COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ART STYLES AND TECHNIQUES OF LEONARDO DA VINCI AND MICHELANGELO

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ABSTRACT
This comparative study of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti explores the distinct yet equally influential art styles and techniques of these two artists, who are the most iconic figures of the Renaissance Art period. Leonardo da Vinci's art is characterised by his mastery of techniques such as sfumato, anatomical precision, and a deep integration of science and observation, resulting in subtle, balanced shades and contrast, and intellectually profound works. Michelangelo's style is marked by bold lines, intense emotion, and powerful depictions of human forms. Michelangelo showcased his focus on movement and drama, and he worked on the spiritual themes. Aside from their differing approaches, both artists revolutionised the practices of art in their time. The two artists set the enduring standards of painting, sculpture, mural, and works beyond arts excellence that were continued or practiced by future artists through time, as well as the present time. This comparative study also includes a comparison between the artworks of both artists.

KEYWORDS: Renaissance, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, research, artworks.

INTRODUCTION OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

Leonardo da Vinci was a great artist born on April 15, 1452, in the hill town of Vinci, Republic of Florence, Italy. He was a critical figure of the Renaissance. 15 April is also known as World Art Day. He was known as a polymath because of their work in different fields. He was the son of a lawyer and a peasant woman. Andrea del Verrocchio was the teacher of Leonardo da Vinci. He was a great artist, magician, scientist, engineer, and researcher. In short, a polymath. Leonardo da Vinci made constant notes of their drawings, relating them to whatever he studied. He sketched the Anatomy of the growing foetus in the womb and different ages of human beings, the scientific causes of oceanic waves and currents, the conceptualized space of ships, aeroplanes, weapons, missiles, armoured fighting vehicles, etc., and he was the first researcher to have studied biology from fossils, ichnology. Leonardo da Vinci had found out that the Earth revolves around the sun and such heavenly bodies revolve and rotate in the universe, before Galileo invented the telescope. However, he could not succeed in any of his research except for art.

Leonardo da Vinci showed curiosity in art from an early age. At 14, in 1472, he met Andrea del Verrocchio in his studio in Florence, Italy, and started his artistic journey with him. In 1473, Leonardo made his first landscape painting of the Arno Valley, made of pens and ink.
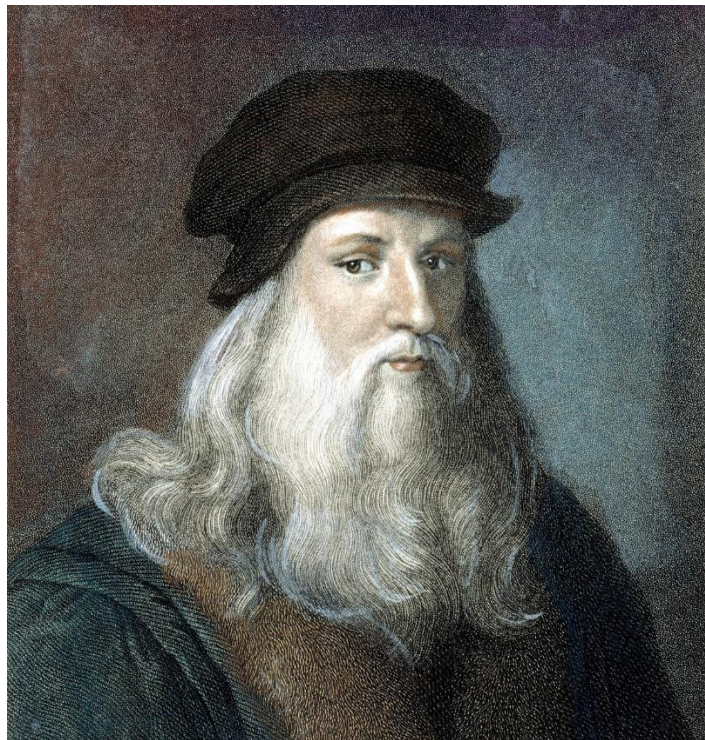
The famous works of Leonardo da Vinci

1.   The Last Supper [1495 – 98]
2.   Mona Lisa [1503 – 19]

3.   The virgin of the rocks [1483 – 86]

4.   Self-portrait [1419 – 1516]

5.   Head of women [1500 – 10]

Leonardo da Vinci inspired future generations of artists, scientists, and engineers with their research, sketches, and artworks.

