

# Honors 177



## ***“Hidden Beneath”***

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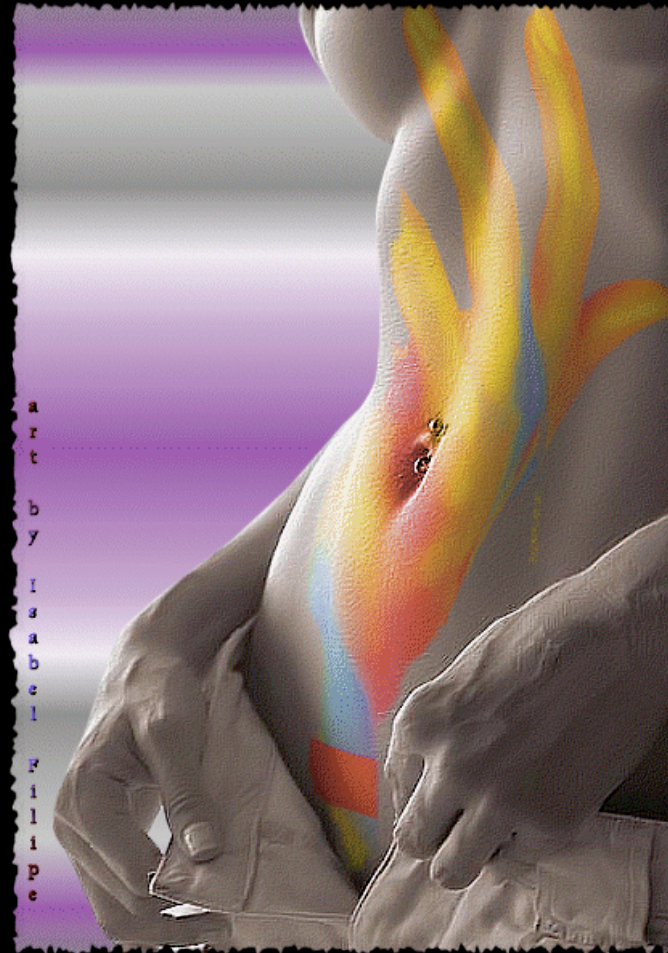
# ABSTRACT

Body painting can be both spiritual and provocative. However, the painting of inner organs on the skin provides knowledge about human anatomy and possible pathology that hides beneath the exterior. Viewers will be able to identify with the painted models and see themselves from the inside out. This representation may not only educate about inner anatomy but also inspire people to alter their lifestyles according to the needs of their bodies.



# CONCEPT / TOPIC

I intend to educate the general public on the structures, functions, and the possible pathology that may lie beneath their skin. Painted models will pose for the viewers, allowing them to see their inner organs. The models will represent people from all walks of life, from cancer-infested smokers to crippled obese individuals. The primary goal of this exhibition is to allow the viewers to connect with the models, and ultimately themselves. This may inspire a positive change in lifestyles and promote public health awareness.



# CONTEXT & PRECEDENTS



For centuries, *mehndi* — the art of henna painting on the body — has been practiced in India, Africa, and the Middle East, where the henna plant is believed to bring love and good fortune, and to protect against evil. Mehndi is traditionally practiced for wedding ceremonies, during important rites of passage, and in times of joyous celebration. A paste made from the crushed leaves of the henna plant is applied to the skin, and when removed several hours later, leaves beautiful markings on the skin that fade naturally over 1 to 3 weeks (EarthHenna).

Thus, many people consider bodypainting as an ancient form of art. In contrast to permanent tattoos, bodypainting is temporary, yet it may inspire a permanent change in the way people view themselves.

# PROJECT PROPOSAL



An all-white gallery room will hold the exhibition. The only color in the room will come from live human models who will be painted according to their lifestyle. Athletes will have painted muscles on their entire bodies; smokers will have charred lungs and dark throats painted on their chest and neck; morbidly obese individuals will be depicted with degraded joints, abnormal hearts, and an overwhelming amount of fat cells.

# Project Proposal (cont.)



As step two of the project, viewers will voluntarily be exposed to a battery of medical tests to determine their body mass index, total lung capacity, and other factors relative to general health. Upon the completion of these tests, the viewers will themselves become models and be painted according to their test results. They will then step into a room full of mirrors and explore their body from the inside out, so to speak. They may also take part in the next exhibition as live painted models. Ultimately, they will gain a better understanding of their health and possibly alter their lifestyles to improve their well-being. It is important to note that unlike some other exhibitions that depicted organs on the skin for artistic purposes, the intention behind this project is much more science driven.

# Conclusion

While some people consider themselves perfectly healthy, their bodies may not agree with such an assumption. For example, statistics show that over 30 million Americans suffer from heart disease. This exposition will allow the general public to get in touch with their inner organs, tissues, etc. It will allow them to gain a new perspective on the structures and functions of their bodies and how their lifestyles impact their health. The ultimate goals of this project are to enhance public health awareness and promote healthy lifestyles.



Future expositions may focus on those who may not be able to alter their lifestyles without outside help. For example, starved, disease-infested people of third-world countries without the means of improving their health may be depicted in a way that inspires people to help those in need. Whether this help comes in the form of international monetary donations or simply volunteering at the local food shelter, it is bound to have a drastic effect on worldwide health.

**ЭТО ВСЁ 😊**

**СПАСИБО ЗА ВНИМАНИЕ!!!**





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