Seeing is not necessarily believing

I was intrigued by the strange postures adopted by the Ming Dynasty models to illustrate acupuncture meridians, as in the first image. My bathroom has one electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling, and while I was in the bath reaching for soap, I observed a single line of reflected light going up my wet forearm in a direction that depended on the position of my arm. Such a ‘line’ of reflected light can be seen in the model, covered in oil, shown in the second image. Provided the model poses in a similar way to a Ming Dynasty drawing, the pathway of that particular channel can be seen.

(Reproduced from MIMS Magazine Oct (1977) 67–83 with kind permission of the publishers).

Image and text provided by Alex Macdonald

Do you have any interesting images relating to any aspect of acupuncture that you would like to share with other acupuncturists? If so, please contact the editor through info@aim.bmj.com
Seeing is not necessarily believing

*Acupunct Med* 2012 30: 2
doi: 10.1136/acupmed-2012-010147

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://aim.bmj.com/content/30/1/2

These include:

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://www.bmj.com/company/products-services/rights-and-licensing/

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/content/subscribers

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/