

**G**<sup>d</sup> in many cities today and among the famous buildings, street markets, and other attractions, you'll see a special kind of <sup>2</sup>: living statues. These street <sup>3</sup>—who are sometimes dressed as famous characters from history or from popular culture—have become a <sup>4</sup> sight in tourist areas of Paris, London, Barcelona, Hollywood, and other cities. The performance <sup>5</sup> standing <sup>6</sup> for long periods of time.

10 This kind of performance has a long history. It has existed in various forms since the <sup>7</sup> century. The French used the term *tableaux vivants*, which means "<sup>8</sup>." A group of actors stood in positions <sup>15</sup> to illustrate a scene, but they didn't speak or move during the <sup>9</sup>.



The subject of the displays was often religious or from <sup>10</sup>. In some places, they were part of <sup>11</sup> occasions. In the Catalan region of Spain, *tableaux vivants* have been a popular tradition since the early eighteenth century <sup>12</sup>; Catalonia is also famous for its modern living statues. In fact, there are so many of them <sup>17</sup> on the streets of Barcelona that the city council decided <sup>25</sup> to control the number and <sup>12</sup> only thirty licenses for fifteen locations. Local resident Joan Castells explained, "You can't move past the crowds on the <sup>13</sup>, and most of them are not really entertaining people, they're just <sup>14</sup>." Now, each licensed artist can perform <sup>30</sup> either in the morning or in the afternoon.

So why do so many people want to be living statues? Joan Castells says, "It's an easy way of <sup>15</sup> money. All you need is some makeup and a costume." But according to one of the living statues in Hollywood, <sup>35</sup> "Preparation takes ages—and so does getting clean at the end of the day. It's also <sup>16</sup> to stay completely still for long periods. I can't even move my eyes or show that <sup>17</sup>." And although it's "understood" that if you take a photo, you leave <sup>40</sup> some money, not everyone is so kind and generous. "Nobody gets rich doing this," said the living statue from Hollywood.

Perhaps they <sup>18</sup> rich, but every performer has some tricks to <sup>19</sup> people to give them money. <sup>45</sup> Every time a tourist throws them a coin, they react with a quick, small movement. <sup>20</sup> they wave or turn their head or touch the person. The statue comes to life for just a moment, entertaining the crowd and <sup>21</sup> the payment. And maybe giving the tired and <sup>50</sup> aching performer a chance to move into a new, more comfortable position.

<sup>1</sup>still (adv) /stɪl/ not moving

<sup>2</sup>royal (adj) /'rɔɪəl/ connected to a king or queen