

Leonardo Paints the *Last Supper*

Between 1494 and 1497, years that he spent in Milan in the service of Ludovico il Moro, Leonardo da Vinci realized one of his most demanding works. *The Last Supper*, painted in the refectory of the monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie, has a brilliant and innovative composition, as can be seen in the movement he imparted to the bodies of the apostles, reflecting their feelings, and in the concentrated expression of Christ. The painting soon became the object of great admiration on the part of his contemporaries, who appreciated the original handling of space and the expressiveness of the figures. However, the experimental technique that he used to realize the work led to its rapid deterioration. In fact, his decision to work the plaster in oil resulted in the progressive loss of paint.