



Press Release

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Schlüter's colossal sculptures have arrived in the Humboldt Forum

The eight surviving colossal sculptures from the workshop of the famous sculptor and architect Andreas Schlüter have returned to the Schlossplatz – their place of origin. The sandstone figures, which are all on loan from the **Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz**, were recently transported from the **Bode Museum** and the Palace Workshop to the **Humboldt Forum**, where they have been put on display in the **Sculpture Hall**. When the Humboldt Forum opens at the end of this year, visitors will be able to see these marvellous sculptures, united once more as an intrinsic part of the **history of the location**.

Schlüter's eight sandstone sculptures originally stood in the Berlin Palace courtyard that bears his name – the Schlüterhof. They were among the few sculptures that were fortunately salvaged from the ruins of the Palace before its demolition in 1950. With the exception of the nineteenth-century copy of *Antinous*, they were all made in the seventeenth century. Six of the sculptures originally crowned the columns in front of the great courtyard portal, where, at over three metres high, they served as dignified ornamentation for the palace courtyard. They represent a canon of the ideal virtues of a ruler. *Meleager*, for example, stands for heroism and the protection of his subjects, *Apollo* symbolizes the nurturing of art and science, whilst *Mercury* represents the promotion of trade and the economy. [The other two[NM1], the robed [ERJ2]female figures *Industry* and *Harmony*, adorned the interior wall of Gateway 1.

In recent years, four of the sculptures – *Jupiter*, *Hercules*, *Meleager* and a robed female statue – have been displayed in the Cupola Hall of the Bode Museum. Along with the other four sculptures – *Antinous*, *Apollo*, *Mercury* and another unnamed robed female figure – they previously stood in the Palace Workshop, where they served as models for producing the faithful copies that occupy their original locations in the reconstructed Schlüterhof, thereby rendering tangible the spatial connections between architecture and sculpture.



Over the past few days, the precious originals have been relocated to the two-storey Sculpture Hall at the eastern entrance to the Humboldt Forum, where they will be displayed. Two additional figures, known as the “balustrade figures” of *Spring* and *Summer*, are to follow. Their previous site is assumed to have been on the roof of the Palace, facing the Lustgarten.

The most significant remains of the Berlin Palace’s original sculptures will come together in the Sculpture Hall, near to their original location. The Sculpture Hall is part of the display on the site’s history, in which visitors to the Humboldt Forum will be able to discover the multifaceted 700-year history of Berlin’s Schlossplatz square.

Press contacts

Bernhard Wolter, Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss
Head of the Press and Public Relations Department
+49 151 14001199, bernhard.wolter@humboldtforum.com
www.humboldtforum.com

Stefan Müchler, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz
Press and Public Relations, Humboldt Forum
+49 151 52751584, s.muechler@hv.spk-berlin.de
www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de

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