years. This is your club – please be part of it by participating on the Board or a Committee. Open positions are listed below. Current leaders will “show you the ropes” so we can make this very easy. Everyone who has participated in this way says they get a lot more out of the club – and make new friends – when they actively participate in this way. Please participate!

Open Executive Board Officers

- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary

Standing Committees

- Website
- Speakers

Description of positions:

Corresponding secretary - To receive and distribute all outgoing information from members and the board. Any information for the group as a whole is only to be shared through this person.

Recording Secretary - To attend all members meetings at Spiegel center and record all Business meetings and presenters' information as well as meetings with the Board.

Presenters committee - This volunteer position can be held by up to 3 members. To find new and interesting presenters for general meetings and the picnic.

Website Manager - To update our website and add new information as it becomes available.

MEETING NOTES – General Meeting 5/1/2025

**Pittsford Art Group
General Meeting
Spiegel Community Center
35 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsford, NY 14534**

Nineteen PAG members met at the Spiegel Center for the May General Meeting.

Board members present were: Margie Mitchell, President; Mike Kamish, Member-at-Large; Debi Bloom, Treasurer; Joe Sirianni, Corresponding Secretary; and Carolyn Lobkowitz, Recording Secretary.

Business—7 pm

Margie reminded artists to sign up for the Paddle and Pour festival that will be held in Pittsford Village on Memorial Day Weekend. Volunteers are still needed and also someone who can transport the boards for hanging artwork.

Laura Davis, who manages PAG local community exhibits, gave us an update on the Henrietta Public Library show. If you plan to submit work, please contact Joanne Andrews with information about your paintings and remember to attach your information to the back of each painting you submit. Paintings must be dropped off at the library on Friday, June 13 and library staff will hang them. Paintings will be on display during July and at present there is not a pick-up-date. Laura will alert PAG as soon as that information becomes available.

Big congratulations go to Kristin Spath who has been juried into the 69th Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition at the Memorial Art Gallery. This yearly show receives entries from the entire Finger Lakes region encompassing several counties and making it a very competitive event.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:20 and we turned the meeting over to our Mike Kamish who did a great presentation on his painting process.

Respectfully submitted by the Recording Secretary,

Carolyn Lobkowitz

MEMBER NEWS: Kristin Spath

Kristin will have her work on display as part of the upcoming exhibition. Check it out!




