

IMAGINING BEYOND THE FRAME:



Fiction Stories About **ARTISTS & THEIR MASTERPIECES**

•• The Renaissance Edition ••



Compiled by: Monica Williams

Albanese, Laurie. *The Miracles of Prato.*

Fra Fillipo Lippi, a Carmelite monk and painter, finds his greatest inspiration. She is young and beautiful novice, Francesca Buti. She is forced to join the convent after the death of her father. Lippi makes her his model and brings her into his studio. The two embark on a forbidden affair which has far reaching repercussions.

Bennett, Vanora. *Portrait of an Unknown Woman.*

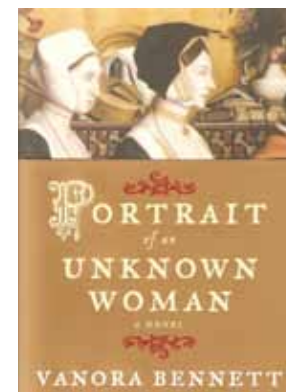
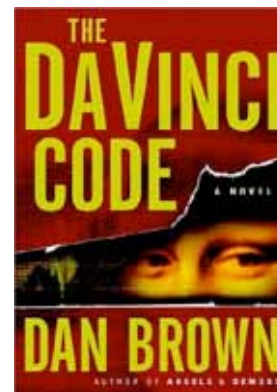
Set in the Tudor period in the home of Sir Thomas More, the story focuses on Sir Thomas' ward, Meg Giggs. The painter Hans Holbein joins the household for the painting of the family portrait. Meg becomes the focus of two charismatic men, Hans Holbein and John Clement, her former tutor. A fascinating story set in an era of great changes and challenges that have long-lasting repercussions for all those involved. Hans Holbein and his works figures prominently in the cast of characters.

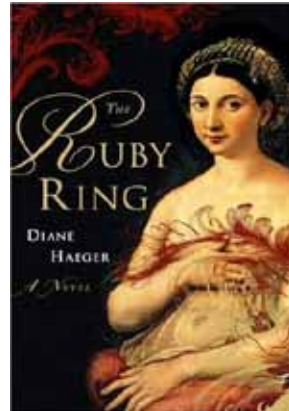
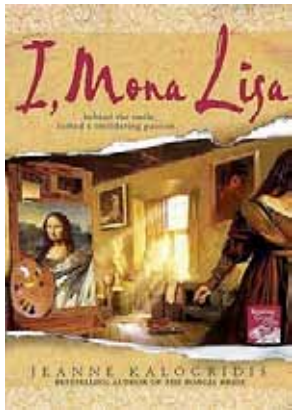
Brown, Dan. *The DaVinci Code.*

While it is set in the modern era, Leonardo's works are key to the story. The body of the Louvre curator is found murdered in the gallery where the Mona Lisa hangs. Symbologist Robert Langdon teams with the murdered curator's grand daughter. They uncover links to a secret society, the Priory of Scion, which may hold the clues to finding the Holy Grail.

Dunant, Sarah. *In the Company of the Courtesan.*

The true identity of the model who posed for The Venus of Urbino remains unknown. In this novel she is Fiammetta Bianchini, famed courtesan, who escapes the 1527 Pillage of Rome and re-





establishes herself in Venice. The story is narrated by her faithful dwarf servant Bucino Teodoldo. Set against the backdrop of Renaissance Venice, it is a fascinating story of beauty, power, art, and re-invention.

Essex, Karen. *Leonardo's Swans.*

Beatrice and Isabella D'Este are sisters and romantic rivals. Isabella is married to Francisco Gonzaga, a minor noble, while Beatrice is married to Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan. Isabella becomes obsessed with having her portrait painted by Leonardo da Vinci. Set against the backdrop of the complex political machinations of Renaissance Florence, Leonardo's works and the sisters' rivalry play a prominent role.

Haeger, Diane. *The Ruby Ring.*

Raffello Sanzio, better known as Raphael, has died at the peak of his fame. Margherita Luti goes to the convent of Sant'Apollonia to seek refuge. Margherita was both Raphael's model and his lover. She wears a ruby ring, a gift from Raphael. She must give up the ring to be admitted to the convent. As she ponders her decision she recounts her relationship with the great artist.

Kalogridis, Jeanne. *I, Mona Lisa.*

The true identity of the Mona Lisa is one of the great debates of art history. She is sometimes identified as Lisa di Antonio Gherardini. This book is her imagined biography. Her story is one of love, treachery & secrets. Mona Lisa is transformed from an enigmatic smile into a real and courageous woman.

Maxwell, Robin. *Signora da Vinci.*

Behind every great man there is a great woman. Leonardo da Vinci's mother, Caterina, is the daughter of an apothecary. She falls in love with Piero da Vinci, an older man and becomes pregnant with his child. Piero's family forbids the marriage, but takes young Leonardo in as their ward. Leonardo is able to see his mother. His artistic leanings are only strengthened by his exposure to his grandfather's stock of pigments.

Stuckart, Diane A.S. *The Queen's Gambit: A Leonardo da Vinci Mystery.*

This fascinating mystery series is set in the Court of Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan. Leonardo da Vinci is the court artist and is assisted by his apprentices. His apprentice Dino is the narrator of the series. As per the Duke's orders, Leonardo stages an elaborate live chess game. One of the players is murdered. The Duke tasks Leonardo to find the murderer. Leonardo recruits his talented young apprentice to help catch the killer, but Dino has a secret of his own.



The Renaissance provided the impetus for overwhelming changes in art techniques, as well as modes of display and subjects represented. It continues to provide lasting inspiration.