

PRESS RELEASE

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## Digital Preview: Glimpses into the Humboldt Forum

Construction is complete. The first exhibitions and events are ready to go. On 16 December from 7 to 8 pm the Humboldt Forum invites to an exclusive preview – online, livestreamed and initially in digital format only.

Construction is complete, and the Humboldt Forum is ready to open – albeit only digitally because of coronavirus restrictions. To celebrate the opening as originally planned, the Humboldt Forum invites to an exclusive preview on 16 December from 7pm to 8pm CET: with a variety of voices and programme contributions to extend the Forum into the digital space. The artistic format will create an interactive, vibrant Forum with four narrative threads and perspectives.

The livestream will be available via [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org) and via YouTube in German and English and will also be available to view as a video after the event. The German-language livestream can be also followed on Facebook.

### What's On? – Live Stream

The main event of the Digital Preview will be a live stream, coming to you directly from the halls of the Humboldt Forum. Moderator Mitri Sirin will take you on a tour behind the still-closed gates – with interviews and greetings from Minister of State Monika Grütters, General Director Hartmut Dorgerloh, archaeologist George Abungu, author Andrea Wulf, as well as from artists Kang Sunkoo and Tim Trantenroth.

Contemporary witnesses, curators and historians will provide glimpses into the exhibitions BERLIN GLOBAL, After Nature, Insights. The Humboldt Brothers, the collections of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, as well as the History of the Site. A live connection to the Cosmograph will also turn the Foyer into an interactive space for dialogue. Musical accompaniment to the digital opening will be provided by the Resident Music Collective.

### Three additional channels

Parallel to the live stream, three additional video channels will allow you individualized access to the building, its history and the core themes of the Humboldt Forum.

### Locked In and Out – Inclusion / Exclusion

Having recently accepted German citizenship, writer and activist Priya Basil explores the Humboldt Forum from a deeply personal perspective through a short-form film essay. She delves into the question of what such a building, such a project, means for an understanding of the past and for belonging in the present. This much disputed, contested, celebrated monument now exists – but what exactly does it monumentalize?

### 360° – Open to all

Various 360° video formats create a unique spatial experience and convey a first impression of the Humboldt Forum – all the way from the Schlüterhof to the roof with a view over Berlin. They will tell stories of the site and show what this new venue for culture and science is all about. Curators will discuss the architecture and establish a relationship between the Humboldt brothers and the building. Video recordings of a drone flight through the Stair Hall will connect the core themes of the Humboldt Forum together and the modular structure allows for an immersive experience in all directions.

### Let's take a look-see...

A further narrative from behind the scenes offers another perspective, this time a comedic one. Stand-up comedian Stefan Danziger will take you on a very special tour of the institution to reveal some unusual and sometimes secret places – from underground corridors, the castle cellar and the engine room, through to the freight elevator and workrooms, then right up to the roof and beneath the dome.

As soon as a post-lockdown permanent opening is possible and reasonable, the Humboldt Forum will inform in good time when the exhibitions on the History of the Site and the presentations planned for January can be visited in person: *Have a Seat! An exhibition for children, After Nature* by the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and BERLIN GLOBAL, a co-production between Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin.

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