



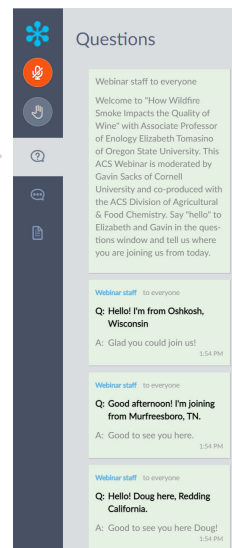
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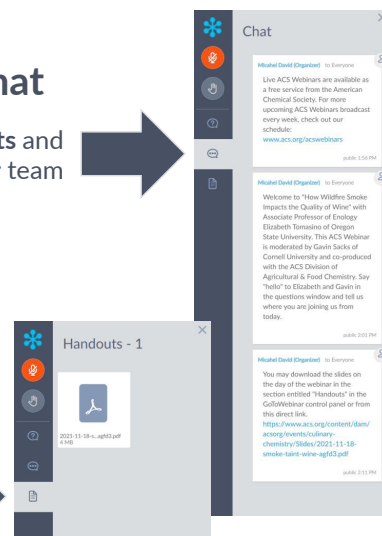
 **Chat**

Announcements and hyperlinks from our team



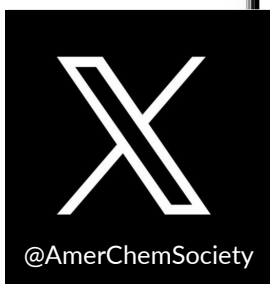
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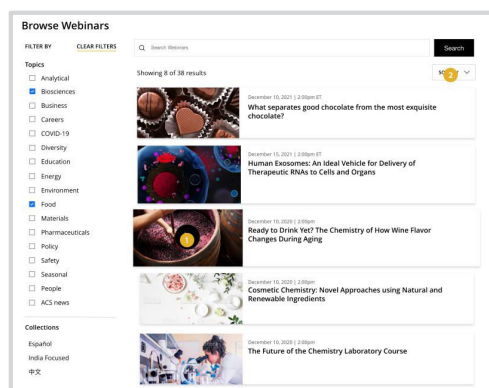
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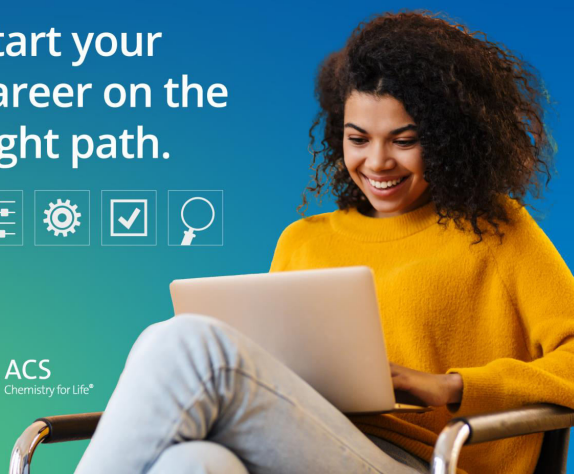
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Hanin Sarhan, Bridge Fellow at Indiana University

ACS Scholar Adunoluwa Obisesan

BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, June 2021
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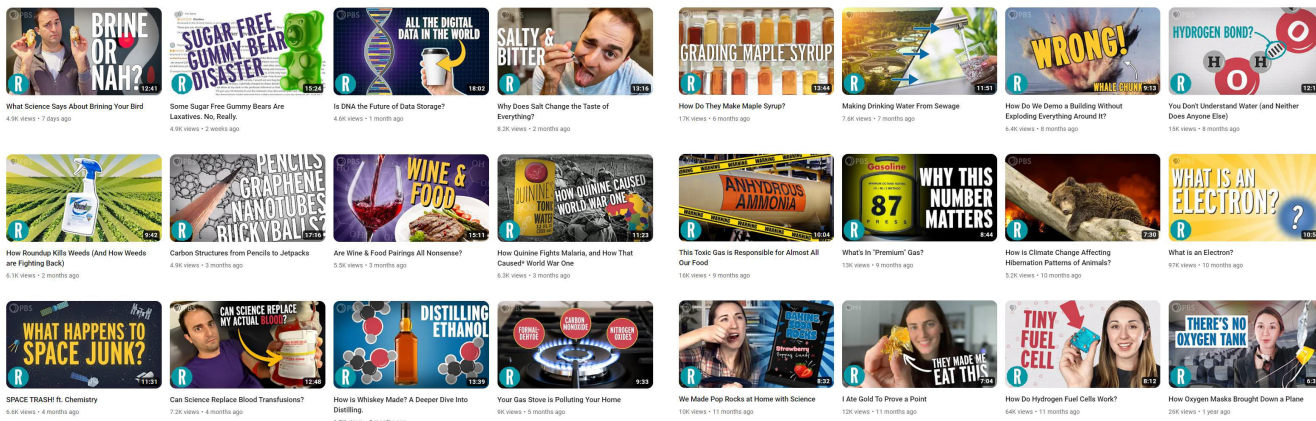
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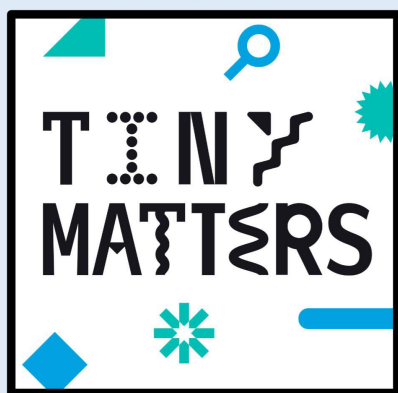


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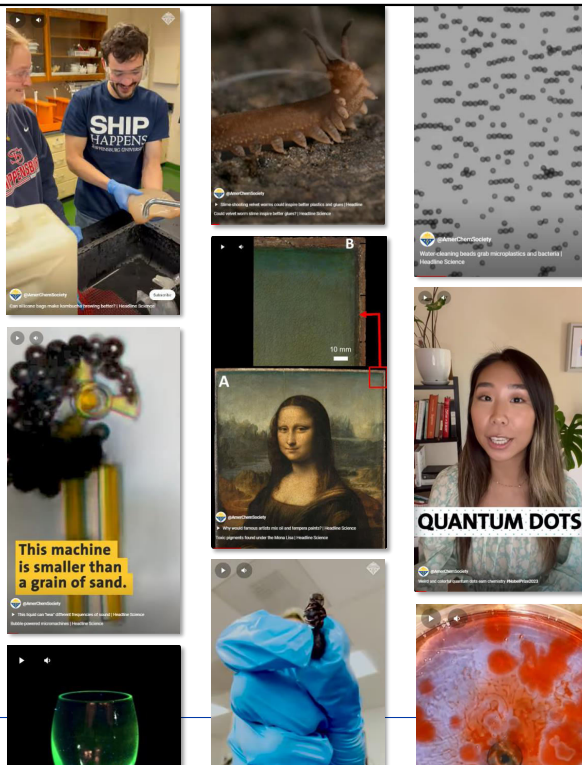
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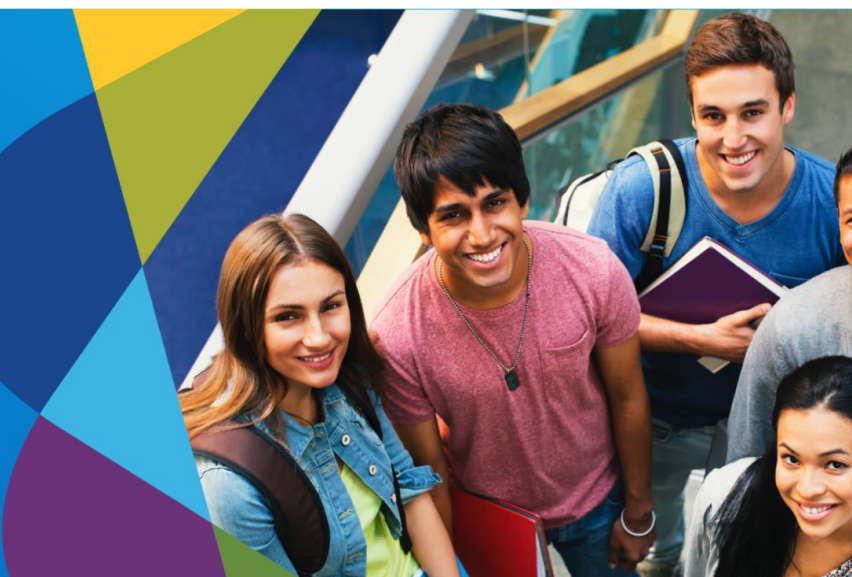
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Jim Tung
Marketing
Lacamas Laboratories
B.S., Biochemistry, University of Oregon
Ph.D., Organic Chemistry, University of Notre Dame

Jim Tung works at Lacamas Laboratories in Portland, OR, currently as a business development manager. He has been with Lacamas for 10 years, working on developing new chemical manufacturing projects. Before that, he was a senior research chemist at Obilier Research in Champaign, IL performing kilo-scale organic chemistry.

