



# LEONARDO:

Thoughts on a Cultural Icon

The hands which painted the  
head of Christ and smile on the Virgin Mary's face  
also designed machines to reap lives  
as easily as wheat from Umbrian plains

The mind which pondered the mysteries of flight  
and motions of complex shapes  
also toyed with corpses  
dissecting cadavers for play

With canvases gazing in silence  
and sketchbooks filled with arcane imagery  
Leonardo continues to amaze us  
with surprising incongruities

**Will:** Isn't Leonardo an icon of human intelligence?

**Kasim:** Indeed, he's an apt personification of our complexities.

**Nadia:** As long as written history exists, we'll probably ponder about his achievements.

**Wan-Sze:** No doubt – the love of speculation and desire to make meaning out of contradiction is one of our hallmarks.

- T Newfields

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