

## **The Heidelberg BODY WORLDS Museum – On track to happiness!**

Great love, a carefree life, true friendship...all are elements humans cherish as they seek happiness. But where does happiness reside? Why can't we ever get enough of it? And why can't we hold on to happiness forever?

Beginning in late September 2017, the new BODY WORLDS museum at Altes Hallenbad will explore these and other questions in an all-new exhibition. Not only will the museum address *human anatomy*, organ functions and questions about health, but also the *anatomy of human happiness*.

According to curator Dr. Angelina Whalley, "Happiness resides within us, our bodies are the control center of our happiness, so to speak. On the one hand, a feeling of happiness is the result of certain neurotransmitters and hormones being released by the body. On the other hand, we experience these feelings of happiness with our bodies. Both happiness and a lack thereof immediately affect our bodies, too. If you are happy with yourself and your life, you will be sick less often, and are likely to live longer," says physician Dr. Whalley. "Our body is the center of our experience of self and of the world; it is the workshop where we fabricate our most elevated thoughts and deepest feelings, and it is a source of pleasure as well as pain," she added.

Staged over roughly 1,000 square meters inside the former men's bath of the Altes Hallenbad swimming pool, Dr. Gunther von Hagens and Dr. Whalley will present their exhibition about the human body that they specially designed for this Heidelberg location. The exhibit is intended to remind us what our most valuable possession is: our own bodies. "This exhibition fulfills a long time dream of mine, to bring plastination back to its birthplace," says plastinator Dr. von Hagens. "We aim to show visitors how wonderfully complex the human body is in a lifelike way, and to make them more aware of their own bodies during all phases of their lives."

The basis for the exhibition is Dr. von Hagens' groundbreaking invention of plastination, a preservation process the scientist invented while working at Heidelberg University in 1977. He has been improving the method ever since. His plastinates are impressive not only because of their extremely precise and scientifically focused preparation, but also thanks to their aesthetically pleasing, creative, and often delightfully whimsical presentation. More than 45 million people worldwide, 10 million of them in Germany alone, have been inspired and fascinated by plastinates in the BODY WORLDS exhibitions. Never before has an exhibition moved its audience and changed the public perception of the human body as substantially as Gunther von Hagens' BODY WORLDS exhibitions have.

The plastinates in the exhibit stem from the Heidelberg-based Institute for Plastination's body donation program which has more than 16,000 registered donors.

Additional information on the Heidelberg BODY WORLDS Museum are available at [www.bodyworlds.com](http://www.bodyworlds.com).