

The image shows the Mona Lisa, a half-length portrait painting by the Italian Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci. It depicts a woman, believed to be Lisa Gherardini, seated with her hands crossed in her lap. She has a subtle, enigmatic smile. The background is a hazy, mountainous landscape. The painting is displayed within a dark frame.

Today in History

August 21, 1911

▲ **Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris by Italian waiter Vincenzo Perruggia. It was recovered in 1913**

1991: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to power two days after being overthrown in a coup

1993: NASA engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft, possibly because a fuel line had ruptured

2011: Libyans took to the streets to celebrate the end of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's 42 years in power

2013: U.S. soldier Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning was jailed for leaking U.S. government files to WikiLeaks