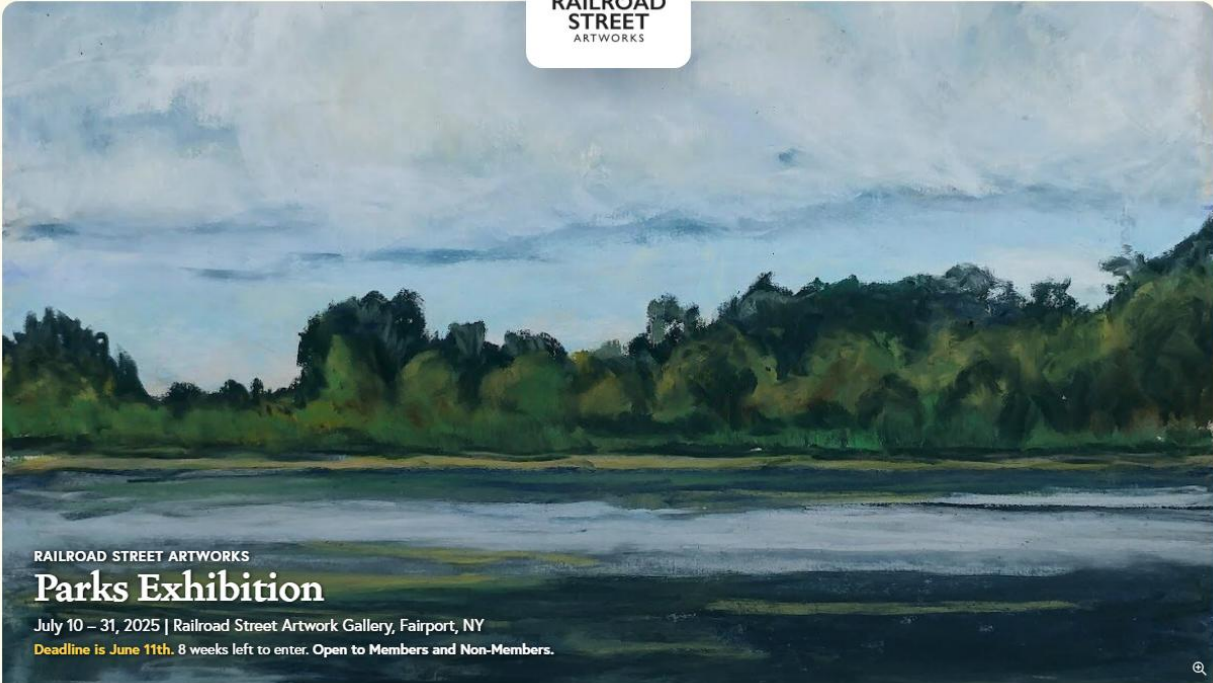

Starting June 28

[Memorial Art Gallery](#)
500 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
mag@mag.rochester.edu

Community Events

[ShowSubmit](#)

Log inRegister



It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that the Railroad Street Artworks Gallery, in the Village of Fairport, NY, is having a juried exhibition this July.

The exhibition theme is "Celebrating Monroe County Parks." And, the opportunity for your organization's members to submit paintings, photography and drawings begins today, April 11.

Please share this email announcement with your organization's Members.

Here, for your Members' reference, is information about the exhibition:

Celebrating Monroe County Parks: Call for Artists to Join a Unique Fine Art Exhibition & Show

Railroad Street Artworks Gallery (Fairport, NY) is delighted to announce the upcoming juried fine art exhibition, *The Parks of Monroe County (NY): Nature, History & Community Through Art*. This exhibition will honor the beauty, history, and community spirit of Monroe County's parks through creative expression in two-dimensional mediums like painting, photography, and drawing.

Key Dates:

- **Submissions Open:** Friday, April 11, 2025
- **Entry Deadline:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025
- **Acceptance Notification:** Friday, June 20, 2025
- **Exhibition Dates:** July 10 – 31, 2025
- **Reception & Award Ceremony:** Saturday, July 12, 2025, 6–8 PM

- **Takedown & Pickup:** Friday, August 2, 2025, 10 AM – 2 PM

Location: Railroad Street Artworks Gallery, 3 Railroad Street, Suite G, Fairport, NY 14450

Gallery Hours:

- Thursday to Saturday: 12–6 PM
- Sunday: 12–4 PM

This exhibition is open to both members and non-members of Railroad Street Artworks Gallery. Artists can submit up to three works that portray or are inspired by Monroe County parks. Non-members pay an entry fee of \$30 for three works, while members submit their works free of charge. Submissions must adhere to detailed guidelines regarding framing, dimensions, and professional presentation to ensure quality and consistency. Accepted works will be displayed throughout the exhibition, showcasing the creative perspectives of local and regional artists. Awards will be presented at the Reception & Award Ceremony on July 12, 2025, and include:

