

Lesson 3 Activity
Functions and Content of Art



Mona Lisa (also known as La Gioconda or La Joconde) is a 16th-century portrait painted in oil by Leonardo da Vinci during the Renaissance in Florence, Italy. Many people think Mona Lisa's smile is mysterious. Because it is so often studied, recognized, and copied, it is considered to be the most famous painting in the world.

Source: Wikipedia

SUBJECT: Woman in Half-Body Portrait Art

FACTUAL MEANING: The Mona Lisa is one of the famous artworks that was painted in oil on wood by Leonardo da Vinci. The Mona Lisa is a realistically portrayed sculpture. The subjects of the sculpture show Leonardo's skillful handling of sfumato, a technique that incorporates light and shadow to model form.

CONVENTIONAL MEANING: The Mona Lisa's famous smile symbolizes the sitter. It is a visual representation of the idea of happiness that the Italian word "Gioconda" denotes. This sense of happiness served as Leonardo's inspiration for the portrait and is what gives it its high quality. The sfumato-created sensual curves of the woman's hair and attire are repeated in the wavy rivers and valleys in the background. Da Vinci's style is distinguished by its blurry outlines, graceful figures, striking contrasts of light and dark, and calm atmosphere. The painting's overall harmony, which is particularly evident in the sitter's faint smile, conveys the idea of a connection between humans and nature.

SUBJECTIVE MEANING: It illustrates how Mona Lisa wanted to show everybody that she was happy but was carrying a heavy burden that prevented her from telling anyone. Although she looks feeling great in the painting, there's something in her smile that conveys a lot of information.