An Oregon native, Jim got his B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Oregon, his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, with postdoctoral experience at Pfizer's laboratories in La Jolla, CA. He is past chair of the Portland Section of the American Chemical Society and was 2019 general co-chair of NOMA 2019. He has interests in process chemistry, labor economics, social media outreach and encouraging career exploration and development for younger chemists.

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Seeks to ensure fair treatment, equality of opportunity, and fairness in access to information and resources for all. We believe this is only possible in an environment built on respect and dignity. Equity requires the identification and elimination of barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups.

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Inclusion**

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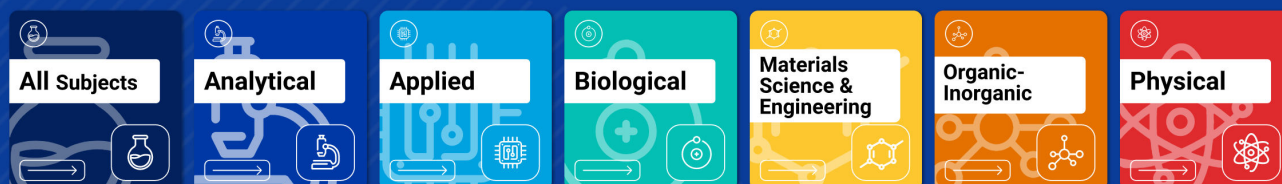
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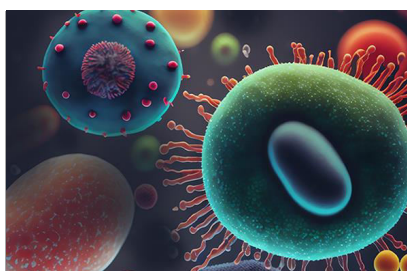
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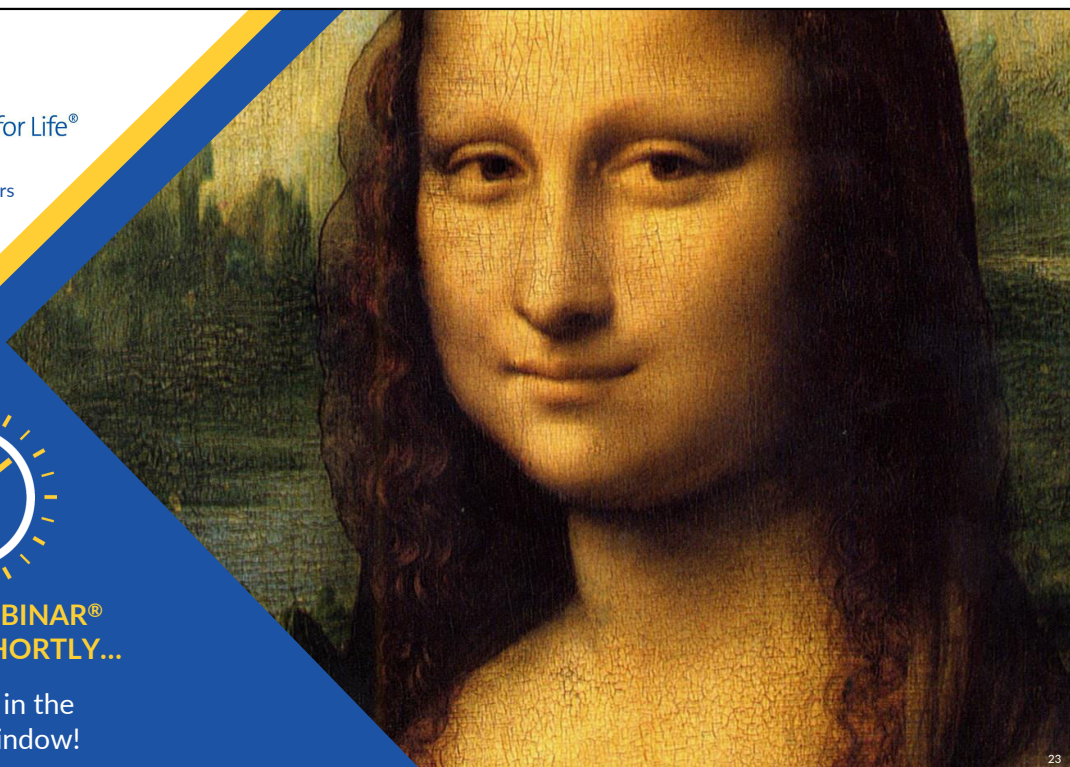
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Revealing Mona Lisa's Secrets Through Advanced Analytical Chemistry



VICTOR GONZALEZ, PhD

Researcher, French National Center for
Scientific Research



PANČE NAUMOV, PhD

Full Professor of Chemistry, NYU Abu
Dhabi and Global Network Professor
of Chemistry, NYU

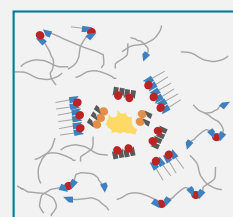
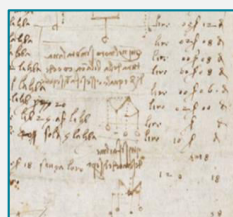
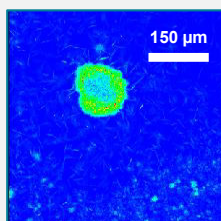
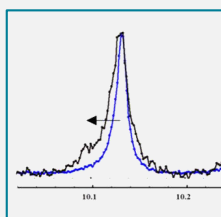
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Revealing Mona Lisa's Secrets Through Advanced Analytical Chemistry

Victor Gonzalez

Université Paris-Saclay, ENS Paris-Saclay, CNRS, PPSM

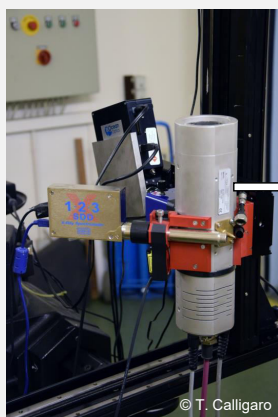


STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA
SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

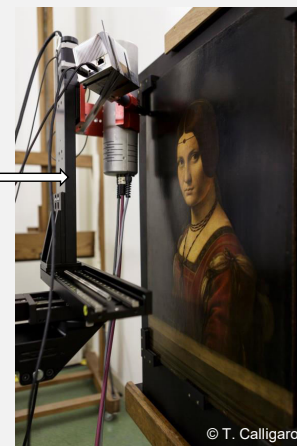
STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES
RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS
OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

MACRO-SCALE ANALYSIS



© T. Calligaro



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- ✓ *in situ* analysis
- ✓ Versatility
- ✓ Chemical images at the scale of paintings



© C2RMF

La Belle Ferronnière (62×44 cm)
c. 1495-1497, Musée du Louvre



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Macro X-ray Fluorescence (MA-XRF)
Lead (Pb) K α map

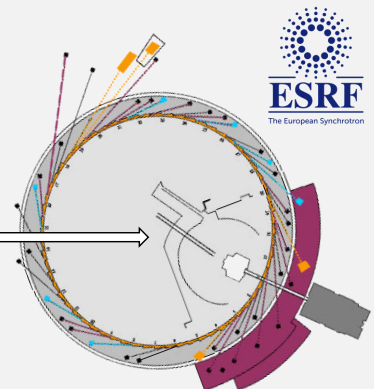
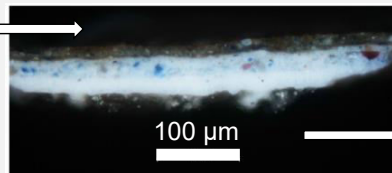


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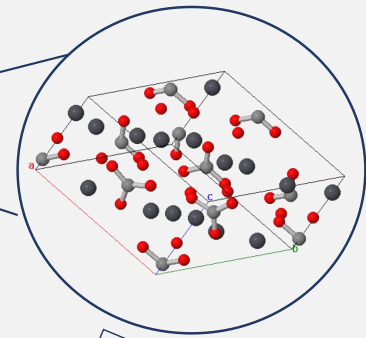
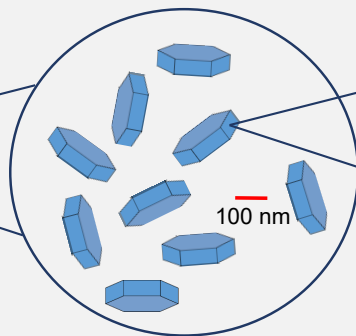
168 cm