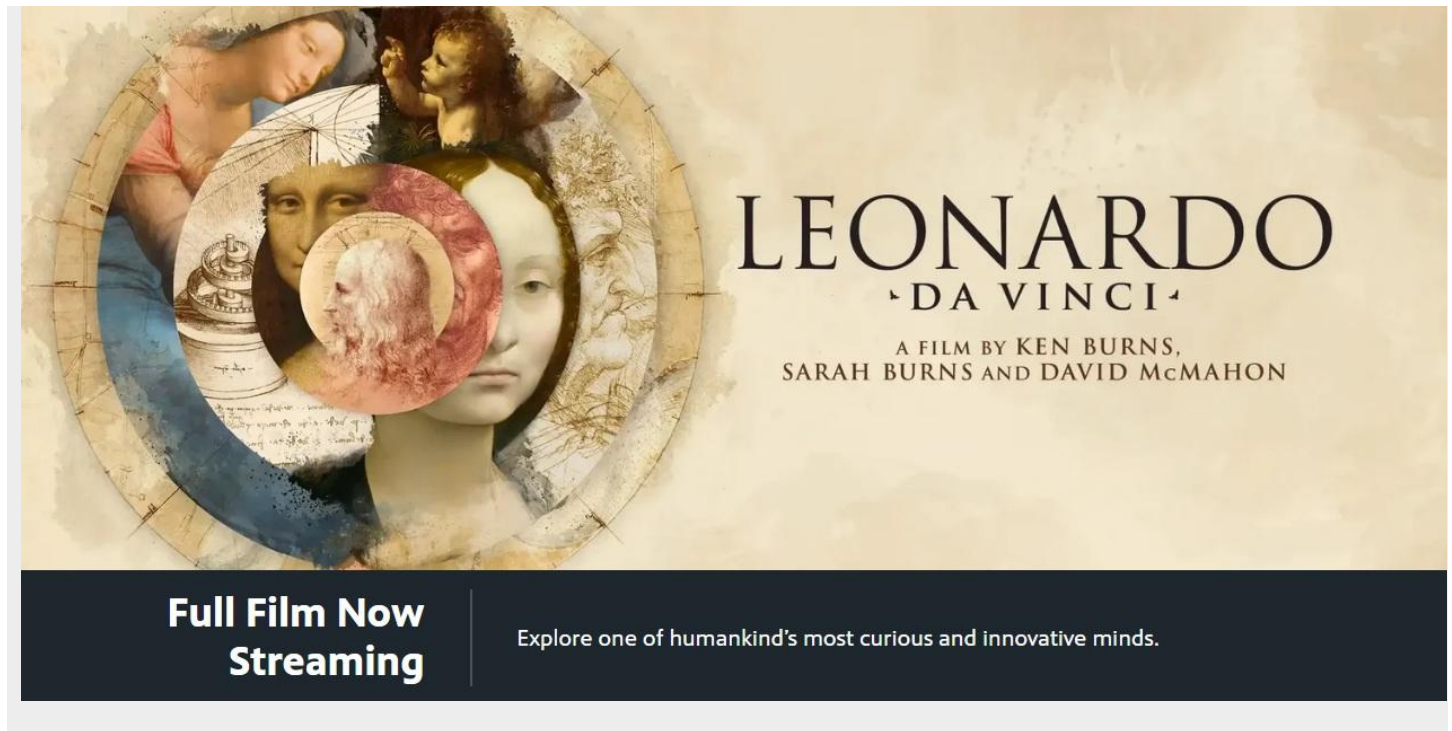
- **Best of Show:** Three-day solo exhibition in the Main Hall + \$100
- **People's Choice:** Three-day solo exhibition in the Main Hall + \$100
- **Juror's Awards (3):** \$50 each
- **Merit Awards (3):** \$25 each

Artists interested in participating can submit their entries via ShowSubmit.com from April 11 to June 11, 2025. Full submission details, requirements, and image specifications can be found on ShowSubmit.org.

Contact Information: Questions about the exhibition, delivery, or installation can be directed to: Jeff Tokarz, Chairman, info@RailroadStreetArtworks.org. Join us in celebrating Monroe County parks through art and creativity! We invite artists and art lovers alike to be part of this unique showcase.

Special Feature by Nina Varon:

A Review of Leonardo da Vinci: A Film by Ken Burns from PBS



If you like learning about artists' lives, their struggles, and achievements, then watching this documentary will offer you not only a wonderful insight into Leonardo's life, but the historical circumstances of his time and much more.

Here is a trailer for this documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Unwlgfe6uM>

You may stream this on PBS Documentary through Amazon Prime.

The curious ones can certainly find many reviews online before watching; I offer you my summary and thoughts on the next pages.

