

QUOTES**19 JULY 2021****Monika Grütters, Minister of State for Culture and Media:**

“Right at the heart of Berlin, the way is being paved for the joy of mutual understanding and reconciliation: light is being shed on the great issues of human existence, new debates on Europe and the world are being initiated – and yes, woven into all this is the invitation to be controversial. For the future, I wish the Humboldt Forum the attention it deserves as Germany's grandest cultural project.”

Michael Müller, governing mayor of Berlin:

“Today is a tremendous day for Berlin. With the opening of the Humboldt Forum, our capital city is gaining a new centre of attraction. Its impressive dimensions, its aesthetic, and its views to the urban landscape – to Museum Island, to the State Opera, to the magnificent boulevard of Unter den Linden, or to the River Spree – all these set a whole new standard. Its collections are an invitation to discover the world, in the spirit of the man after whom the building is named – Alexander von Humboldt. The Forum will fulfil its intended function of inspiring intellectual debate, both in Berlin and further afield. Its purpose is to both awaken cultural and intellectual curiosity, and to make its own contribution to mutual understanding between cultures. We want to build on the past to create something new. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been a part of the Humboldt Forum's creation.”

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director and Chair of the Board at the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss:

“Two storeys, six exhibitions, and a number of forthcoming arts programmes: the Humboldt Forum is taking shape, with visitors and artists from across the city, and soon – we hope – from across the world. We have been working towards this moment for a long time, and I am looking forward to seeing how our exhibitions are received, and also to our collaborations in turning this site into a vibrant Forum.”

Sabine Kunst, President of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: The Humboldt Lab offers visitors innovative and inspiring ways to discover how Berlin's cutting-edge research addresses the major issues of our time: from climate change to the challenges of democracy. We hope to promote the exchange of ideas between science and society, as well as initiatives to benefit all concerned – both in research and social action.”

Paul Spies, Head Curator for the State of Berlin at the Humboldt Forum, and Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin: “The history of Berlin was and is intimately connected to the history of the world. With this in mind, we have dedicated BERLIN GLOBAL not only to local events, but above all to Berlin's interwoven relationship with the world. What effects have been felt as

events that began in Berlin spread out into the wider world? What global developments have been formative for the city of Berlin?

The exhibition spotlights seven themes which, in combination, are unmistakably woven into Berlin's identity. We invite our visitors to embark on an informal and interactive journey on the trail of Revolution, Free Space, Boundaries, Entertainment, War, Fashion and Interconnection. At the end of their tour, there is the opportunity for discussing and making connections with others. It's a people's exhibition, but also a critical one- you might call it a people's exhibition against populism."

Lars-Christian Koch, Director of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin: Our exhibition of collections from the two museums will occupy almost 14,000m² over the second and third floors – more than any other of the Humboldt Forum's partners. Visitors can look forward to a unique exploration of the past and present cultures of Africa, America, Asia and Oceania. In addition to the history of the collections, religious questions, and contemporary art, there will be a particular focus on dialogue between cultures, and on critical engagement with the legacy of colonialism. Since January 2021, we have also been addressing these and other issues in a discussion series on the challenges facing ethnological collections today."