The Virgin and Child with Ste. Anne (168×130 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre

MICRO-SCALE ANALYSIS

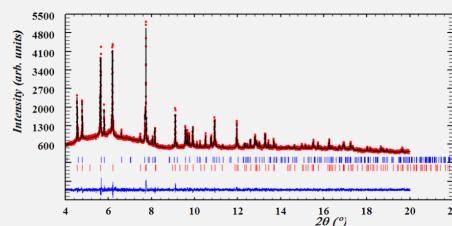
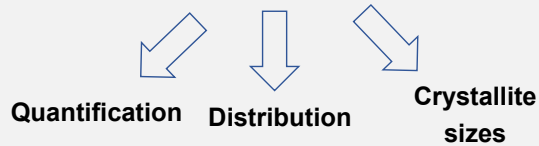


- ✓ Speed
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- ✓ Sensitivity
- ✓ Signal / noise ratio



X-ray diffraction

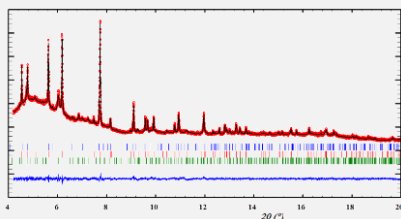
Crystalline phases
e.g Pb-carbonates :
Cerussite (PbCO_3) + Hydrocerussite ($\text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$)



ID22 : High-angle resolution XRD (SR-HR-XRPD)

- Energy: ~35 keV
- Scan range 2θ : 3 – 20°
- Analysis time: ~20 min/powder; ~2 h/historical sample
- Instrumental function 2θ (FWHM of (111)Si peak) ~ 0.0027°
- Samples in capillaries

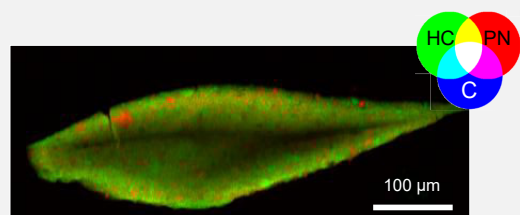
→ Precise and sensitive identification of crystalline phases, quantification, and characterization of their microstructural and structural properties

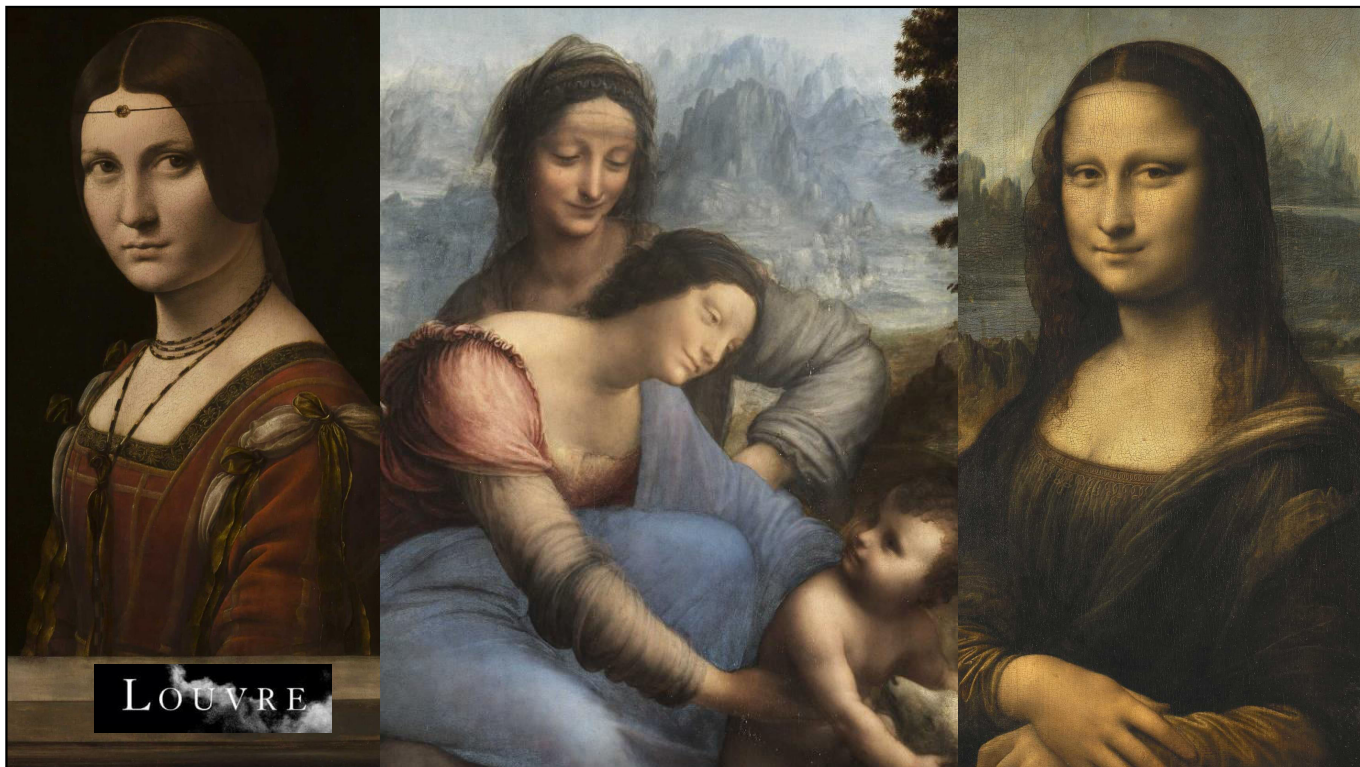


ID13 : High-lateral resolution XRD (SR-μ-XRPD)

- Energy: ~13 keV
- Analysis time: ~10 min -2 h/map (15ms/ pixel)
- Beam size ~ 2×2μm²
- Samples as thin sections (preferable) or cross-sections

→ Stratigraphical distribution of crystalline phases at the micrometer scale

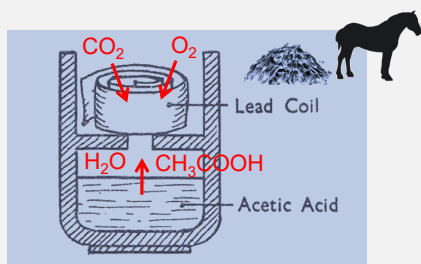




STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

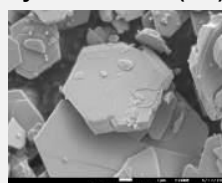


Lead white pigment



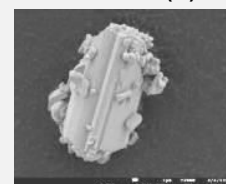
- Manufacture : *stack process* until the 19th c., then multiple synthesis ways
- Two main lead carbonates crystalline phases
- Mix with the organic binder by the artist

$Pb_3(CO_3)_2(OH)_2$
Hydrocerussite (HC)



rhombohedral R-3m
a = 5.2450 Å
c = 23.7009 Å

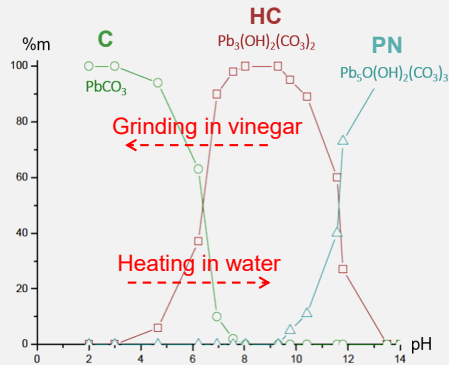
$PbCO_3$
Cerussite (C)



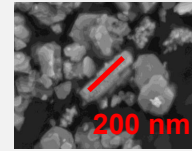
orthorhombic Pmcn
a = 5.1840 Å
b = 8.5001 Å
c = 6.1505 Å

+

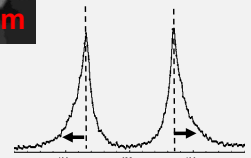
- Stability of Pb-carbonates is pH-dependant
- Influence of post-synthesis treatments on composition / micro-structure was examined in laboratory
- Fine micro-structural features (twinning) connected to post-synthesis



Washing / grinding in vinegar (AcOH)