PART 1- INVENTOR

Leonardo da Vinci was born on April 15th, 1452, as an out-of-wedlock child of notary Pietro da Vinci and Caterina di Meo Lippi. Vinci is the name of the village where he spent his childhood. As a child, he loved his surroundings, and he keenly observed it. His father secured a future for him by sending him to a "bodega" – workshop of artist Verrocchio for apprenticeship in the city-state Florence, which offered him a lot of artistic and intellectual inspiration through his early adult life.

It's the time of Renaissance - rebirth (from French) - and as Europe was waking up after one of the outbreaks of the Second Pandemic, people were curious about the world, taking secular approaches after a period of medieval feudalism. From his first Florentine period, the painting [Ginevra de Benci](#) is interesting because Leonardo was the first one to portray women not only from profile, but from the front.



Leonardo continued to seek his fortune in Milan at Ludovico Sforza's court – politically astute and militarily most powerful person. He kept his palace populated with engineers, artists, poets. Leonardo wrote a letter to Sforza, introducing himself as an engineer. Nowadays, this would be considered a letter of intent, sent to a company. He proposes to build various machines (trebuchet, catapults) and ships for Sforza. Only in his 12th point, in elaborating his achievements, does he mention his skill at painting and sculpture. We don't know if he ever sent this letter.

In Milan, he at first formed a partnership with de Predis brothers and in 1483 started to paint an altarpiece – *Virgin of the Rocks* for the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception. Leonardo did not always convey to the instructions of his patrons, and he often made them wait. The church had imposed a deadline on Leonardo for painting his famous 15 x 29 feet mural for the Dominican monastery of [Santa Maria delle Grazie](#) (Holly Mary of Grace). Subtle and dramatic gestures, command of

geometry and color, with totally dynamic human expressions of disciples was the reaction to this announcement in the [Last Supper](#) (1494-1498). This painting has a transcendental effect as it was done with a philosophical approach, typical for da Vinci.

After some time, Leonardo established a studio and offered lessons. Then he began to get commissions from Sforza. The princess lover, Cecilia Gallerani, is portrayed in [Lady with an Ermine](#) – sounds familiar? There is a whole narrative in the picture – look at her eyes, position of her hands, Leonardo is showing us a scene.

Although he earned his money by painting, building theater props, and machines, his ambition was to become an intellectual man. He was always asking questions, why, how, what is the quality of this thing, person, phenomena? His thirst for knowledge knew no boundaries, and he was absorbed by his curiosity to the point of absorption. Writing notes on everything he was observing, his notebooks contain around 4000 pages of sketches and descriptions – he wrote with his left hand, in a mirror image.

The ability of birds to fly captivated him so much that he tried to invent a flying machine. Many of these machines were ornithopters – humans flapping wings. He understood the basic physics and mechanics of literally everything. But at that time, he did not have the proper materials. Irrigation, military machines, human body systems – this is just a small fraction of what he was able to draw and investigate to their interior parts.

Something about people in Leonardo's life: Giacomo Caprotti. Giacomo



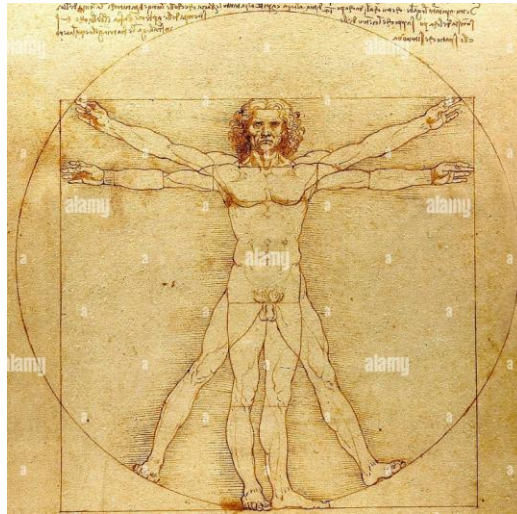
learned painting with Leonardo and Leonardo gave him the name Salai – he was a little devil, very mischievous, greedy, a liar, and obstinate. But Leonardo was fond of him because the lad was attractive and indispensable later on, certainly as a beautiful male or androgynous face in his paintings. Evil pleasure is the origin of pain – he wrote about Salai. And there were others that he travelled with and marveled about the world.

