

## **INTRODUCTION FOR "THE HUMAN BODY REVEALED" EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE**

The images in this exhibit are as much reality as they are art. They are 3-D visualizations of actual human data, enlivened with color and artistry to make them intuitive to comprehend. Different scanning techniques, such as highly advanced MRI and CT scans, are used to acquire incredibly detailed images of the human form. But these devices can only take two dimensional pictures. Flat images of planes, slices through a subject's body in black, white, and gray, are difficult to see and hard to understand. Physicians train for years to make sense of the images that are the foundation of this art. Using proprietary software, the artists and scientists at Anatomical Travelogue take these flat pictures and make them into a virtual sculpture. By stacking the images one atop the next in virtual space, two dimensions become three, and the original form is rediscovered. Still, the sculpture is shadowed and monochrome without the life brought to it by nature's colors and design. The medical artists return the beauty, blood, and bile to the figures, until they resemble their original form. From living breathing human, to flat black diagnoses, to virtual figure with everything but life.... This is the art in science: to turn science into art.