

L'incorporamento mitico di mascolinità eterna



Contrary to popular belief, Leonardo “Leo” da Vinci’s early subjects for the painting that would ultimately become the Mona Lisa were not women at all. Rather, he was searching for *l'incorporamento mitico di mascolinità eterna*, or “the mythic embodiment of eternal masculinity.” Leo rightly believed that an enigmatic facial expression was key to the success of the work, so he hired a troupe of actors to “emote eternal masculinity.” Either they weren’t very good or Leo had a different countenance in mind and he forthwith abandoned his idea. Dispirited, the artist repaired to the neighborhood pub, where Mona the waitress gave him both a tankard of ale and a timely spark of inspiration.