C > HC
Crystallite size ↓

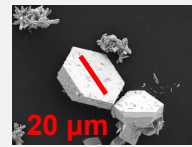


Dissolution-cristallisation

Crystal twinning

Assymetrical Lorentzian broadening

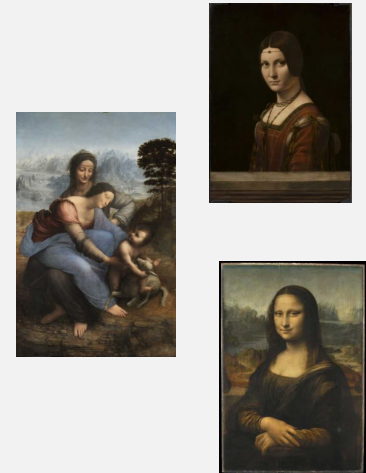
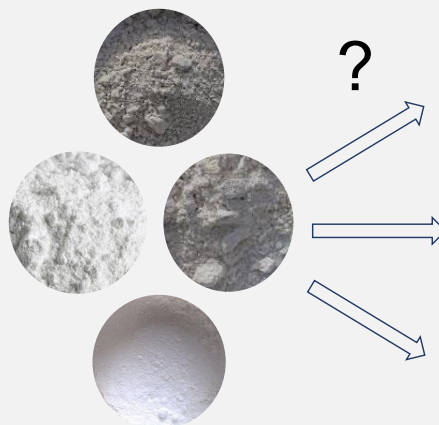
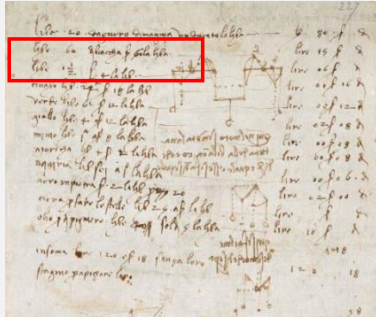
Heating in water



HC > C
Crystallite size ↑

V. Gonzalez, T. Calligaro, G. Wallez, M. Eveno, K. Toussaint, M. Menu, *Microchem. J.* (2016) 125: 43

Arundel MS 263, f.227v – British Museum



- 5 pounds of lead white **A** at 3 lira / pound
- 1,5 pounds of lead white **B** at 4 lira / pound

Order by Leonardo of two distinct lead white subtypes

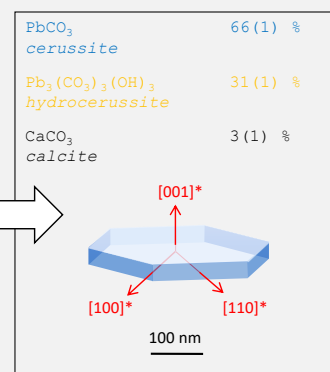
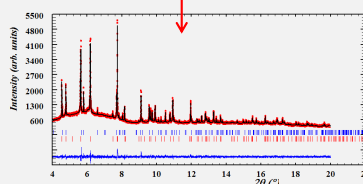
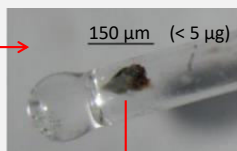
- Structural study on an extended artistic corpus, combined with Rietveld refinement
- Precise quantification of mineral phases and crystallites modeling at the nanometric scale



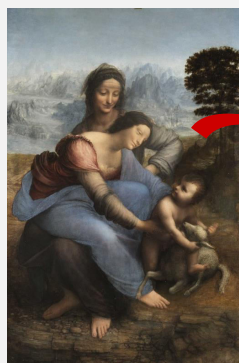
Leonardo da Vinci, *The Virgin and Child with Ste. Anne*, c.1503-1519



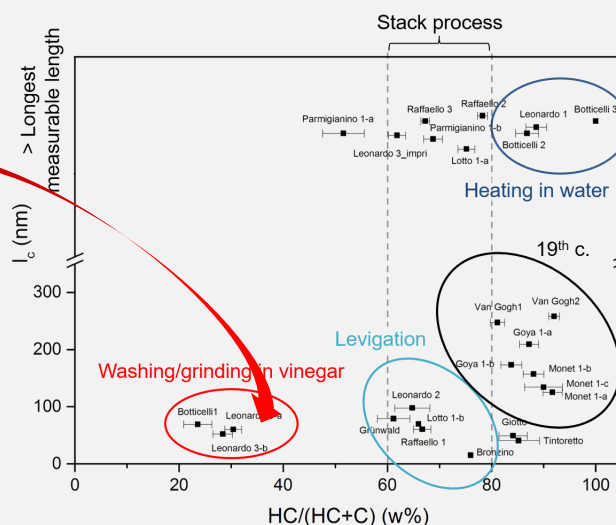
High-angular resolution XRPD
ID22 beamline
 $\lambda = 0,3547 \text{ \AA}$



- Structural study on an extended artistic corpus, combined with Rietveld refinement
- Precise quantification of mineral phases and crystallites modeling at the nanometric scale
- Identification of post-synthesis processes in historical paintings



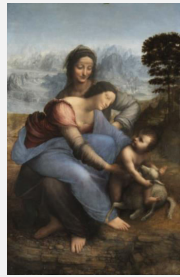
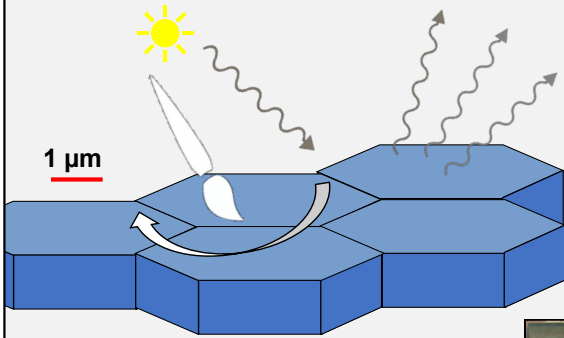
Leonardo da Vinci, *The Virgin and Child with Ste. Anne*, c.1503-1519



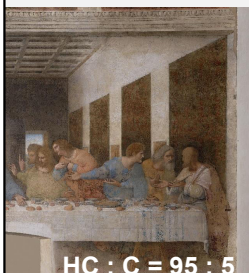
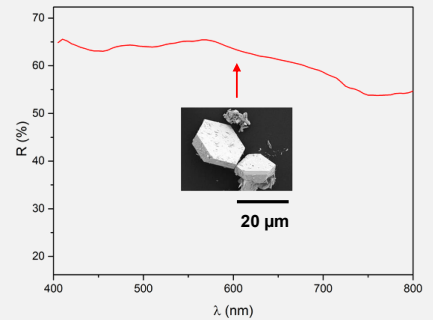
STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI



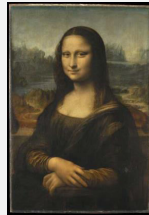
HC : C = 71 : 29



HC : C = 95 : 5



HC : C = 66 : 34



HC : C = 88 : 22

- Ground layers characterized by high content of hydrocerussite (HC : C > 60 : 40) ; large crystallites = optimal covering power
- Hypothesis : post-synthesis treatment: heating in aqueous environment?



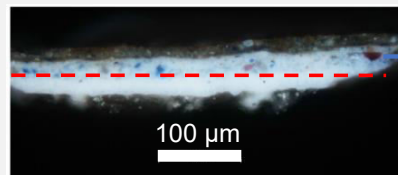
STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

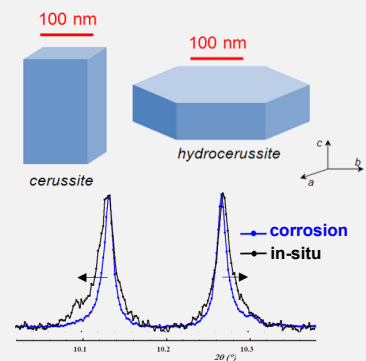
PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI



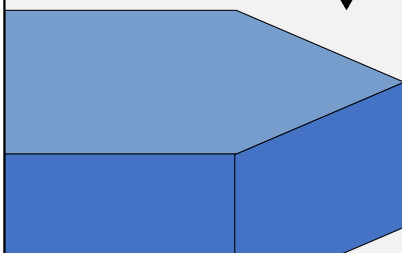
Léonard de Vinci – Sainte Anne, la Vierge et l'Enfant jouant avec un agneau, (c. 1503-1519), Musée du Louvre



Top layer
HC : C = 30 : 70

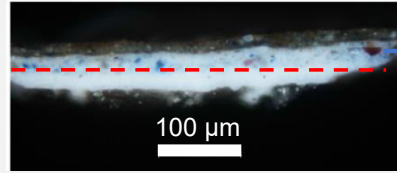


imprimatura
HC : C = 71 : 29

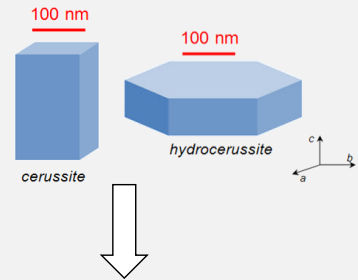


- Micro-structural features point to a process in acidic environment, inducing dissolution-recrystallization mechanisms
- Hypothesis : post-synthesis treatment: grinding/washing in acidic environment?