Leonardo had decorated the wedding hall and prepared all the props when Sforza organized a wedding for his niece – and became an official engineer and painter. He found his niche at Sforza's



court. This enhanced his education greatly. Aristotle and Plato were still very popular in those times. In the year of Leonardo's birth - 1452 – Guttenberg press was invented, and books could be printed. Leonardo was an omnivorous reader, always chasing books. He loved the *Divine Comedy* from Dante Alighieri, and tried to master Latin, writing in his mirror script. He was self-taught and inspired. Not a literary man, he wanted to know more and more. But he was more empirical than theoretical. In Leonardo's words: "I shall cite my master in all cases: nature – I am a disciple of nature." He was frustrated of not being considered "a man of traditional knowledge" but was quite confident in his teacher.

Throughout his life, Leonardo was drawing human anatomy – muscles, bones, and organs. His skull studies lead him to discovery of brain centers, although he could not know how they control the body, emotions, or thinking. He understood how the eye receives impressions that travel to brain and cause a reaction – and this is what he always captured in his portraits. In [Vitruvian Man](#) (1490), he attempted to capture a man in perfect symmetry.



Now – ready for a new project – he took on to illustrate a book of mathematics. In early 1499, King of Charles XII (French king) was planning to gain Italy for himself. It was the cultural center of the world. Sforza fled to Innsbruck and lost everything. After 18 years in Milan, Leonardo was 47 and he needed to move on. He headed to Venice with Luca Pacioli, a mathematician. His greatest work was yet to come.

PART 2 – PAINTER-GOD

This part starts with how Leonardo was able to draw wonderful analogies between microcosms and macrocosms. He compared veins in human body to flowing rivers, could see whole landscapes in a piece of stone.

After a short time in Venice, he wanted to find a new patron in Tuscany. By now, he is well-respected and retains an aura of mystery. Since Leonardo left Florence, a lot has changed there. He returned to Florence for a while because his father was still alive. While his priority was geometry at the time, he was painting, and he always took time working on his commissions, having patrons wait.

Cesare Borgia became Leonardo's next patron. Nicolo Machiavelli, the court's counselor, kept Florence informed. Leonardo understood the value of information – he was the first one to draw an aerial map of towns. He worked in Borgia's service as a surveyor and topographer. When Borgia's father, Pope Alexander XI. died, Borgia was murdered.

Leonardo is intrigued by water and its molecular structure. Arno River project was given to Leonardo in order to control Pisa and deny this town access to that river. He understood the power of water, but this project did not work.

Pazzia bestialissima - the war – was painted by Leonardo with anguished expressions of the people and horses. Although he loved to design military machines, he was disgusted by inhumanity of war and considered death one of the biggest evils in human life.

In Florence, Leonardo was competing with Michelangelo and his *David* who would become the pride of Florence. Leonardo's confidence was diminished. The clash between the two was also public. In his mature period, he continued to design flying machines with an even more scientific approach and becomes prophetic in his writing. He understood aerodynamics and led a constant dialogue between himself, mathematics and geometry. Continuing to draw the human body from inside, he compared heart to the seed and noticed that the veins or their walls become thick and they are like a blocked river. With only his eyes and intellect as his tools, he was able to diagnose coronary atherosclerosis – the term of modern times. He just wanted to know what happened to the vessels. Apart from "The cosmography of the lesser world" – his drawing of organs, vessels, veins, in one drawing - he developed a methodical approach on how to draw dissection. In between, he finally finished the *Virgin of the Rocks*".



