

# Leonardo the anatomist

Nature Video explores the Renaissance master's medical discoveries.

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Leonardo da Vinci is well known as the great polymath of the High Renaissance, an artistic titan whose expertise in disciplines from optics to geology was astounding for the time. But he was also a skilled anatomist. Among the 30,000 pages of his notebooks are anatomical studies that, had they been published in time, might have changed the course of medicine.

Now, 87 of these studies — part of The Royal Collection at Windsor Castle — are on show at The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace in London from 4 May to 7 October.

In this video, Martin Clayton, senior curator of prints and drawings at the Royal Collection, discusses three of his most innovative works. Taken all together, Leonardo's anatomical studies cover the dissections of 30 human corpses and reveal his unsurpassed sense of form and restless urge to investigate.

Clayton's in-depth article on da Vinci's intense period of medical exploration, '[Leonardo's anatomy years](#)', is published in the Books and Arts section of *Nature* this week.

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