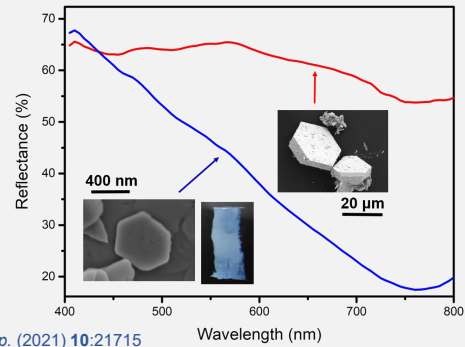


Top layer
HC : C = 30 : 70



« [...] if he puts on it a very fine and transparent layer of ceruse, he will see that the white of this ceruse will actually be a beautiful blue, but it has to be very fine and well grinded »
Leonardo da Vinci, MS. LEIC. folio 4 (r)

- Identification of pigment sub-types with specific optical properties, obtained following controlled processes
- Information of historical syntheses / material choices of Leonardo

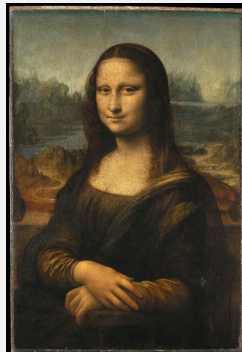


Diffusion

- Study of Leonardo da Vinci's ground layers
- Choice of specific paint formulation for these grounds?



La Belle Ferronnière (62×44 cm)
c. 1495-1497, Musée du Louvre



Mona Lisa (77×53 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre



The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne (168×130 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre

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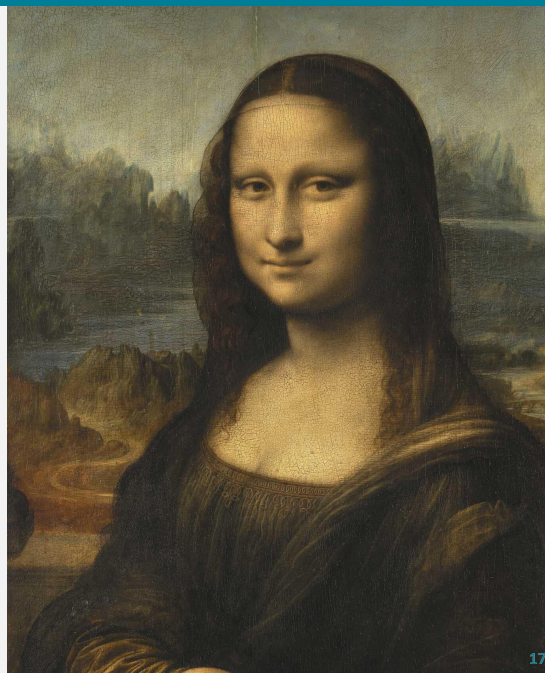
Article

X-ray and Infrared Microanalyses of *Mona Lisa's* Ground Layer and Significance Regarding Leonardo da Vinci's Palette

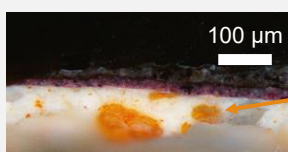
Victor Gonzalez,* Gilles Wallez, Elisabeth Ravaud, Myriam Eveno, Ida Fazlic, Tiphaine Fabris, Austin Nevin, Thomas Calligaro, Michel Menu, Vincent Delieuvin, and Marine Cotte

Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.3c07000>

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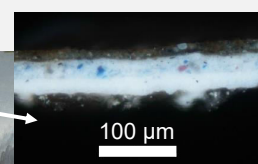


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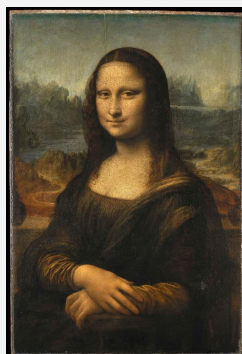


Oil-base ground
Lead white ($\text{PbCO}_3 + \text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$)
+ minium (Pb_3O_4)

Oil-based imprimatura
Lead white ($\text{PbCO}_3 + \text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$)
Glue-based ground
Gesso ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$)



La Belle Ferronnière (62×44 cm)
c. 1495-1497, Musée du Louvre



Mona Lisa (77×53 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre



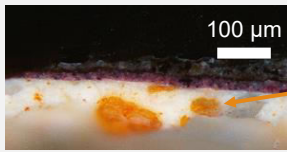
The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne (168×130 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre

18

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

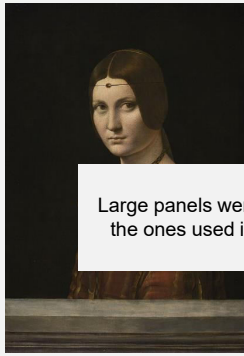
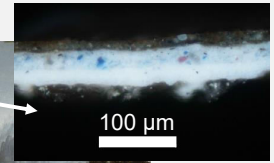
STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

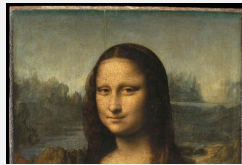


Oil-base ground
Lead white ($\text{PbCO}_3 + \text{Pb}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$)
+ minium (Pb_3O_4)

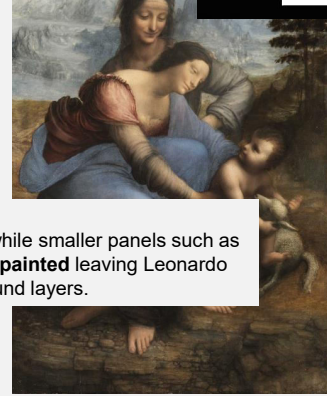
Oil-based imprimatura
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Glue-based ground
Gesso ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$)



La Belle Ferronnière (62×44 cm)
c. 1495-1497, Musée du Louvre



Mona Lisa (77×53 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre



The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne (168×130 cm)
c. 1503-1519, Musée du Louvre

Hypothesis:
Large panels were already pre-prepared with *gesso* at the carpenter studio, while smaller panels such as the ones used in the *Belle Ferronnière* or the *Mona Lisa* were purchased **unpainted** leaving Leonardo more freedom to experiment mixtures of his own for the ground layers.

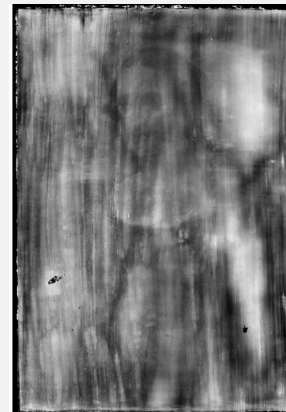
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STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

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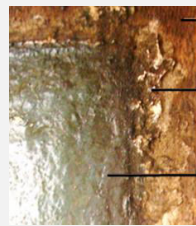
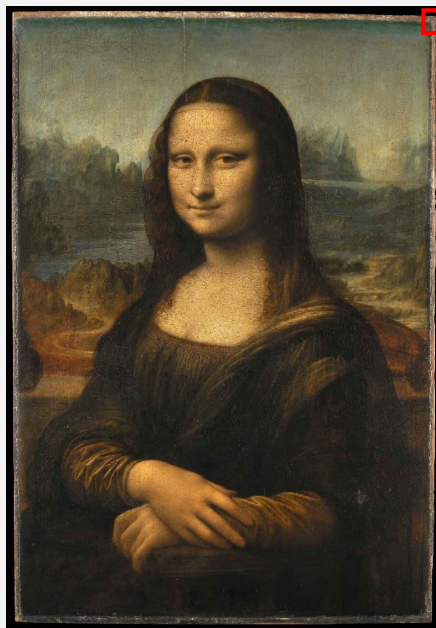


Pb-L α MA-XRF map
© E. Laval, T. Calligaro – C2RMF



X-ray radiography
© E. Ravaud – C2RMF

The ground of the *Mona Lisa* contains **lead compounds**.



