

Berlin, 25 October 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

# ***SORRYFORNOTHING* SCULPTURE BY PHILIP KOJO METZ UNVEILED – SECOND EXHIBIT IN THE BERLIN EXHIBITION AT THE HUMBOLDT FORUM**

The sculpture ***SORRYFORNOTHING***, which was unveiled and dedicated on Thursday evening, is the second exhibit installed in the future Berlin Exhibition at the Humboldt Forum. This work of art by Philip Kojo Metz represents the Berlin Exhibition's first contribution to **examining the German colonial past**.

Metz's sculpture ***SORRYFORNOTHING*** highlights the **gap in public awareness of colonial wars and their victims**. The artist calls for critical attention to colonial policy during the German Empire and the consequences that still reverberate today.

The actual work of art began with the procedure leading up to the unveiling when large wooden crates (approx. 3.2 x 1.8 x 2.2 m) were transported to the Humboldt Forum. For Metz, the transport of the sculpture represents the most important stage of the art. At the anticipated moment of the unveiling and dedication, the crates appeared to be empty and the sculpture ***SORRYFORNOTHING*** invisible. **An invisible memorial** without a pedestal or inscription creates a paradox – **the anticipation is not fulfilled**.

The extensive procedure and complex steps of transporting the crates were documented by photographs and a film. Metz's photos are displayed at the entrance to the Berlin Exhibition. The memorial is cordoned off in the exhibition space, and the floor marked.

In the words of **Philip Kojo Metz**: "Everyone knows that the winners of wars and violent conflicts are in a position to spread their views of history. I would like to focus on the untold, often suppressed, silenced and therefore 'invisible' stories of the 'losers'. ***SORRYFORNOTHING*** draws attention to what is invisible in art – and therefore in the world. What is unseen, untold and un(re)cognised. ***SORRYFORNOTHING*** stands as a memorial for how we view colonial policy and its conflicts, whose history continues on into the present. After-effects include not only the wars of the 20th century, but also the migrations and their causes in the early 21st century."

**Paul Spies, Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin and Chief Curator for the State of Berlin at the Humboldt Forum**: "In the Berlin Exhibition we will be showing how Berlin is interconnected with the world. These connections reveal themselves not only in Berlin's open and cosmopolitan character, but also in the history of violence which the city helped to shape. The German colonial wars are part of this history, for as the seat of the German Empire, Berlin was the source of German colonial policy. The key point for me is that colonialism affects not only the societies that were colonised but also those that did the colonising."

The Berlin Exhibition at the Humboldt Forum, a co-production of Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin, will include intersectional treatment of the history of colonialism and Berlin's colonial interrelations. In addition, various parts of the Humboldt Forum will address the colonial history of Germany. In parallel to installation of the art work ***SORRYFORNOTHING***, development and production are underway for the Berlin Exhibition, which is scheduled to open on the first floor of the Humboldt Forum in 2020.

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*The Berlin Exhibition at the Humboldt Forum is a coproduction of Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin. The exhibition's design and contents were developed by a team led by Paul Spies, Chief Curator for the State of Berlin at the Humboldt Forum and Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin. Kulturprojekte Berlin is responsible for the production, communications and – together with the Stadtmuseum Berlin – displays which are universally accessible and inclusive.*

*Major actors at the Humboldt Forum include the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), Kulturprojekte Berlin, Stadtmuseum Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, under the directorship of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss.*