

# The Untold Story of the 165-Year Search

## A Journey Through Time and Mystery

Prepare to embark on an enthralling literary expedition into the annals of art history and the enduring pursuit of a lost treasure. For over a century and a half, the world was captivated by the tantalizing mystery surrounding a legendary masterpiece. This book unveils the gripping untold story behind the 165-year search for this elusive work of art.



## Finding Franklin: The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search

by Russell A. Potter

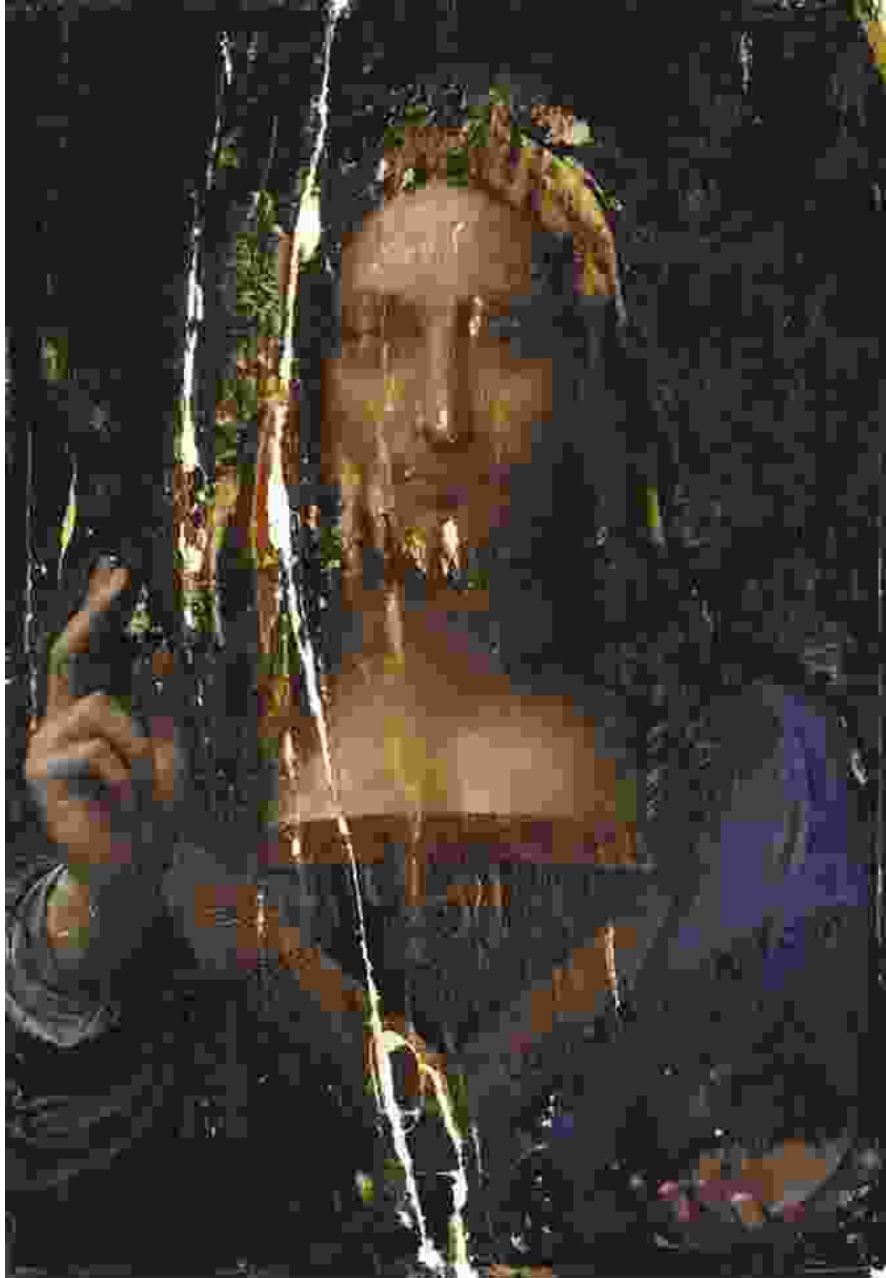
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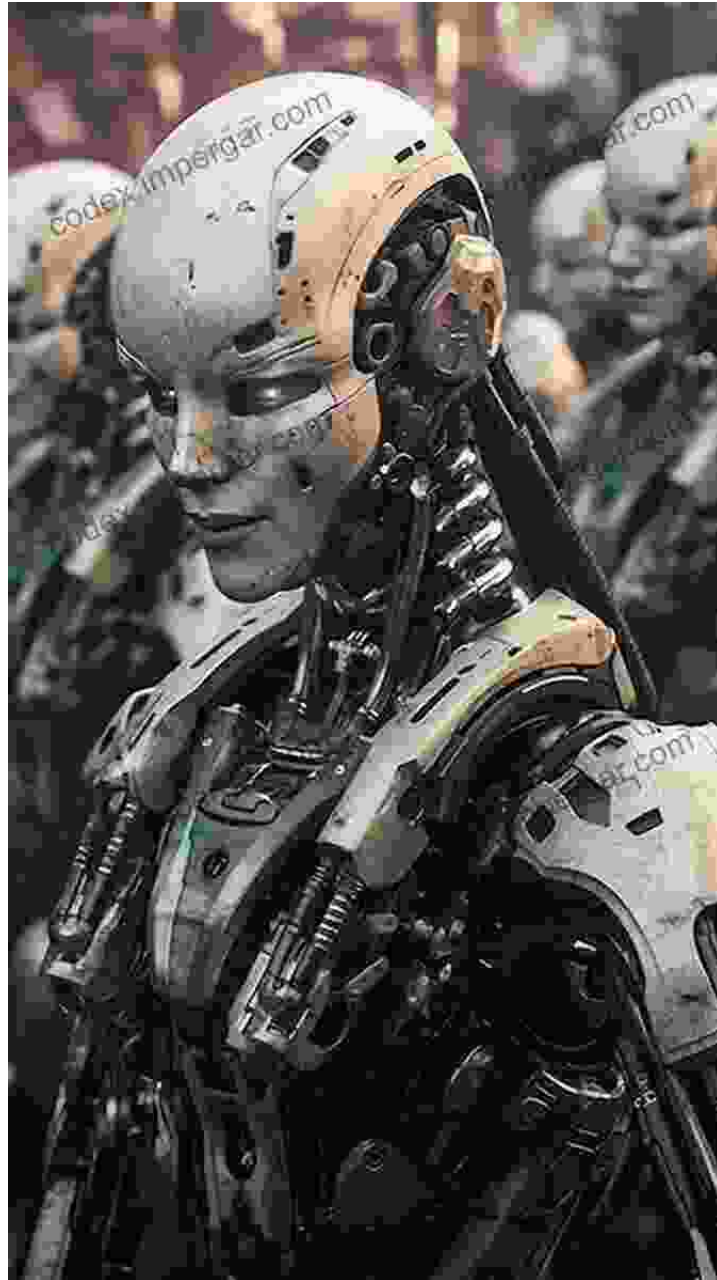
## Unraveling the Lost Legacy

