

Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical lion goes on display in Paris

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The original automaton, long since lost, was designed by da Vinci on a commission from Pope Leo X to amuse French king Francois I

Leonardo da Vinci's famous mechanical lion on Wednesday went on display in Paris for a month, in a tribute to the Renaissance master 500

years after his death.

The lion, which is two metres (six [feet](#), seven inches) high and three metres long and made of wood with a metal mechanism, is a reconstruction based on a rudimentary sketch left by da Vinci.

The original automaton, long since lost, was designed by da Vinci on a commission from Pope Leo X to amuse French king Francois I.

Da Vinci, who died in May 1519, had a legendary obsession with the flight of birds and how understanding the mechanism could lead to the creation of a human flying machine.

The lion is on display at the Italian Cultural Institute in Paris.

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