Mona Lisa

The Mona Lisa is a portrait by the Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci and is considered a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance. It bears a strong resemblance to many depictions of the Virgin Mary, who was, at that time, seen as an ideal for womanhood. The woman sits upright with her arms crossed, and her gaze is fixed on the observer. She appears unusually alive, which Leonardo achieved by not drawing outlines. The soft blending creates an ambiguity in two main features – the corners of her mouth and her eyes – producing the subject's enigmatic expression.

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It was believed to have been painted between 1503 and 1506, but may not even have been started before 1513. It was acquired by King Francis I and is now the property of the French Republic. It has been on permanent display at the Louvre Museum in Paris since 1797.

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The Mona Lisa is one of the most valuable paintings in the world and holds the record for the highest known insurance valuation – equivalent to $650 million today. It has been described as the best known, most visited, most written about, and most sung about work of art in the world.

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Who painted the Mona Lisa?

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When was it painted?

Where is the painting now?