

## Analysis of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa del Giocondo

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### Abstract:

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The object of this research is a „Mona Lisa del Giocondo” one of the best know images. This painting with dimension 77cm X 53 cm is ascribed a date before 1503-1506. By moving one detail of the painting, we got the image of another woman dressed in Asian chador and veil, indicating her Middle Eastern origin. Leonardo da Vinci secretly described Caterina in the image of Mona Lisa.

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**Keywords:** Mona Lisa; Giocondo; Leonardo da Vinci; Caterina

### Introduction:

Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of Lisa del Giocondo, the so-called „Mona Lisa”, is arguably one of the best know images. The three-quarter length portrait depicts the sitter looking directly at the viewer in near full-profile. Leonardo has paid great attention to the fine skin of the delicate hands of Mona Lisa. Unusually, the Mona Lisa painting remained with Leonardo until he died and did not become the property of the sitter. The reason for this remains unknown (Ormiston 2011).

### Materials and Methods:

The object of this research is a „Mona Lisa del Giocondo” (Fig. 1). This painting with dimension 77cm X 53 cm is ascribed a date before 1503-1506.



Fig. 1, „Mona Lisa del Giocondo” by Leonardo da Vinci (1503-1506)  
Through the program Paint X, we moved one blue marked detail (Fig. 2 A, B).

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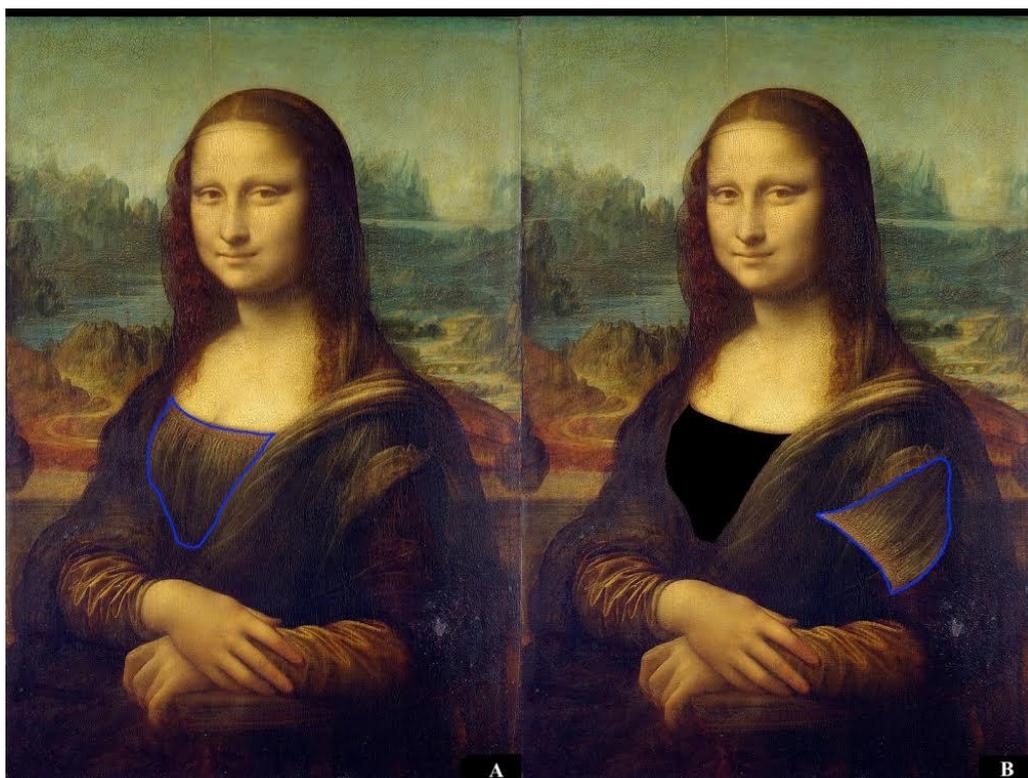


Fig. 2 A, B The trajectory of blue marked detail movement

**Results:** By moving the blue marked detail, we got the image of a women wearing an Asian chador and a veil.



Fig. 3 A women wearing an Asian chador and a veil.

