

The Codex Atlanticus



Leonardo da Vinci has been described as the great polymath of the Italian Renaissance, a universal genius and humanist philosopher invaded by a perennial and infinite curiosity. A man of vast knowledge in the most diverse fields of science and the humanities, he excelled in architecture, military engineering, sculpture and painting, anatomy, botany, astronomy, and was a great scientist, musician, poet, philosopher, writer, etc. And beyond and above all this, **he was one of the greatest geniuses of mankind.**

Leonardo's paintings and drawings continue to captivate the world 500 years after his death. **Many of his technical skills and creative power are reflected in the greatest of his collections of drawings and studies: The magnitude of the Codex Atlanticus** which is attested to by the no less than 1,119 folios that comprise it, and which allows us to appreciate the breadth of fields that aroused Leonardo's interest and to perceive his energetic vision, the modernity of his ideas and the greatness of his timeless genius. *The Codex Atlanticus* has been preserved since 1637 in the Ambrosiana Library in Milan.

The Codex Atlanticus brings together many of the concerns that plagued Leonardo throughout his intense life. This icon of human history, born in the Tuscan town of Vinci, wrote and drew in notebooks thousands of ideas, sketches, projects, designs, etc., which are collected in this unique work. The attentive reader will be able to enjoy all the ideas of this genius who, at the height of the Renaissance, was several centuries ahead of his time, offering us amazing mechanical inventions and complex mathematical operations ranging from the most perspicacious astronomical, optical and anatomical observations to notes on three-dimensional geometry and also the most ingenious flying machines.

The present unabridged edition of the codex allows the ample dissemination of this exceptional heritage, **which constitutes the world's largest legacy of Leonardo's drawings**, access to which had been limited to an exclusive and elite group of experts.

