



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Berlin, 25.05.2020**

## **Seventh Art in Architecture competition prize awarded**

### **Art for the Berlin Palace's roof terrace**

*The first prize in the Art in Architecture competition has been awarded to Antje Schiffers and Thomas Sprenger for their artwork on the wall of the elevator engine room on the Humboldt Forum's roof terrace. Their design, entitled 'Insurgentes Sur' impressed the prize committee, which met on 19 May, chaired by Berlin artist Christiane Delbrügge. The jury awarded a second prize to Emeka Ogboh (Berlin) for an installation located around the roof terrace. This concludes the adjudication on a total of seven art installations in the reconstructed Berlin Palace.*

Promoted by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the competition was conducted and overseen by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) as part of the construction project. Five art installations had already been constructed in various locations around the building when two further locations on the roof area of the Humboldt Forum were selected for Art in Architecture pieces. On the western side, it is possible to walk around the roof via a terrace. The brief for the works was to reflect the principles and scientific fields of the Humboldt brothers, after whom the Forum is named.

Hans-Dieter Hegner, Chief Construction Officer for the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, thanked the BBR and the jury for their professionalism in conducting this competition within the constraints of the coronavirus crisis. Commenting on the jury's decision, he stated, "The jury was presented with several magnificent design suggestions for an installation on the wall of the Humboldt Forum's roof terrace, and has therefore decided to award three prizes for this location."

The mural design by Antje Schiffers and Thomas Sprenger brings to Berlin a silhouette of Mexico City, its twin city. The title refers to the longest main street in the Mexican capital, the Avenida de los Insurgentes, meaning Avenue of the Insurgents. Hans-Dieter Hegner: "The mural is a powerful image of Berlin's connections with Latin America. It simultaneously references Alexander von Humboldt's journeys and the Ethnologisches Museum's collections that will be exhibited in the Humboldt Forum in the future." Most convincing for the jury were the golden colours of the artwork, reminiscent of gilding on buildings and evoking South American resonances. A second wall installation prize was awarded to Silke Wagner (Frankfurt am Main), while a third prize went to Veronike Hinsberg (Berlin).

Commenting on a further artwork location, the terrace design, Hegner said, "The designs for the terrace were not as diverse. The idea of a sound installation with a new arrangement of an African folk song, created by Nigerian artist Emeka Ogboh, was thoroughly deserving of a

second prize, and carries the potential for further development and adaptation for the Humboldt Forum." Petra Wesseler, President of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, commented, "I am very pleased we were able to conduct the competition and jury deliberations so smoothly in these unusual times. After all, as building owner, the federal government is not only concerned with safeguarding economic livelihoods by keeping construction sites running. It is equally important – within the bounds of possibility – to sustain working conditions for artistic creatives."

Art in Architecture artworks have already been selected during previous competitions for five other locations in the Humboldt Forum. Two stairwells will contain artworks by An Seebach and Christiane Stegat from Köln (Courtyard Portal 1) and Tim Trantenroth (Courtyard Portal 5). A sculpture by KangSunkoo will be placed in the central stair hall. The competitions for two foyer locations were won by the artist duo Dellbrügge & de Moll (auditorium on the ground floor) and Stefan Sous (first floor).

Due to coronavirus restrictions on events, the exhibition of all the artworks from this most recent competition will initially only take place in a digital format from 1 June 2020. In the meantime, the prize winners will be presented on the BBR's competition web page.

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