

ART OF MEDICINE

Anatomy of a Medical Student

Fatimah Hafeez Choudhary

Abstract

A reductive linocut is created in progressive stages from a single block. Each color is printed on top of a previous layer, such that each cut is irremediable. This reductive linocut print is of a young woman's face with one side exposing what lies below her skin. The finality imposed by this medium offers an apt analogy to a medical student's first human cadaver anatomy dissection.

Figure. *Anatomy of a Medical Student*



Media

Reductive linocut print.

A reductive linocut is created in progressive stages from a single block. Each layer is carved and color is printed on top of the previous layer. The medium was invented by Pablo Picasso,¹ and it is aptly referred to as the “suicide print,” as it is virtually impossible to go back and recover from a mistake. Each cut is decisive, irremediable. When I first held scalpel to skin, I was doing dissection with fellow students, and there was tremendous pressure not to make a mistake. A broader ethical challenge for us medical students would be to pursue dissection while expressing respect for our cadaver’s humanity.

References

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Editor’s Note

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