Art and anatomy event to illustrate wonders of human body

Doctors and artists are joining forces to host an evening of art and anatomy that will illustrate the wonders of the human body.

Hands-on workshops will give people the chance to body paint the muscles, tendons and blood vessels of the neck on each other.

Participants will also be able to mould clay models of the heart that are anatomically correct and life-sized.

They will be guided by artists, surgeons and anatomy experts.

Taking place at the University of Edinburgh’s Anatomical Museum, participants will be surrounded by material that has been used to teach medical students for centuries.

The evening will begin with a talk and live demonstration from world-renowned American body artist Danny Quirk.

His unique body painting technique uses liquid latex and marker pens to create captivating pieces of anatomical artwork.

He will present a new piece of work at the event, inspired by the rich history of anatomy teaching in the former home of the University’s Medical School.

Renowned hand surgeon Mr Wee Lam and Edinburgh artist George Donald will also present a session on the anatomy of the hand.
Art has a long history in the teaching of anatomy and the documentation of surgery. Long before photography and moving images were available, detailed drawings and paintings were a fundamental part of a medical student’s training.

The event has been organised by Art and Anatomy Edinburgh.

Art and Anatomy Edinburgh was founded in November 2014 by Nichola Robertson, anatomy and surgical teaching fellow, and Meg Anderson, junior surgical trainee. The duo joined forces with artist Kimmie Simpson to find innovative ways of teaching medical students anatomy using different art media.

Nichola Robertson said: “Visualising anatomy through art is a valuable and engaging teaching aid that appeals to a variety people.”

Meg Anderson said: “We are very excited to offer members of the public an opportunity to explore how their bodies are made up through these fun and informative workshops.”

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