The tale begins in the heart of Renaissance Italy, where a gifted artist created a masterpiece that would eventually vanish from the annals of history. Centuries later, rumors of its existence ignited a spark of curiosity that would ignite a generations-long quest.



## **Enter the Master Detectives**

As the search gained momentum, renowned art historians, collectors, and sleuths dedicated their lives to tracking down the lost masterpiece. They scoured archives, pored over documents, and followed trails that led to unexpected corners of the globe.



The tireless team of experts who dedicated their lives to unraveling the mystery.

### **Intrigues and False Leads**

The search was not without its share of false trails and dead ends. Rumors of the masterpiece's discovery in forgotten attics or private collections proved to be mere mirages. Art forgers and fraudsters attempted to

capitalize on the frenzy, further complicating the task of discerning truth from fiction.



## **The Elusive Breakthrough**

As decades turned into centuries, hope began to dwindle. But in a serendipitous twist of fate, a breakthrough occurred. An anonymous tip led researchers to a secluded manor in the English countryside. Within its dusty attic, amidst forgotten treasures, they stumbled upon a painting that matched the tantalizing description of the lost masterpiece.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Newly Discovered and Never-Before-Displayed Oil Paintings by J.E.H. MacDonald Donated to the Vancouver Art Gallery

Following a remarkable history, 10 rare artworks will be made accessible to the public for the first time since their creation.



