

In most art exhibits, the works on display are created by people. In *Body Worlds*, the people *are* the art. Of course, that depends on your definition of art.

On display here are roughly 200 exhibits ranging from enlarged hearts to a fully-skinned and dissected giraffe. Where's the art in that? you might say. And all we can reply is simply:

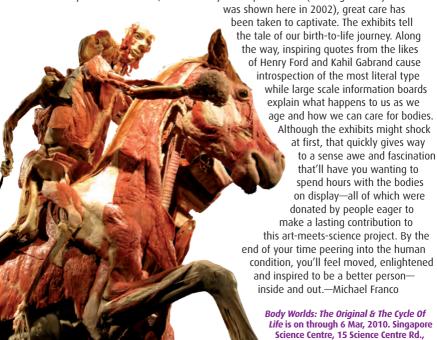
All of the exhibits on display here are the

result of the combined efforts of
Dr. Gunther von Hagens and
his wife, Dr. Angelina Walley.
Von Hagen's contribution to
the world-wide phenomenon
(and frequent controversybringer) known as *Body Worlds*is his invention of a process known
as plastination. Through this process,
human blood, bone, muscle and all the
other bits we have inside us are impregnated with
a polymer (like silicon) that forever preserves them. The
result is that our insides retain their mind-boggling detail and
color yet, thankfully, lose any odor associated with decomposition.

Whalley's hand in the exhibit is where the true art comes in. And we're not just talking about the tastefully arranged and annotated plastinized organs in the glass cases (although you'll spend hours marveling at what cigarettes can do to lungs or alcohol to the liver). What is truly striking here are the complete humans—the man holding his own coat of removed skin; the skinless woman releasing two pigeons composed solely of their circulatory systems; the gymnast forever showing off his strength in a pose on the rings, with his entire set of organs hanging next to him.

According to the pair, the artistic poses of the bodies were necessary to hold the interest of the public, as static poses creeped out the Japanese, where the show was first mounted years ago. As Whalley puts it, "being a good educator means being a good entertainer."

And entertained you will be. In fact, in this newly-revamped exhibit (the original Body Worlds



6425-2500. \$20, children \$12.