

MONA LISA 2020

(SUSPENSE BEHIND THE PORTRAIT)

(A specific study on motherhood and its existential approach)

PRANJIT SARMA

M.V.A IN GRAPHIC ART, (PRINTMAKING)
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS, BANGALORE UNIVERSITY, 2018

DOI: 10.29322/IJSRP.10.07.2020.p10347

<http://dx.doi.org/10.29322/IJSRP.10.07.2020.p10347>

ABSTRACT- The entire research is based on motherhood and its present existential approach. The paper has tried to address the role of mother in current society, emphasizing through the magnificent creation of Leonardo De Vinci – “Mona Lisa”. Through this creation I have tried to investigate the importance of a lady (Mona Lisa) within a precise frame and her reason of mysterious smile and attractive eyes. The research paper has given specific importance to the relation between the landscape and the portrait and how it could be a sign of motherhood. The research topic finally arrived to novel aspects on Motherhood and its existential magnitude - “Mona Lisa 2020” in millennium arena after emphasizing on Vinci’s Creation.

Eventually, it documents the thirty days of a lady’s portraits considered as Mona Lisa, a lady who represents herself as a symbol of Motherhood and her truthful facial expression talks about the inner pain and sacrifices in the patriarchal surroundings. The entire project has been executed by Video documentation with seven different slides including the computer tomography scan of the lady overlapped with her thirty days’ documentation of portraits with special sound effects. Conclusively the paper illustrates the social sacrifices of motherhood and their importance in our millennium society.

Here I mention about the chronological key points for this paper as-

Major Key contexts -

1. Mona Lisa with a significant smile in the era of new birth.
2. Nuevo aspects of motherhood in millennium arena.

KEY REFERENCES REGARDING PROJECT- MONALISA 2020

1. The biggest mystery of Mona Lisa is pertaining to the identity of the subject in 1503.
2. Additionally, the nature of the subject’s smile is a cause of mystery and ambiguity.
3. The woman within the painting is a significant feature and her expression is the main concern.
4. The expression of Mona Lisa has been described as being both aloof and alluring within the same frame. The body gesture completely contradicts to intimacy; rather it would reflect the spirit of kindness towards the zone of suspense.

5. Mona Lisawas presented by Leonardo Da Vinci as the wife of Francesco Del Giocondo, who was a famous cloth merchant from Florence.
6. The visual evidence regarding the assumption on Mona Lisa could be pregnant found by a Japanese artist, Yasumasa Morimura's painting- *Mona Lisa in Pregnancy*, in 1998.

INTRODUCTION-

OVERALL GENERALIZATION ON AN ART WORK-

One cannot restrict an artistic work with a single viewpoint. It can be initiated by numerous ideas. Basically, same retrospective thoughts and observations are developed with the mechanisms of any creative art form. Viewers' skepticism for their manual fluency is produced through their harmonious participations. An "Art" form provides a means to express the imagination in non grammatical ways that are not tied to the formality and limitations of oral and written language. An art form itself is a range of forms, symbols and perceptions with meanings that are malleable.

RESEARCH ELABORATION-

EMPHASIZING ON AN UNIQUE SUSPICIOUS APPROACH OF MONA LISA

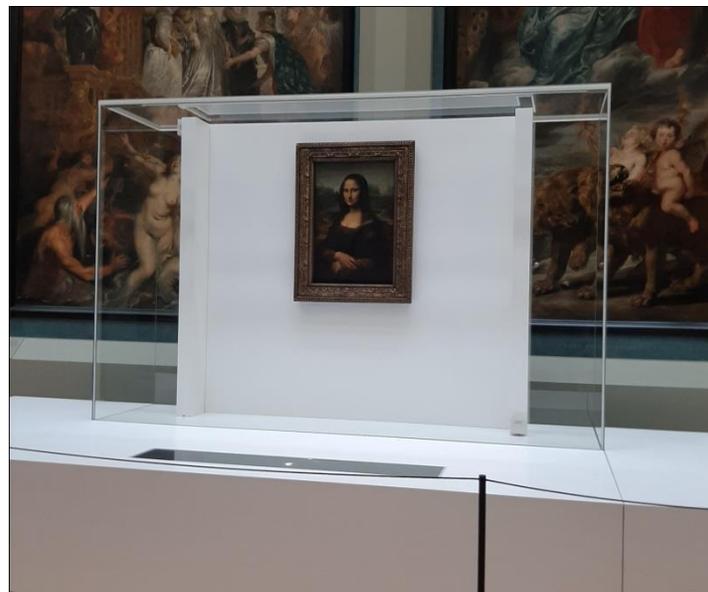


Image- MONA LISA (27/07/2019, image taken by Versha B. Bhide)

Leonardo's one of the noteworthy creations of 1503, the Renaissance period is MONA LISA, who could attract a number of viewers from all over the world. It's thematic approach has been declared as a matter of mystery not only because of its pictorial arrangement but also for Da Vinci's chosen chiaroscuro scheme of the art work. Nevertheless, after perceiving Mona Lisa spectators have raised several questions in terms of its ambiguous interaction. The presented smile and the eyes have been said to be the most mysterious things about the piece of work.