Paintings and sketches by J.E.H. MacDonald

January 13, 2016, Vancouver, BC – Today the Vancouver Art Gallery unveiled a major donation of newly discovered oil paintings by James Edward Henry (J.E.H.) MacDonald (1873 – 1932)—modernist painter and founding member of the Group of Seven. Donated in a backyard by one of his nephews, and hidden for the public for decades, a rare collection of 10 oil sketches has been donated to the Gallery. Most of the sketches are by MacDonald, but one is by his nephew, Ernest MacEwan. These works will be presented as part of a temporary exhibit in the fall of 2016.

Painted by J.E.H. MacDonald early in his career, in 1910 to 1922, the sketches are exceptional in style and subject. MacDonald's most iconic large-scale paintings, which are now part of important collections across Canada, including the National Gallery of Canada and Art Gallery of Ontario, the works include *Sketch of Tangled Garden*, 1910, *Sketch of Circle by the Creek*, 1918, *Sketch of Fall, Agassiz River*, 1920, *Sketch of The Campsite*, 1910, *Sketch of a scene in the Brock*, 1919, *Sketch of Mt. Fennell, North Shore*, 1922, *Sketch of The Stone River*, 1919, and two other oil sketches, *Sketch (Algonquin)*, 1915 and *Sketch (Bartholomew Rapids)*, 1919 that do not exist in a larger format work.

Together these oil sketches provide a strong overview of both MacDonald's primary subject matter, depicting the use of the Canadian landscape—showing gardens, rivers, rapids, forests—and his evolving style prior to and around the time of his involvement with the Group of Seven.

"We are thrilled to have received these extraordinary paintings that are accompanied by such an incredible story," said Katherine S. Barnes, the Vancouver Art Gallery's Director. "We extend our sincere gratitude to the MacEwan Family for this remarkable gesture of generosity. This donation adds much depth to the existing works by MacDonald in our collection and enriches the Gallery's overall representation of the Group of Seven. It also sheds new light on some of the most overlooked and undervalued MacDonald paintings that are in public collections around the country."

### The Search and Discovery of MacDonald's Oil Sketches

The story of the sketches is traced back to the 1930s, when J.E.H. MacDonald and his nephew Ernest MacEwan, a village carpenter, decided in order to preserve and keep safe the works, MacDonald and his son Thomas MacEwan wrapped a group of oil paintings in sheets of cellophane and tape, and placed them inside some boxes which were then buried underground in the backyard of the family home. The sketches were not discovered until 2010.

The triumphant moment of discovering the long-lost treasure.

## Rediscovering a Masterpiece

Restored to its former glory, the lost masterpiece captivated audiences worldwide. Its rediscovery not only filled a void in art history but also provided invaluable insights into the techniques and styles of a legendary

artist. The unveiling of this forgotten gem became a testament to the enduring power of human perseverance and the allure of unsolved mysteries.



## **A Legacy for Generations**

The story of the 165-year search for the lost masterpiece serves as an enduring reminder of the enduring fascination with art and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. It is a testament to the power of curiosity, the ingenuity of researchers, and the unshakeable belief that even the most elusive secrets can be unveiled with time and dedication.

## **Embrace the Enchantment**

Delve into this compelling read and immerse yourself in the extraordinary journey of the 165-year search for the lost masterpiece. Let the pages transport you through time and mystery, captivating your imagination and leaving you forever enchanted by the enduring allure of art and the pursuit of the unknown.

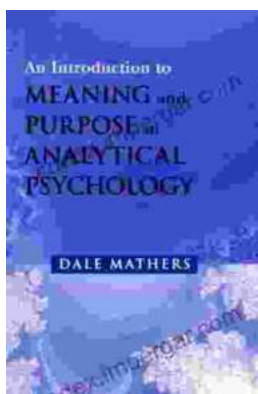


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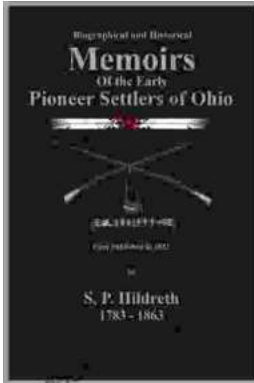
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