

LIFESTYLE . ARTS

THE MYSTERY OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S FLORA BUST

52' (GER, FRE, ENG subs)

An art scandal that was unprecedented in museum history. A curator who embarks on a clue-finding mission. Can the mystery surrounding the Flora bust finally be uncovered?

In 1909, Wilhelm von Bode procured a bust of the Greek goddess of flowers "Flora" for the Berlin sculpture collection, which he took to be an original work by Leonardo da Vinci. The art scandal that he thereby evoked in Europe was unprecedented in museum history. Was the bust really a work by the ingenious artist Leonardo da Vinci? Or was it a work by the English sculptor Richard Cockle Lucas from the mid-19th century? Generations of art historians have racked their brains over this issue, even up to the present day. Curator Neville Rowley reopens the art thriller and embarks on a clue-finding mission. By way of laboratory tests using up-to-date technology, will he succeed in proving that it is in fact a bust by the Renaissance genius?



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