

The Lost Leonardo



Provenance...or lack there of

- Found in New Orleans auction house. Sold for \$1500 badly damaged.
- Identified by "After Leonardo" label
- 80% was restored by conservator, Dianne Modestini, so who actually painted the panel?
- FIVE experts came to Nat. Gallery of London to assess the painting. WORK WAS NEVER AUTHENTICATED!
- Nat. Gallery exhibits painting as "The rediscovered Leonardo"
- Modestini is rumored to be part owner of the painting.
- Branded by Christie's AH as "the male Mona Lisa and becomes a ad campaign.
- Record-breaking sale

What would LDW do?

1. You are Curator at a automobile Museum.
2. You are curating an exhibit of photographs be a deceased photographer.
3. Historic House Cleaning
4. Totally a dino buff...trust me.



Collection Scholarship Ethics



Historychannel.com

Museum scholarship must be done for a sound, ethical reason. It cannot be a game pursued to meet egotistical trustees or staff desires to pump up their status. Pretending an item is something it is not, just to advance a career, promote an institution's reputation, or cover up a mistake contradicts the truth foundations upon which museums are built.

Collection Honesty

Collection Authenticity

Affirming authenticity BEGINS when something is being acquired.

Art and History Museums

Knowing a painting is a particular artist and it is in a medium that makes sense for the artist working at the time the work was made.

The role of original objects in history museums justify a museums value. The use of tangible to explain the intangible.

Science Museums

Beware of "ground breaking discoveries"! Science museums can run afoul of fakes, especially in dinosaur fossils.

Chapter 7



Ethics and Collection Authenticity

Places of Truth

97% of Americans believe that museums are educational assets for their communities, according to the American Alliance of Museums.

Reputation

- Museum authenticity ethically adheres to collecting standards people have come to expect from the industry.
- Artifacts in a museum carry with them the power of authenticity **JUST** because museums have real objects.
- Though most museum visitors are hardly experts on any of the collections held on their behalf, they believe what responsible museums tell them through the information presented.