

**Atlas of Human Anatomy and Surgery**

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Taschen, Los Angeles

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Judging from the historical references proliferating in contemporary design, it's high time to revisit what the world once marveled at. After the surprise hit Taschen scored in 2001 with vintage illustrations of Albert Seba's 17th-century cabinet of curiosities comes a reprint of the *Atlas of Human Anatomy and Surgery*, a gorgeous, shoulder-dislocating compendium of anatomical drawings from the mid-19th century. For some, the text will be a hard pill to swallow: long disquisitions thick with trivia on lithography, and on the *Atlas's* provenance and its illustrators' histories. But the plates are stunning. In their minute, painstaking details one senses the awe the body once commanded when it was a new, uncharted world begging for exploration.