

PRESS RELEASE

19 July 2021

“Moving the Forum. Our Bodies – Our Pose – Our Dance”

As part of the ‘Moving the Forum’ project, around 40 dance creators from Berlin will be spending a year exploring and investigating the Humboldt Forum, and then presenting the results of their work to the public. Using their bodies, they will position themselves within the context of the architecture, making a physical statement on the history and exhibitions. Together with members of the public, they will explore ways to get this institution moving. Who moved? Who was moved? What has moved? Visitors to the Humboldt Forum may suddenly find themselves witness to public rehearsals, impromptu collaboration partners in a workshop, or unscripted participants in a dialogue. The dancers and participants invite everyone to follow and collaborate in their explorations of the site, its history and its collections. Four artistic residency phases, beginning in August 2021, will each culminate in public presentation days in October and November 2021 and in March and June 2022.

As a prelude to the ‘Moving the Forum’ project, initiated by dance curators Jana Lühje and Jo Parkes, students from the Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz Berlin (HZT) have already spent part of the early summer of 2021 in residence at the Humboldt Forum. Four further residencies, entitled ‘Approaching’, ‘Listening’, ‘Inhabiting’, and ‘Interacting’, will take place in thematic blocks from summer 2021 to summer 2022. These will be scattered in various areas of the exhibition spaces and walkways, the grand Foyer, the Schlüter Courtyard and the outdoor areas of the Humboldt Forum. The concept revolves around unexpected, direct encounters and exchanges between the various participating members of Berlin’s dance community and members of the public of all generations and backgrounds, set within the surroundings of the everyday activity of the Forum. ‘Moving the Forum’ enables participants to formulate individual, collective and critical viewpoints regarding the Humboldt Forum’s core issues, profile and exhibitions.

From the very beginning, the artistic research has involved dialogue between the dance creators and Humboldt Forum staff, including curators, as well as organisational and visitor services. There will be regular open calls inviting people to take part in the artistic activities. Throughout this opening year, these participatory forms of art intervention will use choreographic and performative methods to activate the Humboldt Forum’s spaces, and create unexpected public events, as well as new perspectives for engaging with the Forum’s content.

The 'Moving the Forum' project will open up the Humboldt Forum for the first time both to the many diverse forms of contemporary dance and to Berlin's lively dance scene with its worldwide appeal and diversity of dancers, performers and choreographers. 'We are the Humboldt Forum' will go beyond the exhibitions to see the launch of a number of programmes and formats in the coming months – from concerts and films, lectures and discussions to a wide range of art intervention.

'Moving the Forum' key dates

'Approaching': 23/08 – 09/10/2021, Presentation day: 09/10/2021

'Listening': 18/10 – 27/11/2021, Presentation day 27/11/2021

'Inhabiting': 14/02 – 26/03/2022, Presentation day 26/03/2022

'Interacting': 02/05 – 11/06/2022, Presentation day 11/06/2022

Participating artists

Joy Alpuerto Ritter, Nora Amin, Jagna Anderson, Sebastian Blasius, Telmo Branco, Jason Corff, Viviana Defazio, Felix Ofosu Dompok, Adham Elsaid, María Ferrara, Michiyasu Furutani, Gabriel Galindez Cruz, Emilio Gordo, Tamar Grosz, Marie Hanna Klemm, Jana Lüthje, Nitzan Moshe, Akemi Nagao, Prince Ofori, Rieko Okuda, Marcelo Omine, Hagar Ophir, Yotam Peled, Tamara Rettenmund, Gabriele Reuter, Marcelo Schmittner, Diana Sirianni, Susanne Soldan, Ahmed Soura, Lukas Steltner, Jolika Suderman, Charlotte Virgile, Christina Wüstenhagen. With students from the BA course in Dance, Context and Choreography, Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz Berlin (HZT).

Curatorial Team

Concept – Jana Lüthje, Jo Parkes

Public performances – Jason Corff, Michiyasu Furutani, Jana Lüthje

Discussion and decolonisation – Nora Amin, Jana Lüthje, Marcelo Schmittner, Marie Yan

Documentation and communication – Jana Lüthje, Hagar Ophir, Yotam Peled

Co-operative partners:

Mobile Dance, TanzZeit e.V. Berlin, Kulturagenten für kreative Schulen