

**PRESS RELEASE****09 March 2022**

## Highlights: Spring/Summer Programme 2022

**Around 500,000 visitors have visited the exhibitions in the Humboldt Forum. The award-winning special exhibition *Songlines* from Australia, new concerts from the Resident Music Collective, the premiere of the music and dance theatre piece *Mexico Aura*, and the opening events of a programme examining the Palace of the Republic: these are just some of the highlights featured in our cultural programme in the coming months. In September 2022, the second part of the collection presentations of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst will also open to the public.**

Since the success of the Humboldt Forum's opening events in July and September 2021, we have welcomed around 500,000 visitors to the exhibitions, and a further 110,000 to our events. In the coming months, our cultural programme will include a variety of formats offering multiple perspectives on the themes at the heart of the Forum. Plans include special exhibitions, in-house artistic productions, as well as discussion and educational events linked to the collections and exhibitions. In focus will be the history of the site, the Humboldt brothers, and post-colonial voices and perspectives.

General Director Hartmut Dorgerloh: "War and destruction are once again raging in one of our near neighbour countries, with consequences for the whole world. We feel a deep connection to the people, both those remaining in their homes and those fleeing, as well as their families and friends worldwide. And we reaffirm our mission to embody diversity and offer a platform for a multitude of voices, by ensuring the Humboldt Forum is a cosmopolitan venue for critical engagement and cultural debate in interaction with our national and international partners and our visitors."

Our *The Palace of the Republic is Present* programme, which will run for several years and investigate the continuing significance of this site, while asking questions about power and participation. It will examine the Palace of the Republic in several phases: as a political and cultural centre in the GDR; as the site of the peaceful revolution and the first freely elected Volkskammer; the palace debate and interim cultural uses; and its demolition, together with recollections of the site. The programme begins on 30 April and 1 May 2022 with a themed weekend. From 12 to 15 May, the *WENDECIRCUS will be our guests The Palace Edition!* will perform in the Schlüter Courtyard. Preparations are also under way for further events and a special exhibition in the coming years.

The multi-award-winning special exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* from the National Museum of Australia in Canberra is going on tour, and will be visiting the Humboldt Forum from 17 June to 31 October 2022 – its only stop in a German-speaking country. *Songlines*, presented in Berlin by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, in collaboration with the Ethnologisches Museum, tells one of Australia's core creation myths, and has been curated by representatives from indigenous communities of the Central and Western Deserts.

The performance lecture series *The Humboldt Experiment*, staged by the Brazilian director Mirah Laline, will present encounters between Humboldt researchers from the Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) and the contemporary arts. Post-colonial perspectives from Latin American artists can be seen in dialogue with research both from contemporary academics and Alexander von Humboldt himself. The opening event will be presented on 17 March by media artist Nelson Vergara from Bogotá and Humboldt expert Tobias Kraft. The focus of this performance encounter will be Humboldt's ascent of Mount Chimborazo.

Visitors will see a continuation of several of the artistic collaborations, event and discussion series which were introduced with great success last year. On 21 March, The *99 Questions* discussion series, in collaboration with the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, will examine the perspectives of museums and colonial collections on issues of nature and ecology. On 28 March, the *WeSearch* series, created as a continuation of Alexander von Humboldt's Cosmos Lectures, will bring together literary scholars to ask how we can understand literature as a global phenomenon.

Following on from the Resident Music Collective's performances at the opening events in 2020/21, these musicians from various diaspora communities in Berlin will return over the Easter weekend of 2022 for a further three concerts. On 15 April, the musicians will take the audience on an experimental *Voyage of Sound*; on 16 April, visitors can join the line-up in a *Sound Duel*; and on 17 April 2022 there will be a final concert entitled *Sounds of Spring*.

Dance events will also return. Since the summer of 2021, artists from Berlin have been investigating the Humboldt Forum premises in *Moving the Forum*. Public rehearsals have already begun for the third chapter, *Inhabiting*, which examines how we occupy this new and controversial urban space. The performance will be presented on 26 March 2022.

On 30 May, the German Publishers and Booksellers Association will award the second German Non-Fiction Prize. The nominees can be heard in conversation with Shelly Kupferberg, Hadnet Tesfai and Jörg Thadeusz at a matinee on the day before the award ceremony.

On 21 July, the Humboldt Forum will host its first premiere of a music and dance theatre production: *Mexico Aura*, a co-production with the Neuköllner Oper in Berlin. Inspired by an enema vase from the Ethnologischen Museum's Mesoamerica collection, Mexican composer Diana Syrse, authors Eva Hibernia and John von Düffel, together with choreographer Christopher Roman, have developed a performance that brings together Mexico's past and present, its indigenous instruments and new music.

In the summer, from 28 July to 20 August 2022, our *Durchlüften. Open Air* series invites visitors back to the Schlüter Courtyard for evening concerts and a family- and youth-oriented artistic programme.

Our participation project *Humbolting! Pupil Research*, under the artistic direction of Darren O'Donnell and Alice Fleming, will bring together 30 pupils from the Märkisches Viertel in Berlin to embark on a five-year research journey through the Humboldt Forum. Their inspiration is taken from Alexander von Humboldt's five-year American expedition.

Our comprehensive education and outreach programme for groups and individuals has been designed with the entire Forum in mind, and is being continually expanded. A wide range of tours, creative educational formats, workshops, lectures and artistic projects is available on each floor, and in the workrooms.

In September 2022, the second part of the collection presentations of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst, located in the east wing of the second and third floors, will also open to the public.

Detailed, up-to-date information on the programme is available here: [humboldtforum.org](https://humboldtforum.org)

One building, four partners: our diversity is founded on the collaboration of our partner institutions. The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and Kulturprojekte Berlin with the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the Berlin exhibition.

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