Leonardo da Vinci
1452-1519
Biography

He is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and perhaps the most diversely talented person ever to have lived being a scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, painter, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. He has often been described as the archetype of the "Renaissance man", a man whose seemingly infinite curiosity was equaled only by his powers of invention.

As an engineer, his ideas were vastly ahead of his time. He conceptualized a helicopter, a tank, concentrated solar power, a calculator, and the double hull. Relatively few of his designs were constructed or were even feasible during his lifetime, but some of his smaller inventions, such as an automated bobbin winder and a machine for testing the tensile strength of wire, entered the world of manufacturing unheralded. As a scientist, he greatly advanced the state of knowledge in the fields of anatomy, civil engineering, optics, and hydrodynamics, and even outlined a rudimentary theory of plate tectonics.