Dodecahedron was open. Why? No one knows. Many of his works were left unfinished, and were abandoned, left propped against a wall where he started them when he decided it was time to move on. Starting life impoverished and uneducated, he grew into a man revered; a recognised genius in art, as an inventor and as a brilliant and dedicated scientist. A living paradox, da Vinci left carefully constructed notebooks that are filled to overflowing with scientific notations, descriptions and amazing illustrations. Bizarrely, they were written and diagrammed backwards and required a mirror to read. If there was a reason for his doing so, like the child in the BeLonging project who would not speak, da Vinci did not tell us, and those who knew him left no record of ever being told why this was so. The archives he left reveal the astonishing way that his mind worked; many concepts were left unfinished in the same way that he left many paintings. More than a few of his wild imaginings have become real, everything from the helicopter to a life-saving parachute to the unimaginable cluster bomb, a tool of destruction and death. A rigorous scientist and authentic philosopher, while da Vinci left little about himself, what remains of his life are lessons for all future generations.

In Figure 6.23, it was clear that the five-fold symmetry appears in the structure of petals of weeds and flowers alike. While most are familiar with Leonardo da Vinci’s Vitruvian man, his illustration makes it clear that he understood man to have a structural and physical relationship with the Dodecahedron. In Figure 6.25 is a sculpture based on the human antibody that was created by physicist/artist, Julian Voss-Andreae (2010, figures 8 and 9). Entitled Angel of the West, it is shown here superimposed over da Vinci’s masterpiece, revealing the beauty of the 3/4/5 symmetry. This art was commissioned by the Scripps Institute in Jupiter, Florida.

Figure 6.25 Voss Andreae’s human antibody superimposed on da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man.
Source: With permission from the artist, Voss Andreae (2010).