

Richard Shaw Pooler

# Leonardo Da Vinci's Treatise of Painting

*The Story of The World's Greatest Treatise on Painting - Its Origins, History, Content, And Influence*

VERNON SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF ART

*“Richard Pooler has produced an interesting and well-written account of a puzzling aspect of art history: what did Leonardo da Vinci intend to be the future of his notes on painting? That he was attempting to codify and explore the science of painting seems evident but, without a clear understanding of sequence and the tenor of his remarks, it is not possible to be sure. Added to this is the tenuous nature of the survival of what has come to be known as the Treatise on Painting: much has been lost or, at least, may still be hidden in other manuscript collections. Several people have tried to assemble and suggest a logical sequence for what remains, attempting to provide coherence to the insights that Leonardo offers -- and, yet, the mystery remains.*”

*This text is intended for a reader with an interest but not necessarily a deep research background. Pooler is careful to provide sufficient background so that one can appreciate the turbulent history through which Leonardo, his thoughts and the manuscripts, have passed: chance, mendacity and scholarship have each played a role. That anything has survived is, perhaps, the greatest miracle: in this book, we have a clear account.”*

Peter G. Underwood  
Emeritus Professor  
University of Cape Town

## About the author

Richard Shaw Pooler was born in 1948 in Durban South Africa. He graduated with Bachelors (First Class Honours) in 1970 and MPhil (Distinction) in 2004, both from the University of Cape Town, before completing his doctoral thesis at the University of South Africa in 2014. He is the author of various books on art and other subjects.

## Summary

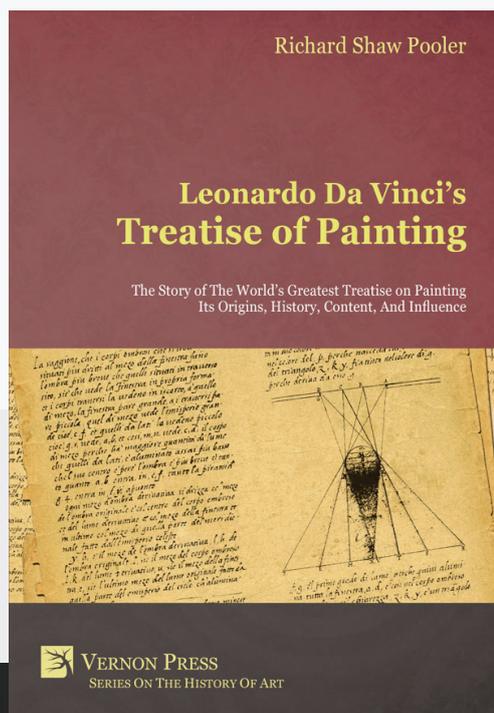
This book traces the story of the world's greatest treatise on painting - Leonardo Da Vinci's "Treatise of Painting". It combines an extensive body of literature about the Treatise with original research to offer a unique perspective on:

- Its origins, and history of how it survived the dispersal of manuscripts;
- Its contents, their significance and how Leonardo developed his Renaissance Theory of Art;
- The development of both the abridged and complete printed editions;
- How the printed editions have influenced treatises and art history throughout Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, and America from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth Centuries.

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