



SINGAPORE

Early version of Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa makes world premiere in Singapore

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The painting was unveiled at the Arts House by the Mona Lisa Foundation to mark the start of the Leonardo Da Vinci's "Earlier Mona Lisa" exhibition.

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The "Earlier Mona Lisa" exhibit. (Photo: The Mona Lisa Foundation)

CAPTION

SINGAPORE: An earlier painting of the Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci made its highly-anticipated world premiere in Singapore on Monday (Dec 15).

The painting was unveiled at the Arts House by the Mona Lisa Foundation to mark the start of the Leonardo Da Vinci's "Earlier Mona Lisa" exhibition, which is set to head to Hong Kong, China and other parts of the world.

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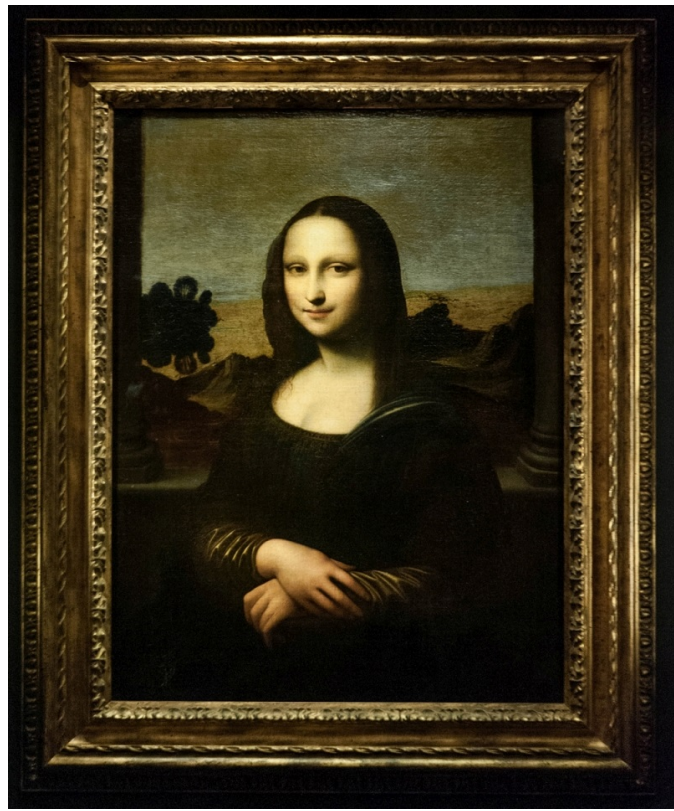
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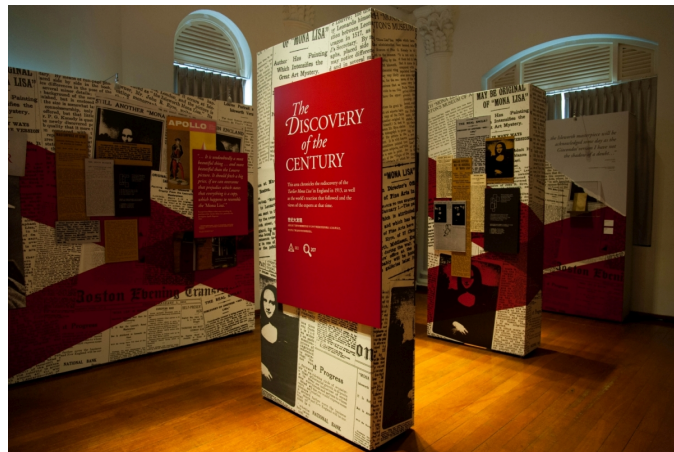
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Said Mr Joel Feldman, General Secretary of the Foundation:
 "Singapore's well-developed infrastructure for the arts, Singaporeans' growing interest in visual culture, as well as its burgeoning tourist numbers, make the island-state a strategic gateway for the exhibition to start its worldwide tour."

Visitors can gawk over the "earlier Mona Lisa" in a fully-interactive, multimedia experience. They will be equipped with audio-visual tablets as they step into the world of the Italian Renaissance, navigating through nine exhibition galleries before coming face to face with a younger Lisa del Giocondo, the woman in Da Vinci's masterpiece.



Visitors will also learn about the similarities between this painting and the world-acclaimed Mona Lisa portrait in Paris' Louvre Museum. Various historical, scientific and mathematical facts all point to Da Vinci as the artist behind both paintings, the show's organisers claim.

It is believed that he started working on the artwork in 1503, ten years before the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, but left it unfinished. An English nobleman later acquired the painting in 1778.

In 1913, Hugh Blaker, an art connoisseur, rediscovered the portrait.

He brought the artwork back to his studio in Isleworth, south-west London, to restore it. The painting then changed hands several times before it was passed to an international consortium in 2008.

The painting grabbed the world's attention when it was presented to the media in 2012 by the Mona Lisa Foundation, which had compiled 35 years of research and tests. The Swiss non-profit organisation published more findings the following year, leading most Da Vinci scholars to believe that the younger Mona Lisa is indeed the Italian's work of art.

The exhibition will run at The Arts House daily from Tuesday until Feb 11, 2015. Tickets are available through SISTIC.

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