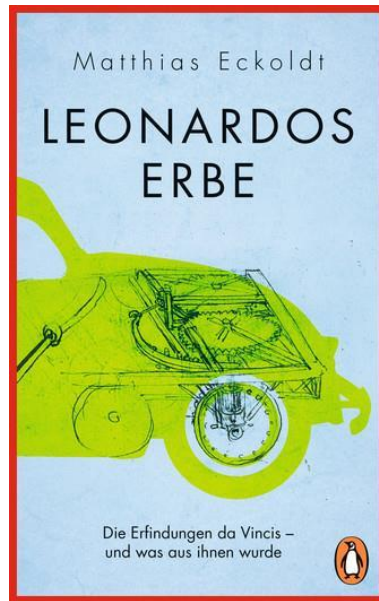


## Leonardo – a genius who sometimes floundered



Dr. Matthias Eckoldt  
**Leonardo's Heritage**  
[Leonardos Erbe]  
Da Vinci's inventions –  
and what became of them

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**Matthias Eckoldt**, born in 1964, is an author, lecturer and radio contributor with multiple awards to his name. He has published novels, essays and non-fiction books. In addition, Eckoldt has written numerous texts on cultural history and science for radio broadcasting. For his work he was awarded the 2009 idf prize for scientific journalism. At present Eckoldt is a lecturer in writing at the FU in Berlin.

In his mind he links a wide variety of fields of science and takes on the elements; he is fascinated by water and dreams of flying. We know of more than eighty inventions by Leonardo da Vinci – underwater boats, double-armed cranes, a printing press and an automobile.

Yet not all of this universal genius's ideas were of practical use or even functional. Bestselling writer Matthias Eckoldt sees Leonardo as a child of his time and shows us the simple man behind the most expensive painter of all times. And he tells the vivid and gripping story of which inventions were necessary before the objects were able to leave the world of Leonardo's imagination and step onto the stage of reality.