In 1511, an alliance of city states attacked Milan to capture it from France. Francesco Melzi, an aristocrat, came to Leonardo for an apprenticeship but became his personal assistant and secretary. At Villa Melzi, Leonardo studied more of human anatomy more (found another 2 chambers additional to the first two). He considered the heart a marvelous instrument. This first-ever drawing of a synthetic heart valve was proven with geometry. He was correct. Why did he do it? There was no use for it, but he wanted to understand everything.

By March 1513, Leonardo, now 60 years old, was back in Milan, with Sforza's son declared a Duke. The Medici family also regained power in Florence, after 2 decades of exile and Giovanni Medici became a pope. Many excellent artists had joined the Vatican court, including Raphael and Michelangelo. They painted for Papal Palaces, churches, and more. Villa Belvedere in Vatican accommodated Leonardo with a stipend but the pope was dissatisfied with him because he could not

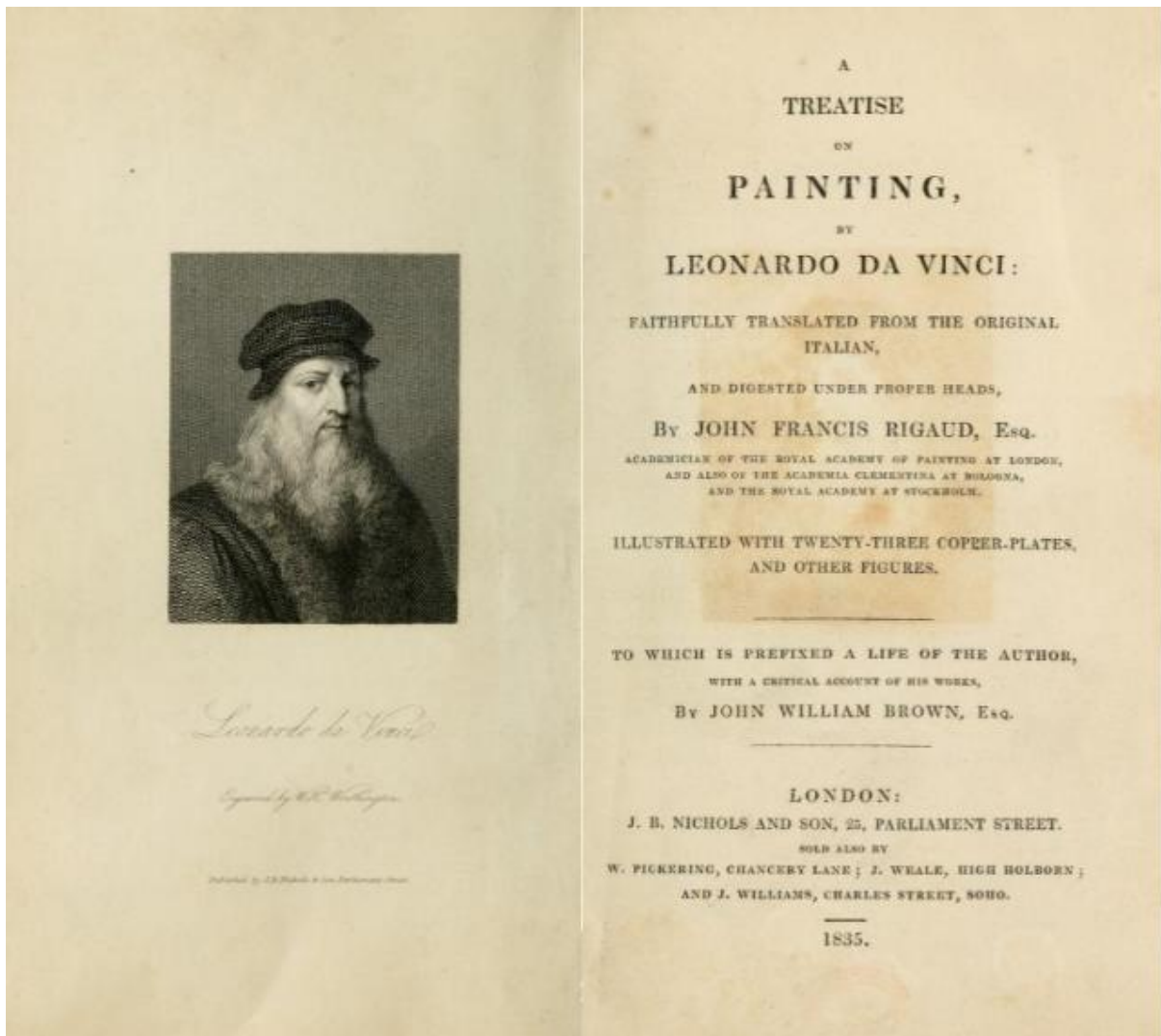
finish his projects. Leonardo was not happy in Rome. He has some visions where he sees the end of the world, with fire and fury of the winds. It reminds him of death – not only his own, but that of a planet, which is a living organism. It troubles him. He painted deluge drawings – self drawings of his psyche or prophecies of our world as it is today?