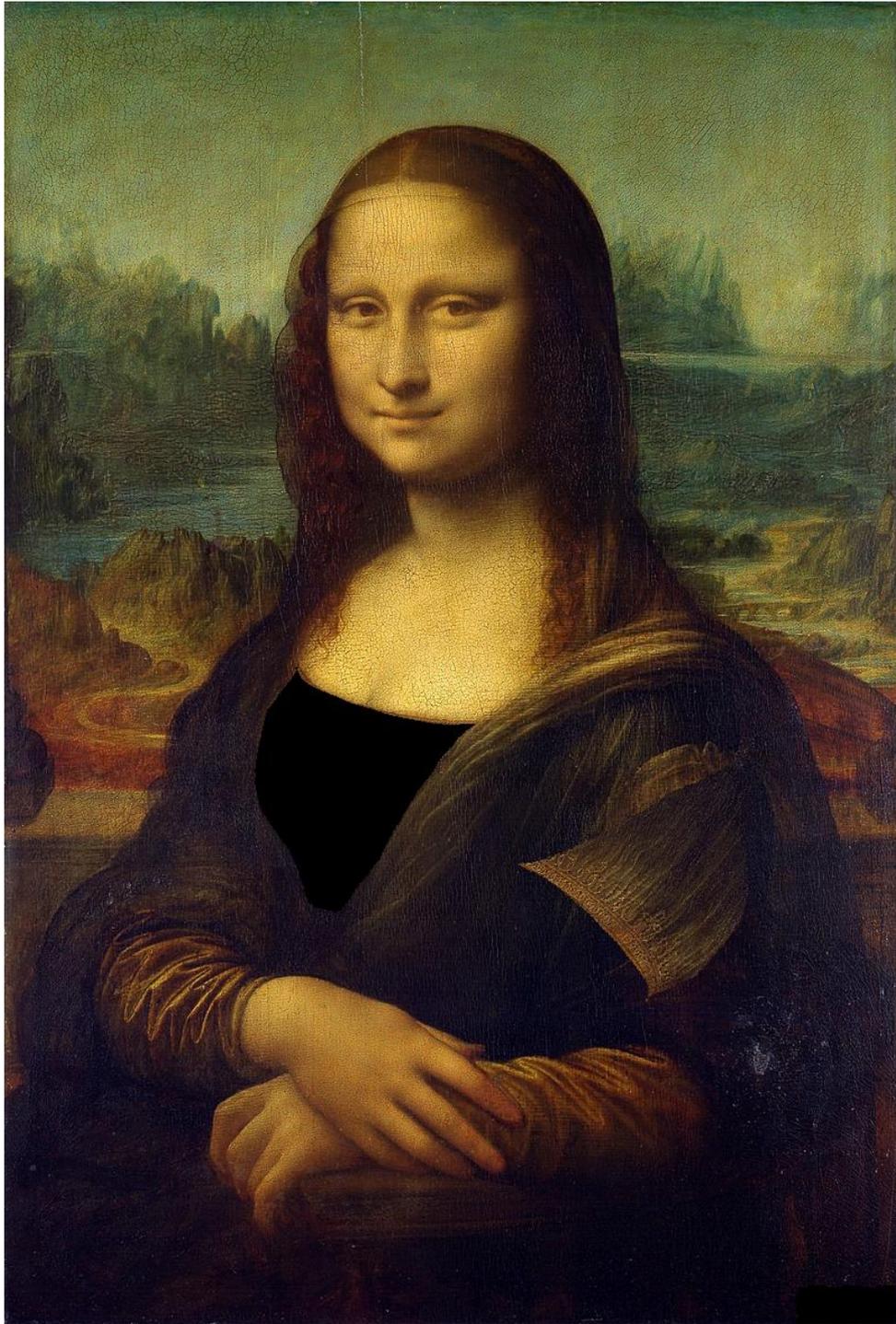


Fig. 4. Obtained image

#### **Discussion:**

Like the painting itself, the story of the Mona Lisa has many layers, and as more are revealed, one is drawn deeper into those appraising eyes and that dreamlike landscape. To probe this work of Leonardo, researchers marshal meticulous research into the family histories of painter, patron and subject; deep knowledge of the traditions and allusions of Renaissance art; and scientific analyses of the venerated object (Ball 2017).

The title of painting comes from a description by Renaissance art historian Giorgio Vasari, who wrote: „Leonardo undertook to paint, for Francesco de Giocond, the portrait of Mona Lisa, his wife” (Kenneth 1973). The painting was one of the first portraits to depict the sitter in front of an imaginary landscape, and Leonardo was one of the first painters to use aerial perspective. According to some scholars, the source of inspiration for the master in creating this painting was Caterina (Leonardo’s mother).

The identify of Leonardo's mother has until now been shrouded in mystery. As revealed in the forthcoming book „Mona Lisa: The People and the Painting” by Professor Martin Kemp and Doctor Giuseppe Pallanti, Leonardo's mother can now be identified as 15 year old orphan Caterina di Meo Lippi, who gave birth to Leonardo 15 April 1452 (Kemp 2017).

According to art historian Angelo Paratico, the woman portrayed in Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece might be, simultaneously, a Chinese slave and the painter's mother. Apparently, Caterina was taken to the town of Vinci, outside Florence, to give birth. (Paratico 2015).

Anthropologists said they have pieced together Leonardo da Vinci's left index fingerprint, that could help provide information on origin of Caterina. Certain distinctive features are more common in the fingerprints of some ethnic populations, experts says. They concluded that in this fingertip applies to 60% of the Arabic population, which suggests the possibility that Leonardo's mother was of Middle Eastern origin (Capasso 2005).

From the above, it is clear how vague the question of Leonardo's mother's origins is. To this day, there has been controversy over the origin of Caterina.

We think that the master meant his mother in the image of a woman dressed in an Asian chador (Fig. 3). Leonardo da Vinci secretly described Caterina in the painting of Mona Lisa. He also made a reference to its origin. The Asian chador and veil indicate the Middle Eastern origin of this woman.

From what has been said above, it is clear why Leonardo left this painting for himself for the rest of his life.

### **Conclusion:**

By moving one detail of the painting, we got the image of another woman dressed in Asian chador and veil, indicating her Middle Eastern origin. In our opinion Leonardo da Vinci secretly described Caterina in the painting „Mona Lisa del Giocondo”.

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