## Myelin, Mycelium, and the Seat of Consciousness By Natalie Freeman

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The human skeleton is an object of study in the fields of medicine and science and a symbol with a complexi- ty of applications within art history; but rarely is the human skeleton simply appreciated for its form. My academic studies involve both science and art. Working in a human osteology lab, I could not prevent myself from appreciating the human skeleton for its artistic formal qualities while also analyz-

ing the functional and medically relevant qualities of human bones. This extensive and intimate study of the human form gave me the opportunity to look at each bone in isolation, turning it over in my hands—scrutinizing every feature—and I felt as if I was holding delicate sculptures every day. I wanted to convey my experiences and my appreciation for the design of the human skeleton through an artwork

and corresponding series of studies. By pairing scientific illustration with creative interpretation, I carve out a category of visualization between the diagrammatic and the abstract, the informational and the interpretive—the objective and creative.



Ink and gold leaf, 24x24 in, 2021