A lot of debate has been continuing among numerous scholars and rechargers since its creation. It's fame highly increased during Mona Lisa's execution in Salon 1911. The conflict has been articulated by the core features as the women's body gesticulation and the cognitive interpretation of both eyes with her humble smile. Apart from the existing conflict the suspense of the representation of the woman with diverse significant gestures (*in terms of eyes, smile and hands*) and symbolic intervention with the mountainous landscape which is also considered to be another cause of mystery.



Image- Eye, MONA LISA, (27/07/2019, image taken by Varsha B. Bhide)

According to the GLORI (Scholar) “The portrait drawn by Da Vinci is known as a portrait of Lisa Del Giocondo who is said to be the wife of Francesco Del Giocondo, a famous cloth merchant from Florence. Later it has been named as Mona Lisa. Based on this secondary statement if she was married then we could emphasise that there is a strong possibility of her pregnancy and her smile could be a strong indication of inner joy for the process of creation. As far as my assumption goes, that the reason behind the mystery of her smile could be throbbing of giving birth.



Image- smile (27/07/2019, image taken by Varsha B. Bhide)

through which she could execute her essence of motherhood. According to the existing resources, she has concurred with her humble visual interaction with each spectator which could be akin to social approach of Motherhood. The facial gesture of the portrait has been described to be both formal and suspiciously attractive. The posture of the both hands seems to be between chest and belly. Hence we could predict that it might be considered as Da Vinci’s symbolic depiction of a pregnant lady.



Image- Gestures of hand (27/07/2019, image taken by Varsha B. Bhide)

The researcher **MARTIN KEMP** and American journalist and writer **ERNEST HEMINGWAY** have mentioned about the ambiguity of mountainous Landscape in their journal. **HEMINGWAY** said that a small medieval town whose abbey was a model for Umberto Eco in the name of the rose, “**Bobbio**” its Roman Bridges its astride the Tribbia Valley which is known as one of the beautiful place around the world. **KEMP** has interrelated regarding statement on the rose, Bobbio given by **HEMINGWAY**. He said that Da Vinci had a doubt on “Bobbio”. The contradictory statement that has been given by **KEMP** is “Leonardo is reinterpreting a typical landscape on the basis of his imagination of the 'body of the earth'.”

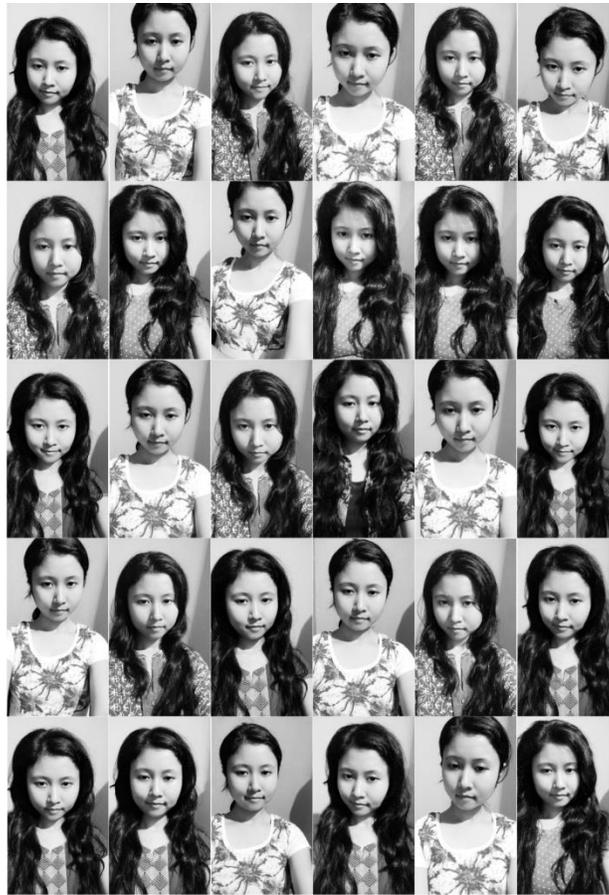
On the basis of the above statement we could clarify the existing relationship between humble gesticulation of the portrait and the depicted mysterious valley. The mesmerizing thematic composition of the landscape could be considered a substance of “an aura of Creation or Re-birth”. Likewise the glorious eye interaction with her humble acquit smile could be a mystery of creation. The amalgamation of two different pictorial approaches might be indicating towards the Vinci’s representation of Motherhood however, still we haven’t got the enough doctrines to definitively prove this suspicion. Looking at “Mona Lisa” any one could appreciate the marvelous scientific sense of Vinci’s creation and his given suspense through the pictorial composition, which has been creating a million thoughts with the diverse assumptions, decade after decade among the viewers.

Moreover that the visual evidence regarding the assumption on Mona Lisa could be pregnant found by a Japanese artist, Yasumasa Morimura’s painting- *Mona Lisa in Pregnancy*, in 1998. In this painting the artist represented the original hairstyle and landscape. But artist has used his own face along with the body of a naked pregnant woman instead of Lisa’s face.

