

Catalogue raisonné of the paintings

*Today I read Leonardo da Vinci's book on
painting and now understand why I have never
been able to understand anything in it before.*

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE, 1788





VII

From Mantua
to Venice
and back
to Florence

1500–1503

Those who put the moustache on Mona Lisa are not attacking it, or art, but Leonardo da Vinci the man. What irritates them is that this man with half a dozen pictures has this great name in history, whereas they, with their large oeuvre, aren't sure.

BARNETT NEWMAN, 1992



