

Royal Pretzels Moving to the BODY WORLDS Museum in Heidelberg, Germany

Heidelberg, December 20, 2017 – Plastinating pretzels? Preserving them forever? Is that even possible? ‘But of course,’ says BODY WORLDS curator Dr. Angelina Whalley, who celebrated the introduction of these unique specimens to the BODY WORLDS museum yesterday. Needless to say, these are not just any baked goods, but the very two pretzels publicly shaped by Prince William and his wife, Kate, with the assistance of master baker Andreas Göbes during their visit to Heidelberg during the summer of 2017.

‘We are proud and very happy that we not only were able to plastinate the pretzels, but also to win them in the “Kinder unterm Regenbogen” (Children Under the Rainbow) charity auction,’ says Whalley. ‘The auction amount of € 2,355.67 now will go to children and families in need in the Rhine Neckar region, which makes me particularly happy.’ She adds: ‘In our culture, we often feel that we need to receive something in order to increase our happiness, something that we then can own. But happiness research has shown that it is actually the immaterial goods that will add most to our happiness. “Doing good will do you good” would describe it perfectly. When we do good deeds, the same reward centres in our brains are activated as during other moments of happiness. People who help others, who make time for others, have been proven to be more happy with their lives. That is something worth pondering, particularly during the holidays.’

Angelina Whalley picked the central topic of the Heidelberg BODY WORLDS exhibition “Anatomy of Happiness” with the intention to raise awareness of the various aspects of happiness – and of the effects happiness can have on the human body.

Plastinating the Pretzels

Plastinating food items is not part of Gunther von Hagens’ every day routine. “However, the individual steps of plastinating a pretzel are similar to those we employ when plastinating human specimens,” says plastinator von Hagens, adding: “Water and fat contained in the specimen are replaced by polymer under vacuum conditions. In order to be sure that we would be using the perfect polymer mixture, we ran a number of trial plastinations before actually working on the royal pretzels.”

The plastination of the pretzels took six weeks and was carried out by Gunther von Hagens’ team of experts at the PLASTINARIUM in Guben, Germany. At the PLASTINARIUM, 70 employees are involved mainly in creating plastinates for medical schools around the world, while continuously seeking to further refine the process of plastination. The PLASTINARIUM is open to visitors on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, when they can catch a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the BODY WORLDS exhibitions.

KÖRPERWELTEN

Anatomie des GLÜCKS

The Technique of Plastination

The plastination process itself is based on two exchange processes: In a first step, the body water and soluble fats are separated from the body by placing the body into a solvent bath (e.g., an acetone bath). Forced impregnation is the second and central step of the plastination process. During forced impregnation, a reactive polymer, e.g., silicone rubber replaces the acetone. To achieve this, the specimen is immersed in a polymer solution and placed in a vacuum chamber. The vacuum then removes the acetone from the specimen and helps the polymer to penetrate every last cell.

Hours of Admission to the Heidelberg BODY WORLDS Museum

Please note our holiday schedule when planning your visit to the BODY WORLDS museum. We strongly recommended buying tickets in advance at www.reservix.de.

December 24 (Christmas Eve) Closed

December 25 (Christmas Day) 10am–6pm*

December 26 (Boxing Day) 10am–6pm*

December 31 (New Year's Eve) 10am–6pm*

January 1, 2018 (New Year's Day)

On all other days, the BODY WORLDS museum will be open **9am–6pm Mondays–Fridays** and **10am–6pm Saturdays and Sundays**.

*Box office closes and last admission is at 5pm.

Street address: Altes Hallenbad, Poststrasse 36/5, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany

Hours of admission:

Mondays-Fridays: 9am–6pm; Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays: 10am–6pm

(last admission: 1 hour before closing)

Closed: December 24 and January 1.

Tickets: Individual tickets: €11–€17; tickets for groups of 10 or more: €10–€14

Additional information: www.bodyworlds.com/heidelberg

Press office of the BODY WORLDS Museum in Heidelberg

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