Leonardo the Vinci passed away in 1519 in France.

Picture 1.1: Leonardo da Vinci

INTRODUCTION OF MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni, a master artist of the Renaissance, was born on March 6, 1475, in Caprese, Italy. His father was the judicial Administrator, and his mother died when he was 6 years old. Michelangelo's artistic talent was recognised when he was 13 years old, and due to facing family opposition in 1488, he started learning work in the gallery of Domenico Ghirlandaio. He was famous for his incredible sculptures, which he learnt from his mentor Bartolomeo between 1488 to 1492. He was a great mural artist, and he painted one of the most incredible works, the Sistine Chapel in the Apostolic Palace. He spent 4 years of his life on that mural work. He depicted the scenes from the Book of Genesis in that mural. He was also a talented architect; some of his notable works include St. Peter's Basilica and the Laurentian Library. He was a versatile poet and wrote hundreds of poems and sonnets on the themes of beauty, art, and morality. He never married. He travelled a lot in 1492, moved to Bologna, returned to Rome in 1496, and then moved to Florence in 1501. After that, he went to Medici in Florence in 1512, but Medici was expelled in 1527. Medici was restored in 1530, and in 1534, he returned to Rome and worked there for the last 30 years of his life.

Michelangelo was a painter, sculptor, architect, and poet, but he was best known for his sculptures and murals. From 1501 to 1505, he became a famous sculptor in Florence.

The famous works of Michelangelo
1. Pieta
2. David
3. St. Peter's Basilica
4. Laurentian Library
5. Sistine Chapel

His work inspired many artists, including Raphael and Caravaggio. Michelangelo passed away in Rome on February 12, 1564, at the age of 88.

Picture 1.2: Michelangelo Buonarroti

ART STYLE AND TECHNIQUE OF LEONARDO DA VINCI
Leonardo da Vinci was the greatest artist of the High Renaissance. Vinci's art style includes realism, naturalism, perspective, and detailed drawing. Leonardo da Vinci worked on themes or subjects like humanism, nature, tones and hues of atmosphere, spirituality, innovation, experiments, and mystery. Da Vinci's artworks include portraits, landscapes, Anatomy studies, architectural drawings, etc.
Techniques that Leonardo da Vinci used in his art style are Sfumato, Chiaroscuro, Linear perspective, Anatomical study, Gesture and Expression, and Aerial perspective.

SFUMATO TECHNIQUES
Sfumato means, in Italian, "To evaporate like smoke." This technique involves the fine blending of colours and tones with creating soft edges and transitions. A notable example of sfumato is the "Mona Lisa," where the soft blending of her facial features, tones, and shadow is combined with a misty background.

Picture 1.3: Mona Lisa, Technique used: Sfumato.

CHIAROSCURO TECHNIQUE

Chiaroscuro means, in Italian, "Light-dark." This technique includes the use of strong or dramatic contrasts between light and shadow in the model for the creation of volume, depth, and three-dimensional illusion. A notable example of chiaroscuro is "The Virgin of the Rocks", where the dramatic depth is created through light and shadow.

Picture 1.4: The Virgin of the Rocks, technique used: chiaroscuro.

LINEAR PERSPECTIVE TECHNIQUE

This technique includes the use of the mathematical system for creating the view or illusion of depth and space in the painting with sketching skills. And gave a 3d look to the paintings. A notable example of linear perspective is "The Last Supper", where da Vinci created depth in the architecture of the painting with the use of perspective.

Picture 1.5: The Last Supper, a technique used in linear perspective.

