

Playing with Leonardo

Rocco Sinisgalli: Playing with Leonardo. The Divine Proportion

Federighi Editore, Certaldo, 2007

ISBN 978-88-89159-25-1

€ 11,50

Between 1496 and 1498, Leonardo (Vinci 1452 - Amboise 1519), was the author of 60 drawings that were described as a “very graceful and supreme figures of all platonic and mathematical, regular and dependent bodies, which in perspective representation cannot be done better in the world”. Friar Luca Pacioli described them like this, when praising his friend Leonardo who had drawn the figures that Pacioli had only described conceptually in the “De Divina Proportione”, a work that was printed in 1509. With his “glorious” and “ineffable left hand” as the friar called it, Leonardo made, not only the five regular polyhedrons visible and comprehensible to everyone, after centuries of silence, but also many other solids deriving from them or connected to them. From that moment on Leonardo confirmed the triumph of those solids and of the “Divine Proportion”, which those figures needed in order to be drawn.

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Autore	Data public azione	Volume public azione
Redazio nale	2007-12 -12	n. 3 Dicembr e 2007