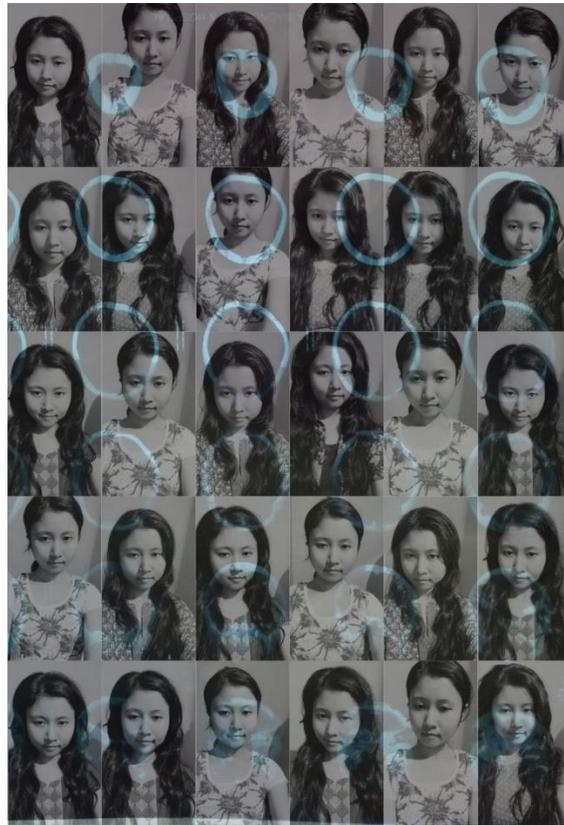
RESULTS AND FINDING-

MONA LISA 2020 (30 DAYS’ IMPRESSION OF A WOMAN, EMPHASIS “MOTHERHOOD” IN MILLENNIUM ERA)

After emphasis on Vinci’s Mona Lisa, an idea has clicked which manifested a different approach of Mona Lisa (as a sign of Motherhood) is correspond to Vinci’s depiction. The key features of this project have carried a unique dimension of Mona Lisa in 2020.



In this project the impression of 30 consecutive days of a woman has been captured through sequential photographs and Computerized Tomography (CT scan) images, to study her diverse psychological states, during the time frame of the thirty day period. She has to deal with several social responsibilities. Consequently, she has to act socially rather than according to her physiological state. Also, the actions of a woman in our society may not be a true reflection of her emotional and psychological state of mind. Therefore, her expressed action could often be contradictory to her actual state. For a woman the term “Motherhood” is a favourite among her many social responsibilities. Because of this illusive intervention, the term “Motherhood” seems to be a sign of suspense in present society.



In this 21st century her 30 different facial impressions seem to show a mild contrast from one frame of the portrait to the other. Hence it gives space to the viewers to pose a few questions on her presented impression. Such as- Why is this woman called “Mona Lisa 2020”?

How is the term “Mona Lisa 2020” related to this woman or the term “Motherhood”?

Why is the image replicated in each frame?

How far the images are similar to each other?



Even though these kinds of questions create a suspicious dilemma among the viewers, the approach of “Motherhood” could stand for an unique psychobiological spectrum where “the word” gets better value against the patriarchy. The value in terms of gender equality, socio- secularism and equal constitutional rights could be a concern over socio-psychological separation based upon gender difference.

CONCLUSIVE STATEMENT OF THE WORK-

Medium – Video Art



Seven different slide of replicated visuals

To execute the conclusive idea, I have chosen the video documentation included 7 slides of replicated visuals (images of 30 days documented portrait of the women and image of her CT scan) & the different frequencies of heart pulse. Each frame takes a move spontaneously according to the pulses of the heart. The different ratio of frequencies appeals to the unseen dynamic situation or circumstances that the women have gone through. And the fluctuations of each slide clarify her unstable psychic state of mind. However, we could perceive her acquit smile and eye contact remains similar to each frame. Therefore at this point, the woman considered as a sign of Motherhood remains still in suspense. The research is being continued regarding the definite existential value of "Motherhood".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I express my gratitude to my friend Shilpi Borgohain, a post-graduate in Philosophy from Assam University, Silchar, India, for her impressive contribution. Her intense efforts, inspirational role as a model (Mother) and support encouraged me to start the initial research for this topic. She has constantly facilitated me with her valuable interaction and coordination and has showed me the right track to proceed in my endeavor. I am sincerely grateful to her for infusing in me the confidence and motivation to carry out my research with assertion. For all this, I would once again like to thank her for keeping me enthusiastic and creative all along.

Reference-

1. Mona Lisa, A history of the world's most famous painting written by Donald Sassoon.
2. Leonardo De Vinci written by Walther Issacson
3. How to Think like Leonardo De Vinci written by Michael j Gelb
4. Model- Shilpi Borgohain, Assam, INDIA

Author Name- PRANJIT SARMA

Qualification- M.V.A IN GRAPHIC ART, (PRINTMAKING) FROM DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS, BANGALORE UNIVERSITY, 2018

Present occupation- WORKING AS A PRINTMAKING STUDIO IN CHARGE, LAVARU ART CENTER PVT.LTD, BANGALORE, INDIA.