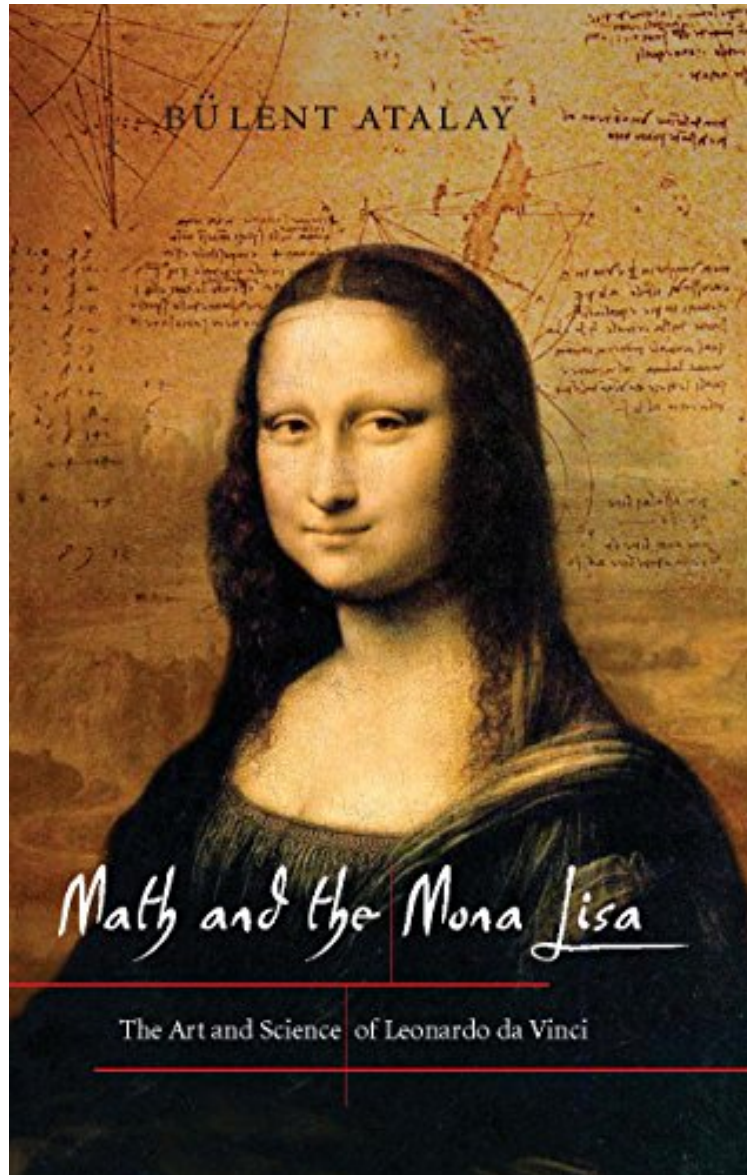


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# Math and the Mona Lisa: The Art and Science of Leonardo da Vinci

*Bulent Atalay*

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**Bulent Atalay : Math and the Mona Lisa: The Art and Science of Leonardo da Vinci** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Math and the Mona Lisa: The Art and Science of Leonardo da Vinci:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good Book - Bad on KindleBy John F. PiacenzaThis is a good book! It is very informative about daVinci and it nicely ties together art and science/mathematics (although the author goes a little overboard with the golden ratio). However, DO NOT buy the kindle version! The photographic plates

contained in the paper copy of the book did not appear in the kindle version. Also, it was very difficult to go back and forth between the endnotes and the text in which they were referenced on my kindle. John Piacenza 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent historical, artistic and scientific insight, very enjoyable. By Marc Shepanek This is a fun and educational read! People are people, and the author helps us see a transformational genius of the past, on whose shoulders science stands and art can be viewed. Weaving history, science, mathematics and art into an accessible and understandable tapestry that will beautifully adorn any library. And an excellent read for anyone looking for some of the many linkages between art and science that many feel are either opposing arenas or somehow unrelated. The author makes some of the best of math and science available to the artist and art accessible to those who may have only studied math or science or engineering. The book is a wonderful gift. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not what you'd expect. By Mr. Leoplurodon The book actually has very little about the math included in the Mona Lisa, but it was a very good book about math and the golden ratio. Overall not what I was looking for but still a great book.

Leonardo da Vinci was one of history's true geniuses, equally brilliant as an artist, scientist, and mathematician. Readers of *The Da Vinci Code* were given a glimpse of the mysterious connections between math, science, and Leonardo's art. *Math and the Mona Lisa* picks up where *The Da Vinci Code* left off, illuminating Leonardo's life and work to uncover connections that, until now, have been known only to scholars. Bulent Atalay, a distinguished scientist and artist, examines the science and mathematics that underlie Leonardo's work, paying special attention to the proportions, patterns, shapes, and symmetries that scientists and mathematicians have also identified in nature. Following Leonardo's own unique model, Atalay searches for the internal dynamics of art and science, revealing to us the deep unity of the two cultures. He provides a broad overview of the development of science from the dawn of civilization to today's quantum mechanics. From this base of information, Atalay offers a fascinating view into Leonardo's restless intellect and *modus operandi*, allowing us to see the source of his ideas and to appreciate his art from a new perspective.

From Publishers Weekly In this readable, if less than compelling, disquisition on the close relationship of art and science, physics professor Atalay uses as his touchstone Leonardo da Vinci, of whom he says in his prologue: "Had [da Vinci] been able to publish the scientific ruminations found in his manuscripts in his own time, our present level of sophistication in science and technology might have been reached one or two centuries earlier." This assertion sets the buoyant tone for the rest of the book. The author marvels at the symmetries to be found in art and the natural world, discussing the Fibonacci series (0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8...) and the golden ratio related to it designated by the Greek letter phi (1.618...) with illustrated examples ranging from da Vinci's three portraits of women to the Great Pyramid and the Parthenon. He concedes the existence of asymmetry and dissonance, but chooses not to get into such subjects as chaos theory and fractals that don't fit his harmonious view of the universe. While Atalay makes an agreeable guide, he covers too much ground that will already be familiar to his likely audience. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "The broad sweep of Professor Atalay's brilliant mind brings us an approach to understanding the Vincian genius that is so insightful, so original, and so well-reasoned that it immediately becomes an essential volume in the canon of Leonardiana. I read this monumental achievement in awe of the author's perceptions." —Sherwin Nuland, author of *Leonardo da Vinci* and winner of the 1994 National Book Award for *How We Die*. "A masterful examination of the differences and similarities in the sciences and the arts, as embodied by that genius of both fields: Leonardo da Vinci. Professor Bulent Atalay has penetrated Leonardo's mind, in a way that is both highly readable and very informative." —Jamie Wyeth "Bulent Atalay takes us on a delightful romp through millenia and across continents, bringing together art, architecture, science, and mathematics under the umbrella of Leonardo's genius. His writing is informed by his artist's eye for beauty, his historian's appreciation of context, and his scientist's love of order and symmetry. I read Atalay's description of Leonardo's *The Last Supper* not long after having visited the masterpiece in Milan, for the first time since its restoration. His words added an unexpected poignancy to that sublime experience. Leonardo is the prototype for the renaissance man — artist, architect, philosopher, scientist, writer. There are few like him today, but Atalay is indeed a modern renaissance man, and he invites us to tap the power of synthesis that is Leonardo's model." —William D. Phillips, winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics. From the Hardcover edition. About the Author Bulent Atalay is a professor of physics at the University of Mary Washington.