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The most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever assembled on Leonardo Da Vinci coming to Arizona Science Center

World-touring "Da Vinci – The Genius" exhibition to run from Feb. 10 to June 9

PHOENIX – On Sunday, Feb. 10, Arizona Science Center invites visitors to revel in the miraculous mind of a prolific inventor, artist, anatomist, sculptor, engineer, musician, and architect – Leonardo Da Vinci.

Developed jointly by Grande Exhibitions of Australia, the Anthropos Association of Italy and Pascal Cotte of France, *Da Vinci – The Genius* is the most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever created on the ultimate Renaissance visionary.

Created over a ten-year span, *Da Vinci – The Genius* immerses visitors in Leonardo Da Vinci's scientific studies, machine inventions, and renowned artworks. This exhibition will introduce Arizonans to the mastermind behind the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, as well as countless scientific inventions and artistic principles that have deeply influenced the world we live in.

Intended to delight patrons of all ages, the works on display explore a variety of themed areas: Physics & Mechanical Principles, Civil Machines, Flight Studies, Military Machines, Hydraulic and Aquatic Machines, Anatomical Studies, Optics and Musical Instruments and Renaissance Art.

Da Vinci – The Genius is a comprehensive presentation of Leonardo's full breadth of work which is incredibly inspiring to us all," said Chevy Humphrey, President and CEO of Arizona Science Center. "This exhibition provides a platform of in-depth exploration into Da Vinci's genius allowing your imagination to soar, and encourage attendees to discover their own conclusions on Da Vinci's works."

Utilizing a myriad of Da Vinci's sketches, the exhibition spotlights life-sized machine models of his visions created by modern-day artisans in Rome, such as the "Ornitottero Verticale" (precursor to the modern helicopter), the glider, the parachute, the bicycle, the forerunner to the modern military tank, the automobile, the submarine, among so many other things.

Additionally, "Secrets of Mona Lisa" showcases the lifelong work of esteemed French engineer Pascal Cotte, whose passion for the study and preservation of the *Mona Lisa* led him to invent the cutting edge 240-megapixel Multi-spectral Imaging Camera, which uses patented infrared technology and intense illumination to scan the painting and virtually peel away layers of varnish applied over centuries. With his camera, Cotte was able to uncover how the *Mona Lisa* looked as she was originally painted, including layers of over-painting, restoration and attempts at preservation - even identifying the individual pigments that Da Vinci used. Onlookers will be presented with the most accurate re-creation and will uncover dozens of secrets about the painting through Cotte's amazing revelations that are displayed in gallery-style, high-resolution prints, with the largest being the 14ft x 10ft giant infra-red of *Mona Lisa*.

“This exhibition was created to celebrate the scope of Leonardo Da Vinci’s great works and place them together in a single location where people can marvel at the brilliance of this great mind,” said Bruce Peterson, Founder and Managing Director of Grande Exhibitions. “Leonardo Da Vinci is arguably the greatest genius the world has ever known and this show makes it abundantly clear why that proposition is virtually irrefutable.”

Visitors can also feast their eyes on reproductions of *Virgin of the Rocks* and *The Annunciation*, as well as three-dimensional interactive presentations of *The Last Supper*, the *Vitruvian Man*, and the *Sforza Horse* sculpture (one of Da Vinci’s most ambitious projects).

Da Vinci–The Genius will be open at Arizona Science Center between Feb. 10 and June 9, 2013, with a VIP debut for Galaxy Gala attendees on Saturday, Feb. 9. Costs are as follows and include general admission to the Center: \$26.95 for adults, \$22.95 for seniors (62+), \$20 for children (ages 3-17) and \$10 for Center member adults/seniors and \$8 for Center member children.

Da Vinci – The Genius was created by Grande Exhibitions, with the assistance of the Anthropos Foundation, Italy, and Pascal Cotte, France. It is sponsored locally by JP Morgan Chase, The Arizona Republic and azcentral. This featured exhibition will be located in Sybil B. Harrington Gallery, Level 3.

About Arizona Science Center

The mission of Arizona Science Center is to inspire, educate and entertain people of all ages about science. The Center, located at 600 E. Washington Street in downtown Phoenix, features more than 300 hands-on exhibits, live demonstrations, the state-of-the-art Dorrance Planetarium and a five-story IMAX® theater. For more information, visit www.azscience.org or call 602-716-2000.

About Grande Exhibitions

Creators and promoters of the Exhibition, who have researched, sourced and interpreted much of what is contained in the exhibition. Based in Rome Italy and Melbourne Australia, Grande Exhibitions is dedicated to delivering quality blockbuster exhibitions of mass appeal that entertain and educate.

About The Anthropos Association

From Il Genio de Leonardo Da Vinci Museo in Rome, talented and gifted Artisans have made the machines, inventions and many items that you see on display at the exhibitions. They have spent over a decade bringing to life more than 120 of Leonardo's concepts and designs and use in the main techniques and materials available in 15th Century Italy.

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