HUMANITIES WEST’S 35th ANNIVERSARY SEASON CONTINUES WITH
Creating Leonardo:
Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo’s Legacy
Friday & Saturday, February 22 & 23, 2019
Marines’ Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 15 December, 2018) Humanities West’s 35th Anniversary Season continues with Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo’s Legacy, a two-day program of lectures and performances honoring Leonardo da Vinci and celebrating his myriad accomplishments and contributions to the arts and sciences, while exploring the making of the myth that Leonardo is today. The program takes place on Friday, February 22, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, February 23, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo’s Legacy, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are $60 orchestra and $45 balcony and individual Saturday programs are $80 orchestra and $55 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are $125 orchestra and $90 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for $25/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo’s Legacy brings together a panel of regional and international scholars to present talks and lectures exploring the cultural contributions of Leonardo da Vinci and the mythologized legacy that has developed over the 500 since his death. In 1519 da Vinci died in France and a myth was born. Now considered the quintessential “Renaissance man” his paintings and drawings continue to inspire and his inventions still fascinate us. Join Humanities West
in exploring Leonardo’s vast achievements and his interaction with the Renaissance world that shaped him.

The program opens Friday evening with an introduction by moderator Paula Findlen (Stanford) and a talk by Martin Kemp (Oxford) on *Leonardo and the "Beloved Ladies": Science and Poetry.* Kemp’s talk explores Leonardo’s fervent arguments against poetry and his aim to surpass the poets as demonstrated by his innovative portrayal of women in his paintings. This theme will be illustrated by dramatic readings from Italian poetry (in translation) performed by acclaimed Bay Area actor James Carpenter.

The Friday program includes a musical performance introduced by Clifford (Kip) Cranna (SF Opera). The men’s classical vocal ensemble Clerestory performs a program of a cappella music inspired by Leonardo, from masterworks by the great Italian cathedral composers of his time, to meditations on the Last Supper, and more.

On Saturday, Paula Findlen returns to present *Leonardo’s Library: The World of a Renaissance Reader,* looking at Leonardo as a lifelong learner, inveterate note-taker, and writer with a highly self-directed education. Findlen will demonstrate how Leonardo’s library provides a key to how he interacted with and learned from his world.

*Monica Azzolini (University of Bologna)* follows with a lecture on *Leonardo and Water,* delving into da Vinci’s fascination with the nature of water. This lecture explores the historical context of Leonardo’s studies and his methods of inquiry to highlight the way in which Leonardo skillfully utilized observation, reasoning, and learning to understand water, one of the most intriguing elements of nature.

The program continues with *Leonardo and the Lure of Machines,* a talk by Pamela O. Long (Independent Scholar and MacArthur Fellow), on da Vinci’s fascination with machines and mechanical contrivances. This lecture discusses the Leonardo’s investigative approach to the many mechanical devices and machines that he drew and his impact on the emerging machine culture of the times.

The weekend culminates with *Leonardo’s Artistic Legacy: Homage and Irony,* a presentation by Deborah Loft (College of Marin) on the significance of Leonardo as an artist over time. Loft shows how Leonardo has inspired and influenced other artists, from his time to ours, from Renaissance artists to the painterly work of 17th century,
and from to the modern masters of the 20th century to his impact on artists of the
digital age.
A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the
audience.

This program is presented with support from the Stanford Department of History and
the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; the Stanford Humanities Center; the
Italian Cultural Institute; the UC Berkeley Institute of European Studies; and the
Leonardo da Vinci Society.

Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and
related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and
additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org

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About Humanities West
Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West explores history and celebrates the arts
through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that
focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and
artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco’s
Marines’ Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not
only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. In cooperation with other institutions,
such as the Mechanic’s Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional
public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics

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CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: Creating Leonardo: Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo’s Legacy

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WHEN: 7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, February 22, 2019
10am to 4pm, Saturday, February 23, 2018

WHERE: Marines’ Memorial Theatre
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: $25 - $80
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415-392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org
PUBLIC INFO: 415/391-9700 or www.humanitieswest.org

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