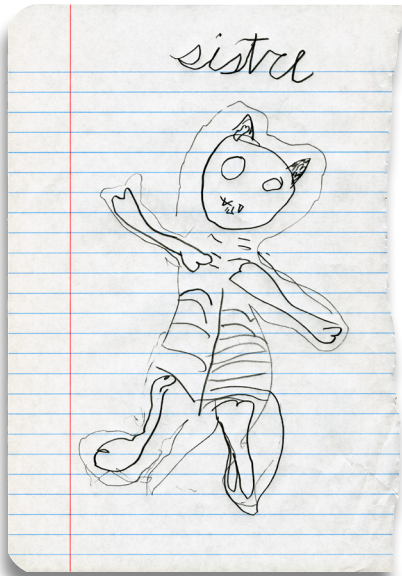


THOMAS ALLEN **BEAUTIFUL EVIDENCE**



*"The mind that's afraid to toy with the ridiculous will never create the brilliantly original..." –David Brin, **BRIGHTNESS REEF***

Not long ago, I was coming out the back door of our house when I heard, "Daddy look!" I turned to see my 8-year-old daughter, Miren, flapping her arms wildly as she ran around the field—a turkey feather in each hand. The mix of joy and sheer abandon on her face (as she pretended to fly) was priceless.

"In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual." –Galileo Galilei

When Miren was 11-months-old, she received a pair of stuffed cats that eventually became known as **Tiger** and **Sister**. One night, she walked into my office and handed me something.

"Here."

"What's this?"

"It's Sister's x-ray. She's been sick and needed tests."

It seems the older kids in her Montessori class were studying the human skeletal system and this piqued her curiosity. At home, Miren traced the outline of Sister's body onto a sheet of paper and drew what she thought Sister might look like on the inside – complete with canine teeth and tiny earbones (the best part).

*"Science and art have in common **intense seeing**, the wide-eyed observing that generates empirical information...seeing turns into showing... empirical observations turn into explanations and evidence." –Edward Tufte, **BEAUTIFUL EVIDENCE***

I never imagined that my daughter and her uninhibited sense of wonder would become the inspiration for this work – an intimate and oddly-empirical look at science. However, I shouldn't be surprised since wonder and imagination inspire both the desire to create and our need to understand. Without them, we have nothing.