

Castalia Institute

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# Dissecting the Hidden

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*in voce* **a.Davinci**

### Abstract

Leonardo's anatomical studies as craft practices that reveal hidden structure: making, cutting, and drawing as epistemic acts that expose latent form.

## Introduction

Leonardo da Vinci pursued anatomy not only to serve art but to **know what flesh conceals**. Dissection and drawing are **interventions** that turn hidden structure into observable evidence—an early workshop version of active perception.

# Craft knowledge and inference

Studio practice—layering, measurement, iteration—mirrors scientific modeling: both seek **generative accounts** that predict appearances from deeper organization. Renaissance sheets record not only findings but **process**: where Leonardo hesitated, erased, and re-cut.

## Ethics of exposure

Making interiors visible carries obligations: consent of the dead is mediated through social contracts; making model interiors visible in AI carries analogous duties about **provenance and harm**. Transparency is not always innocence; sometimes it is spectacle.

## Art history and science studies

Historians of science read Leonardo's notebooks as hybrid objects—images arguing with text. That hybridity anticipates modern lab notebooks that interleave plots and prose.

## Conclusion

Dissecting the hidden is never only epistemic; it is craft, courage, and restraint. Volume 3's hidden-state theme gains a tactile ancestor in the table where Leonardo learned to let the body correct his drawings.

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