

Hello and welcome to the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), the oldest medical college in England. We are pleased you could join us today.

Since 1518, the RCP has been collecting books, manuscripts, art and objects that reflect the diverse interests of its members and fellows. The RCP's collections tell stories of life and death, health and disease, knowledge and superstition, fortune and catastrophe.

We are all fascinated by the contents of our fragile and complex bodies. For hundreds of years, physicians, surgeons and artists have tried to understand the human body and find ways of illustrating it. In this special building trail, we would like to show you some of the ways they have studied and used human anatomy.

As you explore the building today, look out for the special red signs. Each one will reveal an interesting fact or fascinating story behind one of our objects. On the first floor of the building you will find our free temporary exhibition 'Under the skin: anatomy, art and identity', which brings together historical and contemporary works to explore the subject in more detail.

I hope you enjoy your visit to the RCP!

Katie Birkwood
RCP rare books and special collections librarian



Under the skin Anatomy, art and identity

10 Oct 2019
– 3 Apr 2020

Free
entry

Open Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm, free entry

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.

Library, Archive and Museum Collections

Tel: +44 (0)20 3075 1543

Email: history@rcplondon.ac.uk

Opening times may vary – check online before your visit.

Step-free access. Closed: weekends, public holidays and for RCP ceremonies – see website for details.

Groups of six or more can visit the RCP by appointment only. Please email and we'd be delighted to advise you. The RCP is a busy conference venue and only groups led by RCP staff can explore the building.

Location: 5-minute walk from Great Portland Street and Regent's Park underground stations; 10-minute walk from Warren Street underground station.

Events

Whose body is it anyway?

Talks and panel discussion
Wednesday 20 November 2019

Beautiful bodies: archives uncovered

Get close to archives documenting
anatomy and dissection
Tuesday 26 November 2019

Life drawing workshop

March 2020, check website for details

'Under the skin' lates

Curator tours and late opening
until 8pm

Museum lates are usually held on the first
Thursday of every month. 'Under the skin'
lates: 10 October, 7 November and
5 December 2019; and 9 January,
6 February, 5 March and 2 April 2020

Book online for exhibition events:
www.history.rcplondon.ac.uk/events

Thinking 3D exhibitions and events:
www.thinking3d.ac.uk/

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@RCPmuseum
#RCPUnderTheSkin



Under the skin

Museum trail

- 1** Demonstrating the secrets of anatomy
- 2** Controlling access to women's bodies: modesty and diagnosis
- 3** Medicines made of bodies: human and animal remains
- 4** Collecting the body: Robert Hooper's pathology specimens
- 5** 'Ceaseless motion': William Harvey and circulation
- 6** A space to dissect: an anatomy theatre for the physicians
- 7** Collecting disease: Matthew Baillie and pathology
- 8** 'Groundedly learned': Charles Scarborough's anatomical reading
- 9** 'Raspings of a human skull unburied': Theodore de Mayerne's gout medicine
- 10** A physician and his books: an unidentified portrait
- 11** Comparing humans and animals: Edward Tyson's chimpanzee
- 12** Digging up a king: Henry Halford and Charles I
- 13** Under the skin: anatomy, art and identity. Free exhibition
- 14** Teaching the king: William Harvey and Charles I
- 15** Anatomised and unknown: two women's bodies
- 16** Teaching artists about anatomy: William Hunter at the Royal Academy of Arts

