Leonardo da Vinci: The Shaping of an Artistic Genius

OSHER 332-001
Dates: Tuesdays: January 12 – February 16
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Location: Online via Zoom
Instructor: Caroline Cocciardi

Course Description:

“A beautiful body perishes, but a work of art dies not.” --Leonardo da Vinci.

Come be invigorated by learning new and little-known aspects of artist Leonardo da Vinci’s life, his work, and his passion for interlocking knots. Enter Luca Pacioli, the famous Renaissance mathematician, who becomes Leonardo’s apprentice and who plays a major role in his masterpieces, from The Last Supper to the Mona Lisa. Then there is Isabella d’Este, patron of the arts and hostess to Leonardo and Luca when, in 1499 fleeing the perils of war the men took refuge in her castle. The sojourn yields a sketch by Leonardo of Isabella with a promise to be followed by a “color portrait” of the Marchesa. Discover the intrigue of the relationships of the apprentice, the master, and the Renaissance woman and her unfinished, unpainted portrait that will intertwine their lives forever.

Course Overview:

Week 1: Introduction to The Mona Lisa Knot.
Week 2: Introduction to mathematician Friar Luca Pacioli and his relationship to Leonardo da Vinci.
Week 3: The Sforza Court years 1496-1499.
Week 4: Introduction to Isabella d’Este and the men’s 3-month sojourn with the Marchese and the promise of a portrait by da Vinci.
Week 5: The mystery of Fantasia da Vinci Dress
Week 6: The impressa (today known as a trademark) these Renaissance luminaries share.