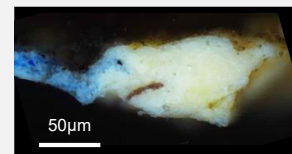
Wooden panel

Ground layer

Painted layer

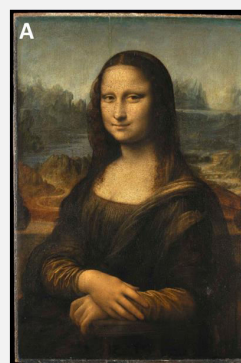
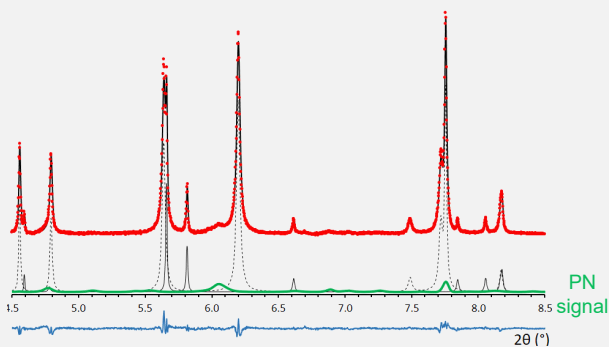


Unembedded part of the sample (kept for SR-HR-XRPD analyses)

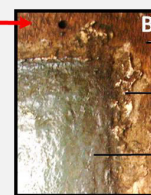


Part of the sample embedded in resin (for SEM and μFTIR mapping)

- Detection of nano-crystalites of plumbonacrite $\text{Pb}_5\text{O}(\text{CO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_2$, meta-stable compound ($\text{pH} > 10$) in *Mona Lisa*'s ground layer



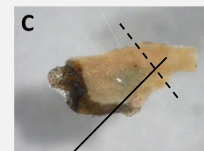
Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503-1519



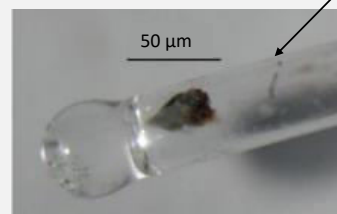
Wooden panel

Ground layer

Painting



SR-HR-XRPD



What created the chemical conditions for plumbonacrite formation?

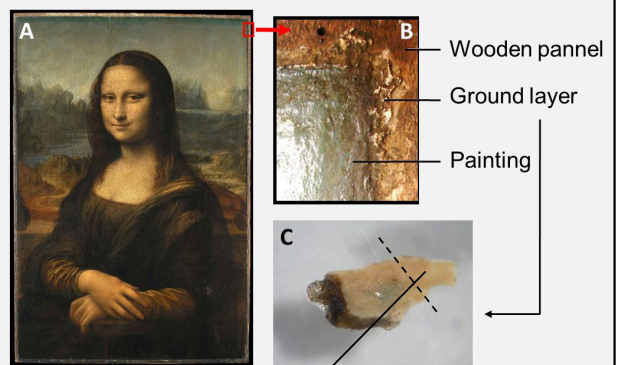
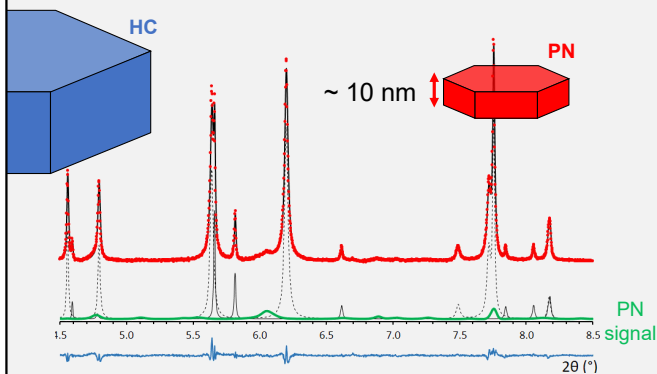
- A specific paint formulation used by da Vinci?
- An alteration phenomenon?
- A later restoration campaign?

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS VIA SYNCHROTRON RADIATION

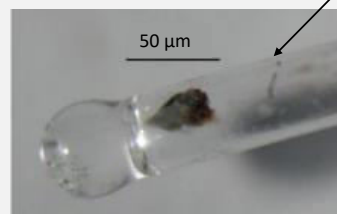
STRUCTURE / OPTICAL PROPERTIES RELATIONSHIPS IN LEAD CARBONATES

PROBING THE PAINT FORMULATIONS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI

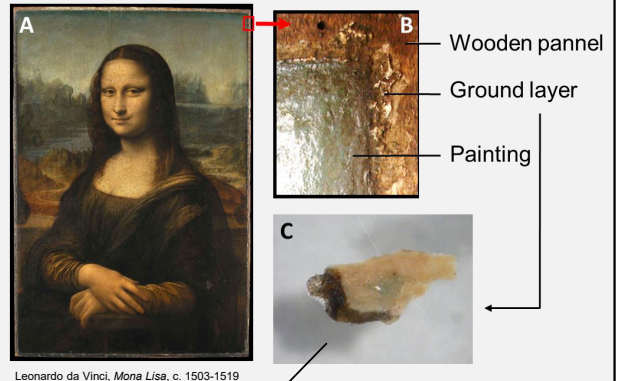
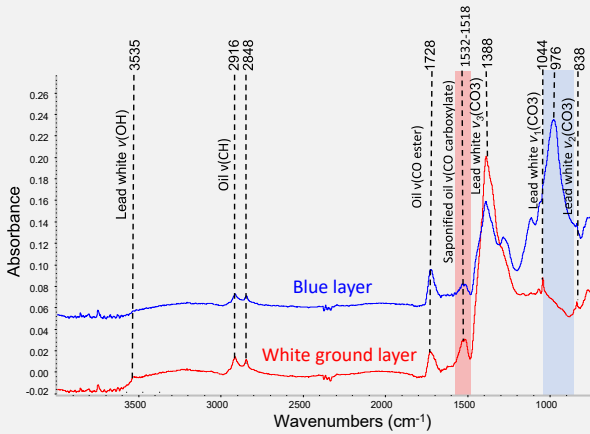
- Detection of nano-crystalites of plumbonacrite $Pb_5O(CO_3)_3(OH)_2$, meta-stable compound ($pH > 10$) in *Mona Lisa's* ground layer
- Microstructural features point to *in-situ* crystallization
- Choice of specific paint formulation resulting in alkaline environment?



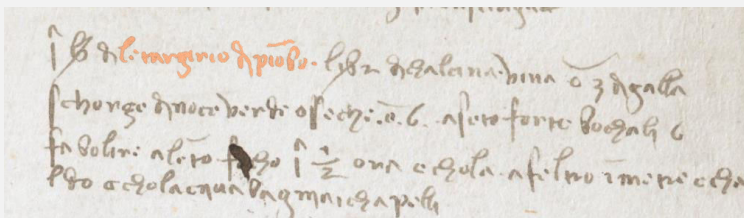
Leonardo da Vinci, *Mona Lisa*, c. 1503-1519



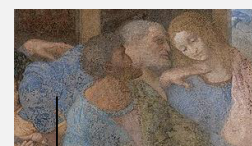
- Detection of nano-crystalites of plumbonacrite $Pb_5O(CO_3)_3(OH)_2$, meta-stable compound ($pH > 10$) in *Mona Lisa's* ground layer
- Choice of specific paint formulation resulting in alkaline environment?
- High saponification rate in lead white-based ground



- Detection of nano-crystalites of plumbonacrite $Pb_5O(CO_3)_3(OH)_2$, meta-stable compound ($pH > 10$) in *Mona Lisa's* ground layer
- Identification of non-dissolved $PbO-\alpha$ grains in the priming layer of the *Last Supper*
- Examination of da Vinci's manuscripts to confirm that lead(II) oxide was part of the painter's palette

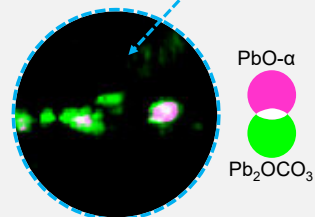
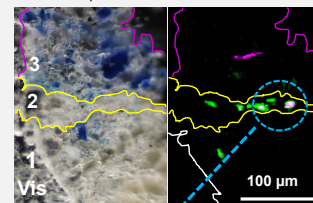


1 libra di *letargirio di pionbo*, libre 2 di calcina viva, once 3 di galla [...]



Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper* (detail), 1494-1498

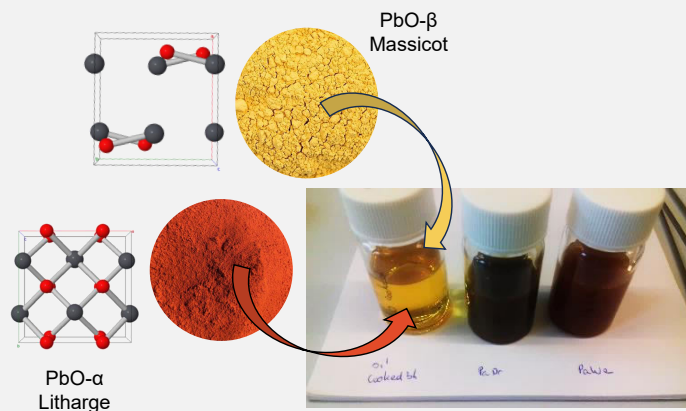
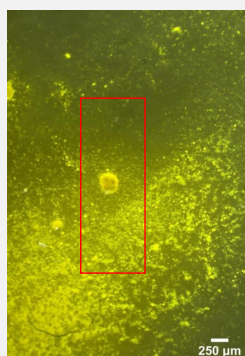
SR-μ-XRPD



- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Structural mapping at the scale of individual pigment particles
- Identification of in-situ formed crystalline compounds

Recipe for the preparation of *huile de litharge* by De Mayerne (1573-1655)

Huile de Litharge. Eppaisie fort Siccative pour vernir bois & fer et pour imprimer toiles guines fendent ny ne secaillent 15. Aoust 1612

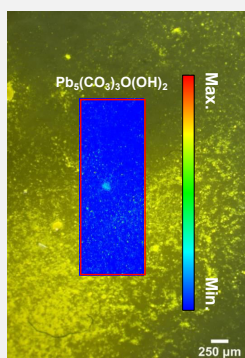


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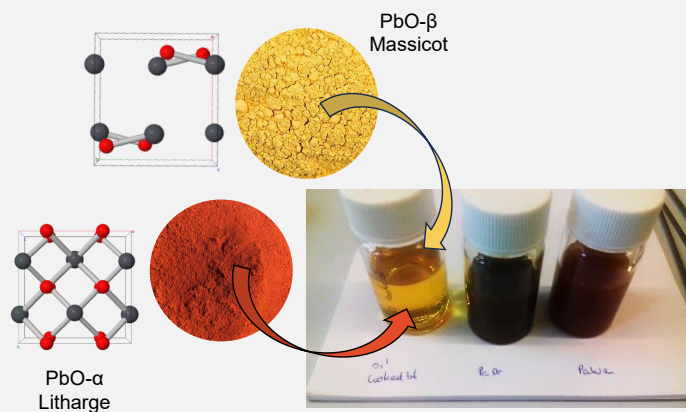
- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Structural mapping at the scale of individual pigment particles
- Identification of in-situ formed crystalline compounds, **among them plumbonacrite**

Recipe for the preparation of *huile de litharge* by De Mayerne (1573-1655)

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SR-μ-XRPD

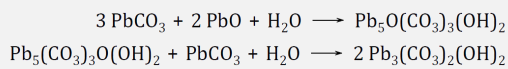


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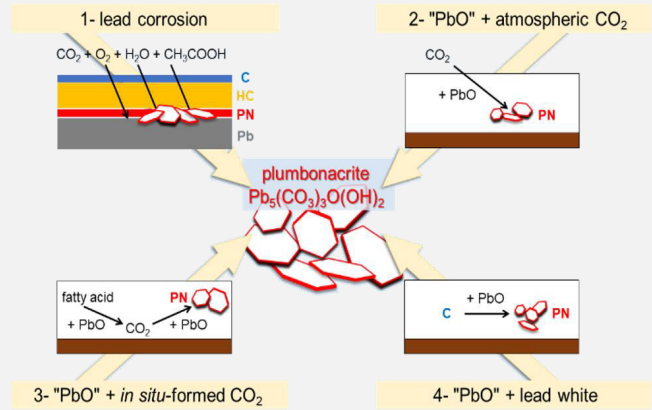
- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Competing mechanisms that can result in spatially heterogeneous crystallisation within paint layers

- Carbonation of partially dissolved PbO particles

$$5 \text{PbO} + 3 \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Pb}_5\text{O}(\text{CO}_3)_3(\text{OH})_2$$
- Solid / solid reaction between lead-carbonate pigment and PbO

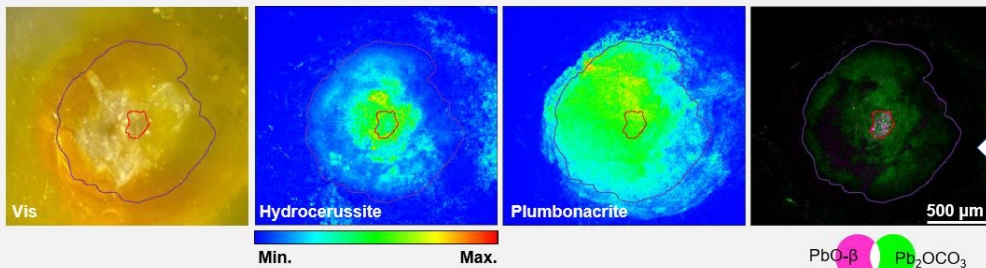
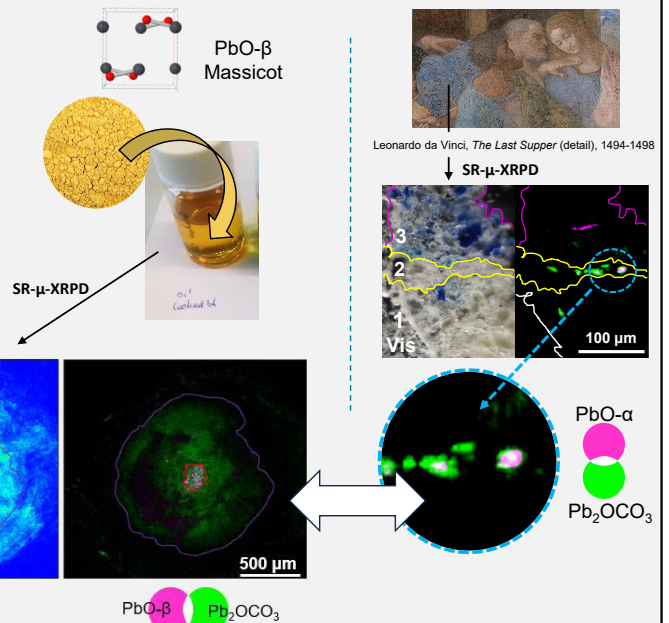


- Plumbonacrite as a clue for a possible use of siccative medium

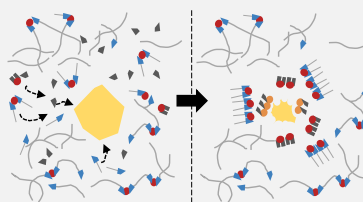
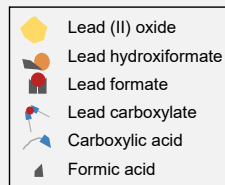
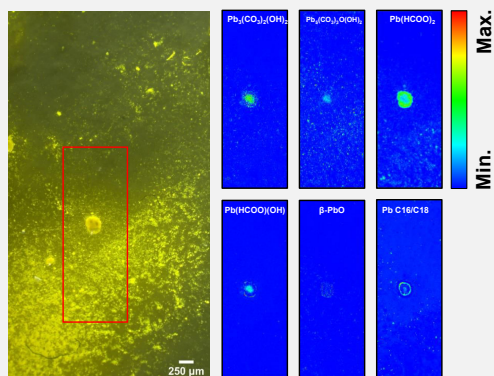


V. Gonzalez, M. Cotte, G. Wallez, A. van Loon, W. De Nolf, M. Eveno, K. Keune, P. Noble, J. Dik., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* (2019) 58(17): 5619

- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- New insights into the lead-based oil formulations used by painters
- Organization of neo-formed compounds at the micro-scale?



- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Organization of neo-formed compounds at the micro-scale?

