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## EDUCATION OR BUSINESS? - EXHIBITION OF HUMAN CORPSES

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### **Abstract**

Exhibition "BODY WORLDS" which are presented exhibits of human remains are presented all over the world and are a major problem for the modern man, as presented on the preparations of the human not only serve scientific research, are not transferred to the medical schools to educate future doctors, but they were made available to the general public in the form of commercial and ambiguous. The aim of this study was to assess the ethical commercialization of human corpses "BODY WORLDS" exhibitions. Individual approach to the problems presented the dignity and value of human remains after death, of course, strongly related to the professed worldview. In the exhibits can be seen in both the scientific interest anatomical structures, as well as desecrated human remains or beautiful by its functional perfection of the body, understood also in terms of art. The question of ethics determines the right to decide for themselves, on the other hand, allows you to protect bodily integrity even after death. "BODY WORLDS" exhibition goes for the moral and ethical boundaries. In terms of people Gunther von Hagens for plastination of human remains which

became a very profitable business, and its current activities defined as "plastination business" should be firmly said about the lack of moral principles.

**Keywords: anatomy, ethics, art, trade**

## **1. Introduction**

A series of exhibitions "Body Worlds" (Ger. Körperwelten) and the originator and creator of these exposures German pathologist Gunther von Hagens - are a major problem nowadays moral and ethical. The media does not fall silent debate between supporters and opponents of the controversial activity, but no less firmly noted that this phenomenon is accompanied by strong emotions in the wider public space (Krivokuca & Eric, 2011; Mehta, 2007; Barilan, 2006). The exhibition presents around the world since 1995, provide participants with a special kind of exhibits called. Plastinated bodies - mostly human, there are also animal e.g. an elephant, giraffes and bears, exhibits are created

Human cadaver, as a result of plastination, or generally speaking an innovative techniques for the preservation of dead organisms, invented and patented by Hagens in 1977, at the Institute of Anatomy at Heidelberg (Moore, & Brown, 2004; Jones, 2002).

## **2. Purpose of work**

The purpose of the study was to assess the ethical commercialization of human corpses BODY WORLDS exhibitions.

## **3. Description of knowledge**

Plastination maintains organs and tissues in the intact by using a reactive polymer that is replaced by liquid fluids and fats, leaving the rigid organs, deodorised and natural colours (Ravi, & Bhatt, 2011; Weiglein, 2002). From the perspective of education of medical students is an excellent teaching material, particularly with regard to health and safety during practical classes with normal human anatomy, because plastinates were initially just to serve that purpose, but now the plastination has revolutionized the traditional perception of the anatomy of the human body through public screenings. The idea created a new exhibition space, an alternative context for the discussion on the human body (Burns, 2007; Myser, 2007; Latorre et al., 2007). Gunter von Hagens activities to some extent refer to the traditional knowledge of the mysteries of the human body because different methods of conservation bodies have been known for a long time, for example. Embalmed bodies in the case of Egyptian mummies. In fact, the exhibition "Body Worlds" are a major problem for the modern man, as presented on the preparations of the human not only serve scientific research, they are not transferred to the medical schools to educate future doctors, but were made available to the general public in the

commercial and ambiguous form (Das, & Ghafar 2011; Hildebrandt, 2008; Zhang, Wang, Xiao, Han, & Ding, 2008; Koppers, 2004). Many crafted entirely of human bodies have been arranged in poses arranged as scenes from everyday life. Realism of these exhibits was taken to the extreme, even crafted body of a man and a woman during sexual intercourse, or exhibit an indexing body of a pregnant woman (cut in such a way as to be able to see the fetus) (Figure 1) in this context exhibits do not serve or medicine or science, but a strong sensation that determines the popularity of these exhibitions, they also reveal the image of contemporary culture, where the ranges of science, art, religion are mutually exclusive, one negating the other.



