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Gilroy AM, MacPherson BR,  
Ross LM. Atlas of anatomy  
(paperback, English nomenclature)

1st edition. New York: Thieme Medical  
Publishers, Inc.; 2008. 656 pages; ISBN  
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**Field:** Medical (anatomy) education.

**Format:** Soft cover.

**Audience:** Medical/dental students, doctors.

**Purpose:** *Nomen est omen*, hence the purpose of the Atlas is to give insight into human anatomy and provide a new learning and studying experience.

**Content:** The atlas is divided into 7 divisions/regions (Back, Thorax, Abdomen & Pelvis, Upper Limb, Lower Limb, Head & Neck, and Neuroanatomy), further divided into a total of 42 chapters. There is also an Appendix, which contains a list of answers to surface anatomy questions that appear throughout the atlas in the topographic parts of the chapters. The atlas has 2200 full-color highly realistic illustrations, organized in instructive two-page spreads/lessons, which effectively direct the reader's attention to the importance of a small, "finite" lesson. The illustrations are accompanied by clinical images, x-rays, magnetic resonance and computed tomography scans, and endoscopic views. Every region's (except Neuroanatomy) or chapter's anatomy is structured in such a way that it starts with the underlying skeletal framework, the muscles (and organs), neurovasculature and ends with the surface anatomy. Thus, anatomy is gradually revealed, but in an approach that is inverse to the usual one during a cadaver section. Also, students are guided through a chapter/body region by clear images which help them achieve the ultimate goal – spatial orientation and understanding of the human body. What this also creates is a completely interchangeable approach to both the systemic and topographic anatomy, finished off with the surface anatomy. Just the superior quality of the illustrations would be enough to recommend this atlas over other atlases, but besides that, this atlas is incredibly well

made from the didactical point of view. Especially well organized in the didactic sense are "Muscle fact pages" (ie, tables), which provide the most important basics about muscles (origin, insertion, function, and innervation) for easy reference and review. Also, such texts can be found for other topics, eg, lymphatics, neuroanatomy, and clinical or physiological function/significance. The illustrations show a fine balance between the details and the number of labels, which creates an easy overview of the most important structures without being lost in numerous/superfluous details.

**Highlights and limitations:** What sets this atlas apart from other atlases is the art and superior quality of the illustrations, which create a constant sense of wonder and appreciation of the structures and the intricacies of the human body. I have been teaching human anatomy in different courses to students of different backgrounds (and interests) using a wide variety of tools – from books, atlases, and interactive multimedia to the cadaver work – always trying to "impress" them with the beauty, complexity, and wonder of the human body and always looking for the "one" tool that has it all – the atlas that covers the topics and concepts I believe to be important. Well, I will have to look no further, because I have found it. The most impressive art of the illustrations combined with a wonderful selection of anatomical content is before us. And I for one have already made it compulsory reading/enjoying material for the courses I teach.

**Related reading:** The Atlas comes in both soft and hard cover, has an accompanying set of flash cards, and has expanded content (including exclusive content) on its study aid web page <http://winkingskull.com/navigation.aspx> (featuring timed test with scores!).