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Computer Unlocks The Secret Of Mona Lisa's Smile

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12:28 PM, December 16th 2005 by Axxel

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What's with that weird smile? This has probably been the question that went through the head of every person that ever set eyes on Leonardo's masterpiece. However, the answer has now been discovered, with the help of modern technology.

Thus, a computer fitted with an "emotion-recognition software" or algorithm, developed by Dr Nicu Sebe - University of Amsterdam has revealed that Mona Lisa is 83 percent happy, 9 percent disgusted, 6 percent fearful and 2 percent angry.

The software was developed with the help of Professor Thomas Huang, a group leader at the Image Formation and Processing Faculty at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Sebe specializes in human-computer interaction, or HCI, a technology that allows computers to respond to human

beings appropriately by reading the expression on their faces. He used HCI software to create a 3D computer image of Mona Lisa.

The software looks at features such as the curvature of the lips and crinkles around the eyes to score six basic emotions. It scored Mona Lisa for happiness, disgust, fear, and anger, but found no evidence of surprise or sadness.

Well, the most important thing, in my opinion, is that the discovery proved once and for all that Mona Lisa was human (unlike other theories, that linked this painting to almost anything one could imagine), and was simply expressing a state of spirit, which was captured in a brilliant manner by the hand of a genius, Leonardo Da Vinci.

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