

A JOURNEY DEEP INSIDE LEONARDO'S MYSTERIES

Place, people, curiosities **Antonia Pilloso**

Pgs 144 + 8 pgs. in full colours

This curious book follows Leonardo's tracks through the places of his journeys, Leonardo, a self-taught artist and scientist, enchanted many personalities, from Stendhal to Freud, from Nietzsche to Jules Verne (who wrote a play about Monnalisa and her love for painting). For five centuries the figure of Leonardo da Vinci has been fascinating the whole world and the "dark zones" of the Florentine genius are the most intriguing mysteries.

Do Leonardo's works hide occult symbols?

May the great genius have had heretical ideas that, had they been known, might have led Leonardo to the stake? Was he a member of a secret society or a mystical movement?

Why did the art historian Giorgio Vasari call Leonardo "a heretical genius"?

It is necessary to separate the legend from the reality of the biography of this scientist and artist. And it is all but easy because everything in Leonardo's life is exceptional from his very childhood.

Throughout the years many different interpretations have been made on the enigmatic Maestro. This book offers a journey through five places that marked Leonardo's life: a real journal full of souvenir photos taken by the Author, anyone will be able to take the same route easily step by step in practice if they like.

Professor Carlo Pedretti, the president of the "Armand Hammer Centre for Leonardo Studies" at California University, has enriched each stage with a precious contribution. The interest aroused by Leonardo's work in millions of people everywhere in the world is the evidence that this figure appeals to them deep down. It is important to go beyond the technological scientific celebrations and try to understand Leonardo's intimate spirituality and boundless contemplation of nature.

Therefore it is a journey through the works, the visions, the dreams of this deeply Christian, European Renaissance man that stirs up a desire for meditation.

Antonia Pillosio is a scriptwriter, she was born in Udine but lives in Rome. She studies at DAMS at the University of Bologna and at the Academy of Art of Rome. She has worked in many successful popular historical programmes for the “ Project History” for Rai Tre (“ Correva l’Anno and “Enigma”) and for Rai Educational (“ La Storia siamo noi”) or reports like the series “ Mysteries” for RaiDue.

‘ANCORA EDITRICE

Via G.B.Niccolini, 8 -20154 Milano Italy

Tel.+39-02-345608.1

Fax +39-02-345608.66

Email: foreign.rights@ancoralibri

www.ancoralibri.it

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