



A Wonder: The Human Body

Whether it's diving to the deepest depths, climbing the highest peaks, or examining the vast solar system, our curiosity to understand life has driven us to explore the most distant corners of our world and beyond. Yet, one of the most fascinating and sacred marvels of life lies within reach of all of us; the human body.

As I entered the first room of the "Science Show: The Body" exhibit, I was struck by the enormous, haunting skeletons of different athletes in motion. There, amidst the dim lighting, the inner movements of a figure skater gracefully twirling around in circles demonstrated the muscular and skeletal mechanisms at work. The intricate muscle and joint motions of an athlete jumping over a high bar, further accentuated the complexity of human body. Scattered between these exemplars of human athleticism, lay interesting artworks of the body itself. My curiosity was drawn towards a disturbing yet captivating image of a gruesome skeleton. Having peeled off his entire skin with a knife, he was tightly gripping the large clump of sagging flesh in one hand while clutching the blade with his fragile bony fingers in the other.

Leaving the eerie image behind, I followed the sounds of a loud beating pulse into a dark, tiny room. Projected upon a large screen lay one of our most vital organs, the heart. Through a 3D interactive hologram, I awed at the complexity of the heart's pathways and workings. With eight other organs to visit, I meandered through a maze as each organ's unique sound led me to its designated room. The abstract mechanisms and functions of the brain, liver and lungs in particular reiterated the beauty and significance of these crucial organs in our everyday lives.

Impressed by the inner workings of the organs, it was time to learn about some general and fun facts about the body. Upon entering the next room, a video featuring comical

illustrations revealed numerous interesting statistics about the human body. Did you know, a human will have grown about 563 km of hair and 3.7 m of nail, by the age of 70? My curiosity eventually led me to a wall splashed with amusing "day fun facts." It left me wondering whether I should be repulsed or impressed to have learned that an average human produces 0.25-1.5 L of saliva every day.

With my brain overloaded by insightful facts, I headed over to one of the purple inclined chairs situated in a dome-shaped space. As I lay on the chair, high above me I could observe my body reflected on a translucent screen overlaid with the skeletal, lymphatic, nervous and cardiovascular systems. With a push of a button, I was able to easily alternate between the different systems and enjoy this augmented reality experience.

However, the highlight of my tour came with the virtual surgery experience. With a gentle touch and slide of my finger, I horizontally sliced the human body and journeyed through its entirety from head to toe. Layer after layer, my wonder was aroused by the unique perspective as I tunneled eagerly through the cadaver's body parts and systems.

This innovative and unique exhibition uses a combination of technologies and media to provide visitors with an enjoyable hands-on experience all while learning about the fascinating body human in all its wonders. Visit the exhibition before March 2, 2014, ideally with a companion who is well rehearsed in Korean as English is not available. Special Exhibition Hall, 1st level, The War Memorial of Korea; Hours: Tues-Sun 10am-6pm; Price: ₩8 000- ₩12 000. www.scienceshow.co.kr or call 070-7539-6919.

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