

## **Medical Experiences, Visual Rhetoric, and Stories of Love: The Incredible Lightness of Being X-Rayed**

**T**he text uses narrative and collage to illuminate how the medical experience affects the way we view illness, physicians, and our bodies by analyzing the artifacts produced by medical imaging technologies – text and images – based on Surrealist, literary, and theatre theories. It's also about love and normalcy, novels and PET scans. The technique introduces art and literature to scientific documentation, helping to identify new, sometimes subversive meanings in images and text, bridging space between the sciences and humanities. It offers a way of seeing. The text questions itself, via Brecht's alienation techniques in the theater, by emphasizing its form as fluid, subjective, and deceitful with content stemming from its creator's desires and limitations rather than knowledge and truth. The text uses a rhetorical approach to examining the medical images and how they come into existence, with the method becoming part of the story. I tell a story about a patient and doctor, fragment medical imaging artifacts and other texts, put them back together in queer ways, and evaluate the experience and the artifacts outside of literal meanings.