

Exhibition Gives Revealing Look at Our Bodies

By Han Eun-jung
Staff Reporter

For those who have ever wondered what their **bodies** are composed of or how it functions, an exhibition that opens tomorrow, marking the start of an eight-month run, should be a fun learning experience.

At ``**Bodies** Revealed... The Exhibition,`` the entire family has the opportunity to explore the wonders of the body's intertwining systems as it displays over 250 specimens, including 13 intact **bodies**.

The exhibit is on its way to local spectators after having finished a four-month run in Blackpool in Lancashire, England.

South Korea is the second country to exhibit ``**Bodies** Revealed.``

Dr. Roy Glover, professor of anatomy and cell biology at the University of Michigan, who is also the chief medical director and spokesperson for the exhibit, says that his more than 30 years of teaching anatomy has made him believe that seeing promotes understanding better than any other method.

``Seeing promotes understanding and understanding promotes the most practical kind of body education possible,`` he said through a statement announcing the launching of the exhibition.

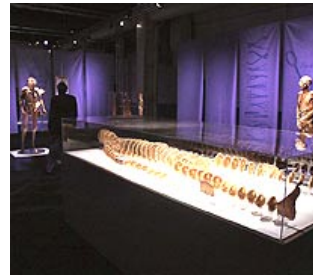
Lee Byong-soo, curator of the Seoul exhibition, says that the display will show what words cannot and he highly recommends that the family make an event of coming together to see just that.

``Children will especially benefit from the first floor of the exhibit,`` Lee told The Korea Times while making the final touches for the show.

``They can make their way through models and recreations of the heart, lungs, ears,



A display at "**Bodies** Revealed ... the Exhibition"



Cross sections of a human body are laid out at "**Bodies** Revealed ... the Exhibition."

nose and eyes. They can learn by listening to guides explain what lies before them, by observing the exhibits and also touch through hands on experience."

The second story is where the actual organs and whole **bodies** are exhibited, enabling visitors to take an up-close look of the human skeletal, muscular, nervous, respiratory, digestive, urinary, reproductive and circulatory system.

Having been preserved using a process called polymer preservation, this revolutionary method prevents tissue from decomposing so that spectators are able to see how their **bodies** look inside and how they work.

During this process, which is also often referred to as plastination, water and fat in tissue are replaced by curable polymers – silicon, epoxy and polyester. They subsequently harden to become dry, odorless and firm specimens.

Visitors can see a lung that once belonged to a lifelong smoker. Such a graphic sight can be effective in illustrating the hazard of habits that are harmful to the body.

During its run at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, the media reported that the show was branded sick and macabre, sparking quite a controversy.

A vicar at a nearby church openly said that ``**Bodies Revealed**'' had more to do with sensationalism than education.

Dr. Glover said he does not agree and believes in fact, that the educational benefits are immense.

``The exhibition will provide a superb opportunity for people with an interest in anatomy and for people who just want to know more about their own health,'' he told BBC.

Curator Lee pointed out that all of the corpses and organ specimens in the display have been donated.

``They come from individuals that have made donations to medical science for the purpose of study and education,'' Lee said.

Those who visited the Blackpool leg of the exhibit say that it has changed the way they think about their body. Many were in awe at the body's fascinating inner workings and have become motivated to make healthy changes to their lifestyles.

``I've always wanted to know what I was made of. I found this exhibition very

interesting. It is much better to see exactly how your body is put together physically than to read about it in a book!" one spectator posted on the exhibit's message board.

`` **Bodies Revealed**'' is the latest exhibition by Premier Exhibition, INC, the company that staged the ``Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition,'' which attracted 14 million people worldwide.

Bodies Revealed... the Exhibition''

When: Mar. 5 to Nov. 6

Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m. _ 6:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Everland Special Exhibition Hall

How Much: 4,000 to 5,000 won

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