

# Virgin on the rocks

## Chivers - Virgin of the Rocks



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### Virgin of the Rocks by Leonardo da Vinci (The National Gallery, London)

By painting the mountains in the background blue, he tricks us into believing they are in the far distance. In The Virgin of the Rocks, the laws are nature's but the final creation Leonardo's. While it is commonly thought that the two angel panels were originally placed on either side of the central panel, an article published by the National Gallery suggests that they were placed higher up on the altarpiece.

### The Virgin of the Rocks

In the context of religious paintings of 15th century Europe this would have been an extremely radical work both for its general effect, and for the arrangement of the holy persons. Simply, it pertains to the conception of Mary, not Jesus, at the point where she entered the womb of her mother, St.

### Leonardo, The Virgin of the Rocks

In 1506 the confraternity demanded Leonardo return to Milan to complete it within two years. The National Gallery suggests that it might be the work of Francesco Napoletano.

### Madonna of the Rocks by Leonardo da Vinci Facts & History

Although the date of an associated commission is documented, the complete histories of the two paintings are unknown, and lead to speculation about which of the two is earlier.

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