

Leonardo3 Museum: *in the heart of Milan, the genius of Leonardo da Vinci becomes experience, research and discovery*

The **Leonardo3 Museum** has gradually forged its own distinctive identity within Milan's incredibly rich cultural scene. A city that preserves some of the most significant examples of Leonardo da Vinci's work and presence, Milan is home to one of the most recognisable and original cultural institutions dedicated to the Renaissance Master.

Milan is home to many sites associated with Leonardo da Vinci's life and work, including the Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana and the Castello Sforzesco, which hold his papers and manuscripts, and the National Museum of Science and Technology, which has major exhibits on the history of science and technology. **Leonardo3 has established itself not only by displaying works and documents, but also by offering direct access to Leonardo's creative process.**

Here, visitors have the opportunity not only to observe what Leonardo left behind, but also to explore and appreciate his legacy for themselves. They step into his mental laboratory. The drawings come to life as machines and the codices transform into environments to be explored, bringing insights to life. This enables visitors to cross the boundary between contemplation and experience. The Leonardo3 Museum's ability to transform knowledge into immersion, scientific rigour into discovery, and research into a living experience is what makes it a unique institution and an increasingly important landmark for Milan, its citizens, and the international public.

The museum is in the heart of Milan, in Piazza della Scala, at the entrance to the **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. It is in close proximity to the places that marked one of the most extraordinary periods of Leonardo da Vinci's life.** It is now one of the most original and internationally renowned cultural institutions dedicated to the Renaissance Master. Milan was more than just a stopover for Leonardo; it was the place where his thinking reached an extraordinary level of maturity. During his time in Milan, he designed machines, studied flight, imagined ideal cities, worked on masterpieces that would become universal symbols of art history, and developed ideas that would endure through the centuries. **Leonardo3 was created with the specific aim of recreating and making accessible the Master's creative and design world, into which visitors can now step.**

Since its opening in 2013, the Leonardo3 Museum has been the highlight of a journey that began years earlier with the establishment of the **Leonardo3 Research Centre** in 2005. This organisation combines historical research, digital technologies and cultural production through a multidisciplinary and innovative approach. For almost two decades, the **Leonardo3 Research Centre** has been interpreting, studying and disseminating Leonardo's legacy using its own unique methodologies. It has created physical and digital reconstructions, interactive software, publications, documentaries, exhibits and exhibition concepts that have been showcased around the world. Leonardo3's work has given rise to dozens of international exhibitions at major cultural and scientific institutions in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia, reaching millions of visitors and helping to spread a new vision of Leonardo's work. The centre's exhibitions and productions have been hosted in museums, science centres, and major international cultural institutions, confirming the scientific rigour and cultural value of the project.

This creative process is one of the museum's most distinctive features. **Leonardo3 is not a museum in the traditional sense, but a cultural space that is constantly evolving.** Through a multidisciplinary approach involving art historians, scholars, 3D sculptors, designers, programmers, craftspeople and researchers, new interpretations, installations, reconstructions and content are continually being developed. Significant achievements include reconstructions that are now regarded as international benchmarks, such as the *Mechanical Lion*, the *Great Kite*, the *Self-propelled Cart* and the *Clavi-Viola*, as well as the **digital restoration of the *Last Supper*** and the digitalisation and reinterpretation of Leonardo's principal manuscripts.

The Leonardo3 Museum offers a unique, immersive experience. Full-scale machines, working models, interactive installations, virtual environments and three-dimensional content allow visitors to step into Leonardo's creative world and understand his working methods, while experiential tours provide an additional layer of insight. Here, the codices are not just pages to be observed, but surfaces to be explored and tools for acquiring knowledge, bringing the drawings to life in dynamic environments. The museum experience becomes a journey through Leonardo's many identities as an artist, engineer, inventor, anatomist, designer and visionary. **This makes the Leonardo3 Museum a particularly important place for teaching and cultural dissemination.** The highly interactive nature of the experience enables students, families, schools, universities and research groups to engage with Leonardo's thinking through active participation. Understanding Leonardo means learning about the process of knowledge itself: observing, experimenting, formulating hypotheses and verifying results. Learning does not take place through the simple transmission of information, but through direct experience, which is why the museum is an ideal venue for educational activities, interdisciplinary programmes and scientific exploration.

The Leonardo3 Museum is a destination of particular interest to an ever-growing international audience. Tourists, scholars, researchers and enthusiasts from all over the world come here to explore the artistic, design and scientific achievements of Leonardo da Vinci during his time in Milan. For visitors to Milan, the museum is an unmissable stop on any tour dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, offering insights that are hard to find elsewhere. For scholars and enthusiasts, it provides an opportunity to explore lesser-known aspects of his work and innovative interpretations.

The scientific excellence of Leonardo3's work is emphasised by its collaboration with **Martin J. Kemp**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford and a world-leading expert on Leonardo da Vinci. As the museum's long-standing scientific advisor, Kemp strengthens its cultural and scientific profile, ensuring a continuous link between academic research and public engagement.

Leonardo3's success lies in its unique blend of academic rigour, engaging content, cutting-edge research, interactive engagement, expert knowledge and creative imagination.



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LEONARDO3 MUSEUM
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The Leonardo3 Museum is located in Piazza della Scala, at the entrance to the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II



Scientific Director Edoardo Zanon, Professor Martin Kemp and Director Massimiliano Lisa in the room dedicated to the digital restoration of the Last Supper



Reconstructions of flying machines, automats, and military devices



The wall dedicated to the Mazzocchio



The working model of the Mechanical Lion



The reconstruction of the flying machine depicted on folio 176 of the Codex Atlanticus, and the model of the Mechanical Dragonfly



*The interactive wall
dedicated to paintings
and the Vitruvian Man*



*The collection of
working musical
instruments and
machines*