

Leonardo's Brain: Understanding da Vinci's Creative Genius

By Leonard Shlain

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Best-selling author Leonard Shlain explores the potential for humankind through the life, art, and mind of the first true Renaissance man, Leonardo da Vinci. The author hypothesizes that da Vinci's staggering range of achievements demonstrates a harbinger of the future of our species. Da Vinci's innovations as an artist, scientist, and inventor are recast through a modern lens, with Shlain applying contemporary neuroscience to illuminate da Vinci's creative process. No other person in human history has excelled in so many areas of innovation: Shlain reveals the how and the why.

Shlain theorizes that Leonardo's extraordinary mind came from a uniquely developed and integrated right and left brain, and he offers a model for how we too can evolve. Using past and current research, *Leonardo's Brain* presents da Vinci as the focal point for a fresh exploration of human creativity. With his lucid style and remarkable ability to discern connections among a wide range of fields, Shlain brings the reader into the world of history's greatest mind.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Shlain's ability to synthesize not only information but also genuine wisdom across multiple and disparate disciplines was extraordinary."
--Al Gore

“By exploring Leonardo da Vinci’s brain through the lens of contemporary neuroscience, Leonard Shlain not only celebrates da Vinci’s legendary creativity, he shows how we can integrate and strengthen both sides of our minds and tap into the amazing possibilities within ourselves.”
—Arianna Huffington

"A genius explains a genius."
-Albert Brooks

“This book is a gift from the heavens where Leonard Shlain is today and another bright example of his force and spirit shining through the prism of the mind of Leonardo da Vinci.” —Norman Lear

“With clear and engaging prose, Shlain takes us on a splendid tour of Leonardo da Vinci’s extraordinary life of creativity, artistry, beauty, and inventiveness, a journey that will reward both left and right brain readers.” —Donald Johanson, discoverer of the 3.2-million-year-old fossil known as Lucy, and founding director of the Institute of Human Origins

“Leonard Shlain, a brilliant and respected surgeon, was unique in his ability to connect the dots across multiple disciplines, including history, art, neuroscience, and psychology. His insights in *Leonardo’s Brain* will help all of us appreciate just how remarkable the brain is.”
—Dr. Charles Wilson, neurosurgeon and member of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences

Praise for *Art & Physics:*
"a Tour de Force... a brilliant, accessible and visionary look the most revolutionary artists and scientists from the golden Age of Greece to the present." *The Los Angeles Times*

Praise for *The Alphabet vs. The Goddess*
"Bold and fascinating" - *The Washington Post Book World*

About the Author

Leonard Shlain was a best-selling author, inventor and surgeon. Admired among artists, scientists, philosophers, anthropologists and educators, Shlain authored three best-selling books: *Art & Physics, Alphabet vs. The Goddess* and *Sex, Time, and Power*. He delivered stunning visual presentations based upon his books in venues around the world including Harvard, The New York Museum of Modern Art, CERN,

Los Alamos, The Florence Academy of Art and the European Council of Ministers. His fans include Al Gore, Norman Lear and singer Bjork. Shlain died in May 2009 at the age of 71 from brain cancer shortly after the completion of this book.

His legacy continues with his children who helped bring this book to publication: Kimberly Brooks, artist and founding editor of the Arts and Science Section of the Huffington Post, Jordan Shlain, doctor and founder of Healthloop.com and Tiffany Shlain, filmmaker, founder of The Webby Awards and director of the Sundance documentary, *Connected,* about the ideas in *Leonardo's* Brain, as well as Leonard Shlain's final year. Visit www.leonardshlain.com.

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