

The Rhizome Research Group proudly announces a talk by Joanna Ebenstein, Morbid Anatomy Library, New York:

## Anatomical Venuses, The Slashed Beauty, and Fetuses Dancing a Jig

A Journey into the Curious World of the Medical Museum

Thursday, 7th October 2010

UCL, Department of History of Art, 20 Gordon Square, WC1E 6BT London  
Room 3-4 (first floor), 6pm

Everybody wellcome!



This highly-illustrated lecture will introduce you to the the Medical Museum and its curious denizens, from the Anatomical Venus to the Slashed Beauty, the allegorical fetal skeleton tableau to the taxidermied bearded lady, the flayed horseman of the apocalypse to the three fetuses dancing a jig. The lecture will contextualize these artifacts by situating them within their historical context via a discussion of the history of medical modeling, a survey of the great artists of the genre, and an examination of the other death-related diversions which made up the cultural landscape at the time that these objects were originally created, collected, and exhibited.

**Joanna Ebenstein** is a multi-disciplinary artist with a academic background in intellectual history. She runs the Morbid Anatomy blog and related open-to-the-public Brooklyn-based Morbid Anatomy Library. Her recent work--which includes photography, curation, installation, blogging, museum consultation and writing--centers on anatomical museums and their artifacts, collectors and collecting, the history of museums and display, arcane media and rational amusements, curiosities and marvels, 18th and 19th Century natural history and, as the subtitle of her blog states, "surveying the interstices of art and medicine, death and culture." Her work has been shown and published internationally and recent solo exhibitions include The Secret Museum and Anatomical Theatre. You can find out more at her at her website [Astropop](http://Astropop) and her blog [Morbid Anatomy](http://MorbidAnatomy).

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