



The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp, painting by Rembrandt, 1632. Photo by: Photo12/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

Artist with a scalpel

"Please stand back,"

spoken to naïve students.

All strain to get a glimpse of red,

yet are constantly teased by an ocean of blue.

Humans who can produce both miracles and tragedies

see others for what they are on the inside.

Akin to a sculptor handling a marble slab,

they envision their masterpiece and chisel away

any acquired imperfections.

Arrays of instruments under their command,

experienced hands produce orchestrated movements.

Suction pumps slurping and cauterizers hissing,

the shades of red, white, and pink begin to entwine

for the finale.

Hours seeming like seconds,

the skin tailors carefully sew the final seam.

The artists breathe a sigh of relief,

praying to never see their creation again.

— Ariya Mobaraki, MD