ANATOMICAL STUDY TECHNIQUE

This technique includes the study of the muscles, bones, and organs of the human body. Which translates into highly accurate human figures. A notable example of an Anatomical study is the "Vitruvian Man", where da Vinci studied human proportions.
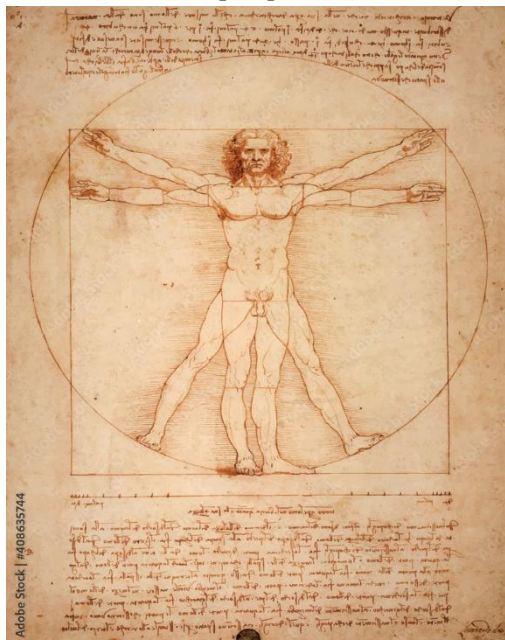
Picture 1.6: Vitruvian Man, technique used: Anatomical study.

ART STYLE AND TECHNIQUE OF MICHELANGELO

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was a great sculptor and painter of the High Renaissance. Michelangelo's art style includes idealised human anatomy, dramatic emotion and movement,

monumentality, complexity, psychological tension, and thoughtful nature. And Michelangelo worked on themes or subjects like humanism, spirituality, power, and morality. Michelangelo's artworks include murals, sculptures, portraits, and human anatomy sketches. He worked with mediums like oil, wood, and stone.

The techniques that Michelangelo used in their artworks are contrapposto, chiaroscuro, sfumato, terribilita, anatomical precision, and mural fresco technique.

CONTRAPPOSTO

Contrapposto is a pose. Michelangelo was a master of human anatomy; he studied dead bodies to understand the Muscles, bones, and movement of the human body. He used contrapposto pose for their sculptures in which the weight of the body is on one leg and the body twists slightly. A notable example of contrapposto is the "David."

Picture 1.7: David, a technique used in Contrapposto.

CHIAROSCURO

Chiaroscuro is a technique used to create a strong contrast between light and dark to create a sense of depth, volume, and three-dimensionality in his paintings and drawings. Michelangelo used this technique in the sketches of the Sistine Chapel ceiling. A notable example of chiaroscuro is the "Sistine Chapel." For the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo used the fresco mural painting technique, which involves applying pigments to wet plaster.

Picture 1.8: Sistine chapel, technique used chiaroscuro.

TERRIBILITA

Terribilita refers to the emotional intensity, dramatic expression, and powerful presence of figures in his works. A notable example of this is "The Last Judgement", where Michelangelo depicts figures in muscular form, intense and filled with tension.

Picture 1.9: The Last Judgement, technique used terribilita.

THE OBJECTIVE OG THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to analyse the comparative difference in the art style of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo and their contribution to the Renaissance art period. How they both artists develop their art style and drawings, and how do they choose the subjects and themes for their

artworks, and provide a detailed view of the different types of art techniques they both used in their artworks, like paintings, murals, drawings, and sculptures. And this study has a section about why they are both artists famous for, such as Leonardo da Vinci was known for their perspective, anatomy drawing, and their much research in different fields beyond art, and Michelangelo was known for their sculptures, and their incredible roof murals.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For completing this research paper, the researcher used secondary sources for the data collection, and these sources include web links, online articles, PDFS and pictures, and YouTube biographies of the artists and their style.

CONCLUSION

In the conclusion, a comparative study of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo shows the profound impact of both artists on the evolution of the Renaissance art movement. In which Leonardo shows off a sensitive category of lights and shadows of the tone, anatomical drawing, scientific drawings, and a view of perspective drawings, meanwhile, Michelangelo focused on the dynamic movements, muscular forms, anatomy, and emotional intensity in their sculpture and murals. Both artists' unique techniques, research, and philosophies reflect their views on art and the human experience. Leonardo da Vinci's work of nature, harmony, and contrast with Michelangelo's dramatic expression of figures and spiritual depth are both masterpieces that contribute to inspiring and influencing the art world.

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