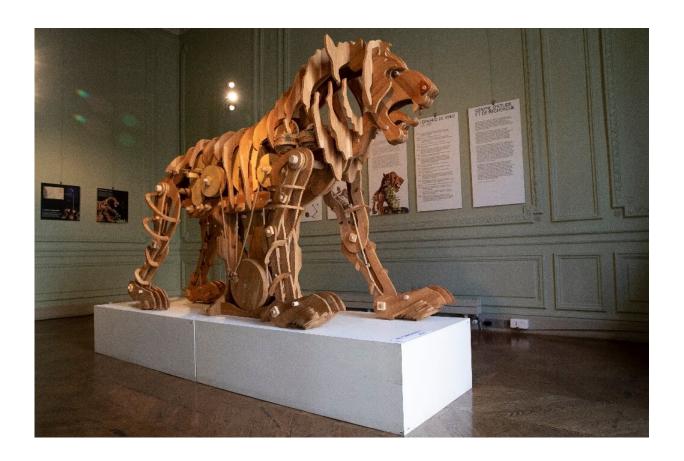


## Leonardo da Vinci's mechanical lion goes on display in Paris

September 12 2019



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 <u>feet</u>, 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 François 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 Institue in Paris.

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