Figure 1. Exhibit indexing the body of the pregnant woman  
(<https://twitter.com/drlindseyfitz/status/502063535518912513>)

In terms of people Gunther von Hagens for plastination of human remains which became a very profitable business, and its current activities defined as "plastination business" should be firmly said about the lack of moral principles. The eccentric anatom-creating himself as the researcher and inventor is a completely scandalous degree of the doctor (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, 2013; Singh, 2003). At this point

it should be noted that people living have direct moral obligations towards people dead, what is more, all commercial activities involving human corpses is considered to be the lack of respect for life and grossly contrary to the ethics (Morciniec, 2009).

Gunter von Hagens repeatedly emphasizes that *"not crossed any borders. Never, because plastinates not dehumanized; not present, for example, bladder, as a vase"* (Kloss, 2008).

Most controversy and opposition to the activities of a German doctor plastinated bodies affect trade in human corpses coming mainly from China (Figure 2), is simultaneously outrageous and unacceptable in the civilized world, unlawfully and ethics. Information indicating inhuman proceedings gave weekly Oriental Outlook (November 24, 2003.), Inter alia, that belongs to the German entrepreneur Chinese factory for Plastination in Dalian (founded in August 1999. With the consent of the municipal authorities), he sold many exhibits made from corpses Chinese, including earning hundreds of millions of dollars. Sui Hongjin - former director of the factory for Plastination, in an interview with Oriental Outlook in 2003, said: *"Hagens does not intend to expose the exhibits in China because it would bring no significant profit. He wanted only to China has become the production base, because the cost of labour and raw materials here are much lower"* (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, 2013).

产品详细

### 胎儿10周到32周



产品价格: 面议  
产品展商: 大连鸿峰生物科技有限公司  
所在地区: 辽宁  
发布时间: 2012-8-3

询价留言 与企业取得联系时请告知该信息获取自 中国教育装备采购网

详细介绍

Figure 2. Plastinated human fetuses for sale online (World Organization to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong, 2013).

Individual approach to the problems presented the dignity and value of human remains after death, of course, strongly related to the professed worldview, despite differences in the evaluation of the activities of this man, as well as exhibitions Body Worlds, the evaluation of such proceedings is negative (Table 1). The exhibits can be seen both in terms of interesting scientific anatomical structures, as well as desecrated human remains or beautiful by its functional perfection of the body, it understood also in terms of art. An important role is played by way of contact viewer with exhibits. Nevertheless, all this is happening in the area many ethical debates, numerous digressions and accusations against the alleged lack of consent of the donor bodies, or advertising and marketing, and the ability to purchase, for a fee, pieces crafted human tissue and animal, and consequently so forth issues you can use the finding that modern man gives up the moral law, which is in accordance with the general order, contained in human nature and his personal dignity (Bolt, Eisinga, Venbrux, Kuks, & Gerrits 2011; Czakon, 2012; vom Lehn,2006; Jones, & Whitaker, 2009; Leiberich , Loew, Tritt, Lahmann, & Nickel, 2006) .

Table 1. Evaluation of the problem presented

Negative	Positive
Trade human corpses	Scientific-cognitive character exhibits
The illegal acquisition of human bodies	The corpse donation, the consent of the deceased
Place exhibitions shopping centres	Preparations anatomical available for almost all of
Exhibits - defilement carcasses	Plastination technique remains, as a didactic material
Offending religious	Curiosity and fascination to the secrets of the human body
Sensational	
Achieving popularity	
Business and marketing	

### 3. Conclusions

The question of ethics determines the right to decide for themselves, on the other hand allows you to protect bodily integrity even after death. Body Worlds exhibition goes for the moral and ethical boundaries. The author of this paper is opposed to this kind of activity, which differs from scientific knowledge, and goes to the wrong audience, fact about trade preparations anatomical, which de facto are still fragments of human remains (just in a different form) is unacceptable in my opinion, therefore, fully identify with the hypothesis

that fundamentally defines the contemporary image of a man against a distorted hierarchy of values and even its absence.

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