In 1516, Giuliano Medici died of tuberculosis and Leonardo left Italy to go to France. He was 64 years old and with Melzi and Salai he traveled on mules across to go to Chateaux de Clos. Francis I was a cultured king, and he provided Leonardo with housing stipends and personnel. He needed Leonardo as a master teacher, who possessed knowledge of the world. Unlike other patrons, he understood his soul and the need for artistic freedom. He let Leonardo be free and was a perfect patron. La Gioconda, a portrait of Mona Lisa, which he started to paint 14 years prior, traveled with him to France.



Leonardo felt bitter at the end of his life because his goals seemed unattainable, and he was running out of time. He left volumes of books of observations – faces, animals, geometry, machines, and bodies. One of his last entries was: "It is time to stop and eat... because the soup is getting cold". He put his estate in order and left money to his half-brothers and assistants. The biggest portion went to Melzi, along with books, manuscripts, and paintings. On May 2, 1519, at 67 he died and was buried in a chapel in Château d'Amboise.

Leonardo's book on painting became famous in Italy and France and was published fully in 1817.



After that, people began rediscovering him in the subsequent centuries and the academic interest grew. In 1910, Sigmund Freud offered an analysis of the bird visiting him in a cradle, a recurring fixation of Leonardo.

Appropo - Mona Lisa was stolen from France in 1911 (this painting was in Louvre since 1804). It was smuggled in a smock by an Italian thief who was caught 28 months later in Florence where he wanted to sell it to an antique store. This small painting had become the most famous painting in the world, inspiring all kinds of artists.

Other paintings described in this documentary (with approximate dates of creation):

Annunciation – 1472-1476

Adoration of the Magi – 1478-1482

St. Jerome in the Wilderness– 1483-1485

St. John the Baptist – 1507-1515

The Virgin and Child with St. Anne – 1503-1519

WHAT I LIKED

- Narration of Ken Burns
- Detailed explanations
- Citations from Leonardo's books
- Beautiful images of his paintings
- Learning about the blue rock from Afghanistan
- Interviews with various experts
- Listening to multiple languages!

WHAT I COULD SKIP

- Too many technical details at times
- Lengthy narrations about machines
- Reading subtitles while looking at the screen

CONCLUSION

Is it worthwhile watching? Yes, if you have 4 hours of time. Leonardo is hard to classify, and everybody can find something interesting about him. Despair and incredible desire – that's what motivates him, in human life and his explorations. A true polyglot - scientist, philosopher, painter, and poet at the same time. He understands war, oppression, but also love and beauty. This comes from his observation of nature.

Leonardo realized that progress does not follow a linear motion but rather comes in small revolutions.

His paintings sum up the universal knowledge he had and are transcendental. Although many of his paintings were unfinished or not preserved, those left are famous for displaying the intentions of mind and inner beauty. Leonardo da Vinci marveled at the world and now we can marvel at him. He is a man of eternal inspiration to all of us.