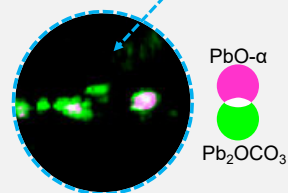
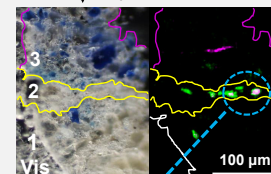


V. Gonzalez, I. Fazlic, M. Cotte, F. Vanmeert, A. Gestels, S. De Meyer, F. Broers, J. Hermans, A. van Loon, K. Janssens, P. Noble, K. Keune, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* (2023) **62**(16): e20216478

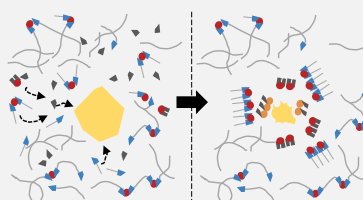
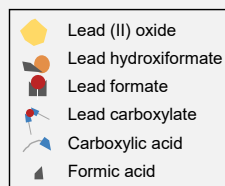
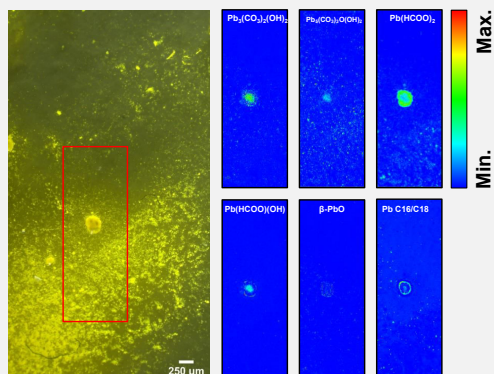


Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper* (detail), 1494-1498

↓ SR-μ-XRPD



- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Organization of neo-formed compounds at the micro-scale?
→ complex transport mechanisms at stake

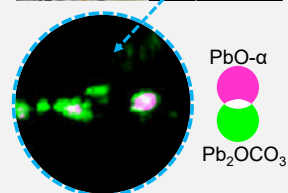
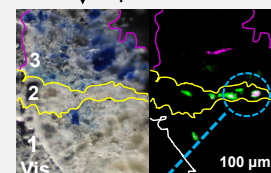


V. Gonzalez, I. Fazlic, M. Cotte, F. Vanmeert, A. Gestels, S. De Meyer, F. Broers, J. Hermans, A. van Loon, K. Janssens, P. Noble, K. Keune, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* (2023) **62**(16): e20216478

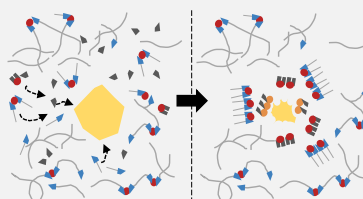
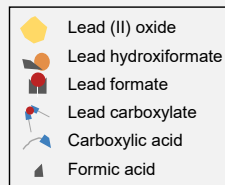
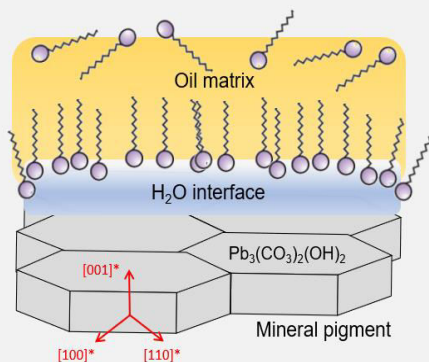


Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper* (detail), 1494-1498

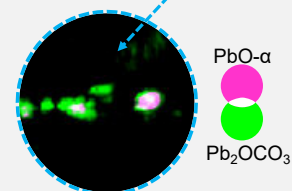
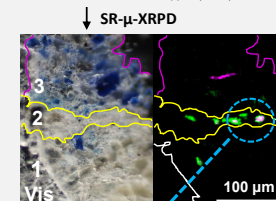
↓ SR-μ-XRPD



- Exploration of chemical pathways involving lead (II) oxide, used as a siccative agent in paint formulations
- Organization of neo-formed compounds at the micro-scale? → complex transport mechanisms at stake



Leonardo da Vinci, *The Last Supper* (detail), 1494-1498



V. Gonzalez, I. Fazlic, M. Cotte, F. Vanmeert, A. Gestels, S. De Meyer, F. Broers, J. Hermans, A. van Loon, K. Janssens, P. Noble, K. Keune, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* (2023) **62**(16): e20216478

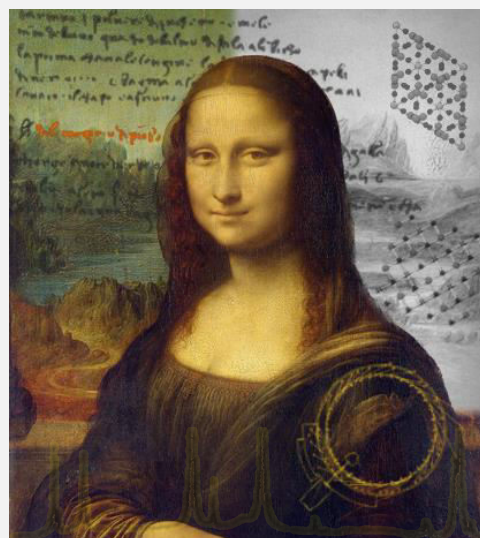
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CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Hypothesis: to paint the ground layer of *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo relied on a siccative oil, prepared with lead (II) oxide
- ❖ Micro-scale organization of non-original inorganic compounds provide insights on the chemical mechanisms active in historical paint layers

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



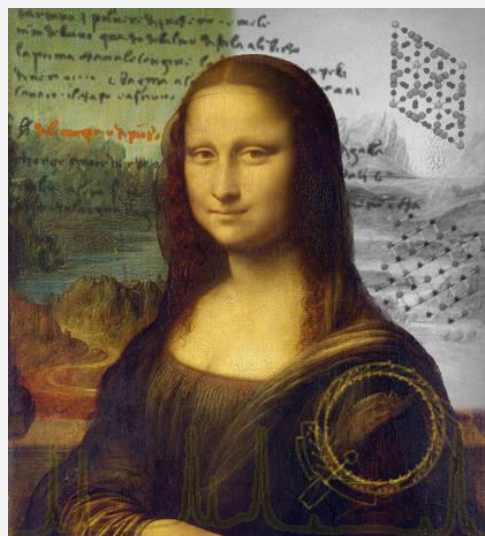
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CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Synchrotron-based structural analysis to probe the paint formulations used by Leonardo da Vinci (and other artists!)
- ❖ High complementarity of high-angular and high-lateral resolution synchrotron-XRPD

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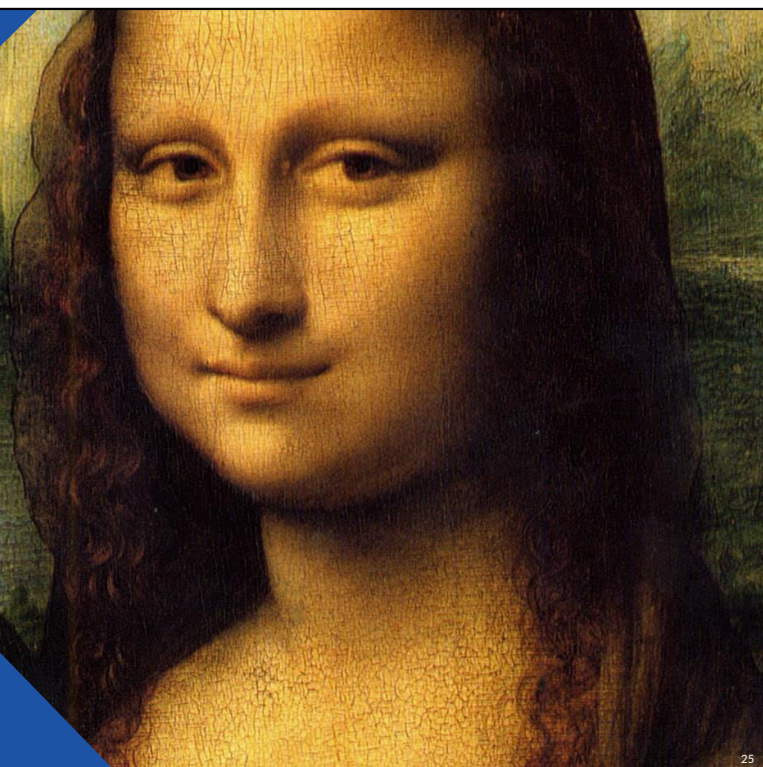
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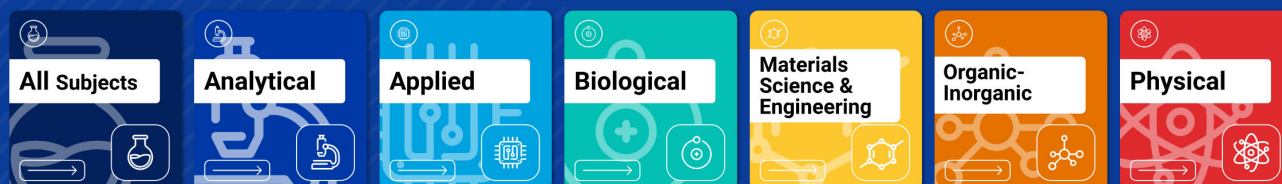
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