

The Potential of PLASTINATION

Decay is a vital process in nature but an impediment to morphological studies, teaching, and research. This is particularly true for biological specimens which shrink considerably when exposed to normal atmospheric conditions. Not only internal organs (e.g., heart, brain, muscle specimens) are affected but also paleontological and archeological objects (e.g., wood, leather, bog people).

Plastination is a unique method of permanently preserving tissue in a lifelike state. It is a vacuum process in which a specimen is impregnated with a reactive polymer. The difference in vapor pressure between the polymer and a volatile intermediary solvent propels the impregnation. The specimens retain their original surface relief and cellular identity down to the microscopic level. Therefore, plastination is not only suited for morphologists from anatomy, pathology, and zoology, but also for biologically oriented museums.

A special application of plastination is the preservation of transparent organ and body slices, which are 1-3 mm thick. Serial sections are particularly useful in teaching and research, for diagnostic purposes, and in radiology. Serial sectioning allows for quick screening of whole organs and surgical specimens.

Transparent sagittal slice of a head.



Castle and old bridge, Heidelberg.

HEIDELBERG

In 1977, Gunther von Hagens invented plastination at the Institute of Pathology and Anatomy of the University of Heidelberg, one of the top-ranking locations in the world of international science and scholarship. Germany's oldest seat of higher learning is located in Southwestern Germany in a delightful landscape along the Neckar River. The beautiful townscape dominated by the mighty ruins of the world-famous Castle draws millions of tourists each year. Today, Heidelberg is a modern scientific and economic location with an international reputation and a most lively and varied cultural scene.



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GUBEN

With more than 765 years of history, Guben is located in the eastern part of Germany next to the Polish border. Once an industry town internationally renowned for its cloth and hat industry, Guben lost economic importance and habitants after the reunification.

Today, Guben has become the center of plastination technology. The recently established PLASTINARIUM is the result of Gunther von Hagens' tireless efforts for more than 30 years in the areas of medical science and museum culture. With state of the art technology skeletal and sheet plastinates, arterial cast specimens, and large plastinates are created for the education of medical professionals and lay people. Visitors can experience firsthand every step of the plastination process, from the anatomical preparation to the final specimen.

Register NOW!

For registration fees, booking details for PART 1 & 2, abstract information, and travel please visit www.plastination2008.com

Final Program

The final program will be available at the meeting and on our website at the beginning of July 2008.

[Registration Details & Information](http://www.plastination2008.com)

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