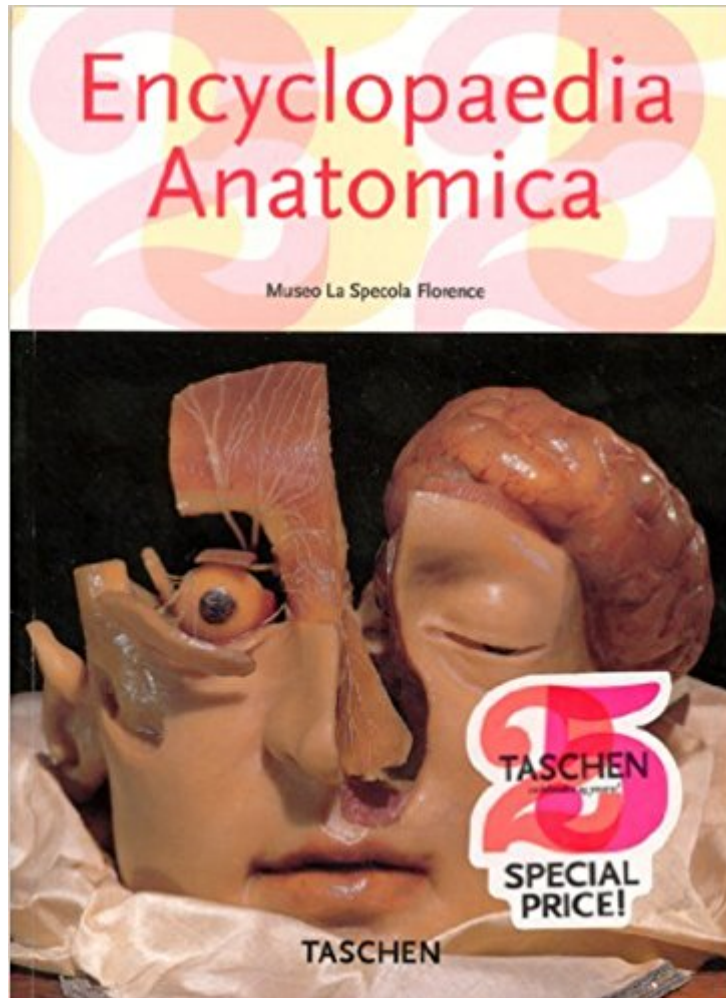




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# Encyclopedia Anatomica (Klotz)



## Synopsis

From the eccentric Museo La Specola in Florence comes this amazing collection of waxworks depicting the human anatomy in all its dazzling complexity. A selection of wax bodies and body part and organ studies from the museum's collection is presented here; from skeletons to vein structures, organs to nerves, and arteries to the delicate pores of the skin, the human body is mapped out in meticulous and exacting detail. Texts explaining the human anatomy in laypersons' terms and exploring the historical and cultural significance of the wax figures complete this "total body experience."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Few catalogues of science museums have the power to mesmerize their readers. Encyclopaedia Anatomica does just this, page after page, with its high-quality color reproductions of the collection of Florence's Museo La Specola. This amazing set of anatomical models, made mostly of wax, are so brilliantly lifelike that the casual reader is sure to mistake them for extraordinarily well-preserved bodies. Organized by anatomical section, each of hundreds of models are displayed to show off their most flattering aspect; despite the respectful attitudes held by the book editors and designers, the macabre nature of the exhibits is irrepressible. Particularly eerie are the tableaux of Gaetano Giulio Zumbo, who used similar techniques to create terrifying metaphorical portraits of the harsh life of the 18th century. While the descriptions aren't specific enough to yield much insight into the

anatomical detail, this would still make an excellent companion to a text or laboratory manual. The introductory essays cover the history of the museum, the artists, and their techniques thoroughly and engagingly. If the inside of the body is as beautiful to you as the outside, you should find *Encyclopaedia Anatomica* a charmingly powerful work. --Rob Lightner --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Monika von Düring is Professor of Neuroanatomy at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany. Her brief medical explanations help to guide both lay-reader and medical expert through this graphic encyclopaedia of anatomy. Marta Poggesi is a biologist, and has been curator of the Museo Zoologico La Specola since 1969. Parallel to research projects, she manages and catalogues the zoological collection, to which the anatomical wax bodies and parts belong. Georges Didi-Huberman is professor at the College of Social Sciences in Paris. His contribution underscores the tension inherent in this collection: between religious votive wax figures, mannerist art and wonder chambers and the Enlightenment.

Reading this was the best possible preparation for the hour I spent in the exhibit at Florence last spring. The lighting there is poor, and the labels are none too enlightening, so I felt fortunate that this exquisitely photographed overview had oriented me to the uniqueness of the works and had given me a sort of self-selected scavenger hunt list to route me through the dank and undervisited collection galleries.

Gave to my son who is a P.A. Really amazing, unique book with incredible history.

This incredible book gives the reader 3 D views of all aspects of human anatomy in full color. As a body worker, this has been invaluable for me in negotiating the many structures found in the body, muscular and otherwise.

A great book for those who are interested in this unique collection of anatomical wax models. Incredibly well photographed and documented, doesn't skim on any details. It's good to see this not very well known collection credited and recorded in a thorough reference.

I am so glad to have discovered, at long last, this superb medical/anatomical/art book (printed in 1999 by Taschen) which arrived in 100% perfect condition from the UK in June 2015, thanks to .

Some years ago, when I purchased an eyewitness book as a gift for a juvenile reader ["The Human Body" (DK Publishing)], I first learned of the Museo La Specola, but only after I had visited magnificent Florence with its overwhelming abundance of art treasures, I somehow overlooked this museum displaying a collection of exquisite Italian 18th century works replicating the intricacies of human anatomy - all in tinted wax. Now, with this Encyclopaedia Anatomica, I have a complete record, in stunning photography, that captures not only the accuracy of anatomical detail layer by layer but also the pathos of the human condition from pre-birth to the heights of human development, beauty and grace. As I peruse these pages, I can't help but think that I am witnessing the autopsy of Botticelli's Birth of Venus (if memory serves, his beautiful long-haired model died very young). There are even language lessons here: text has been supplied in English, German and French. Not to be missed, a must for all devotees of fine art and vintage medical illustrations. This book brings to mind like few others I've seen that marvelous scripture verse: we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Beautiful photos of remarkable anatomical wax models. Great for study of anatomy

I bought this book used but in very good condition (the pages are intact and spine undamaged). Very detailed pictures and fantastic for an artist who likes drawing gore (perfect for anatomical reference). I would definitely recommend this to someone with similar interests in medical anatomy.

It is astonishing what the medical wax sculptors were able to do with wax. The models are so realistic and detailed that I had to check the introduction to make sure that they were not actual preserved specimens. Almost every page is dominated by a single high-quality photo of a wax model of some part of human anatomy, and there are 700 pages. There is very little text and almost no naming of the details within a single photo, just a title (giving the scientific names of the major features being illustrated) and brief caption describing the whole model. So this is not a substitute for an anatomy book (though it would make a great companion). Every part of anatomy that I can think of is well-represented, usually by many sculptures showing different layers and cutaway views - brain, heart, lungs, skeleton, eyes, sexual organs, cutaway views of stages of pregnancy, the different parts of the digestive system, musculature, incredibly detailed networks of blood vessels, inner ear, and many groups of different body parts to show how they fit together. My one criticism of the book is that I wish it had a larger format. I have verified the dimensions stated by , which are 7.87 x 5.70 for the version that I am reviewing.

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