

Spring/Summer Programme 2022

(Selection, 9 March 2022)

Programmes & Special Exhibitions

30/04–01/05/22	Themed weekend <i>Meet the Palace</i> The Palace of the Republic is Present
12/05–15/05/2022	WENDECIRCUS. The Palace Edition!
17/06–30/10/22	Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters

Events

26/03/2022	Moving the Forum
15–17/04/2022	Xijtemiki. Resident Music Collective
2021–2026	Humboldting!
29–30/05/2022	Matinee and awarding of the German Non-Fiction Prize
Ab 21/07/2022	Mexico Aura
28/07–20/08/2022	Airing Out

Discussion and Event Series

10/03/2022	Meet the Scientist
17/03/2022	The Humboldt Experiment
21/03/2022	99 Questions
23/03/2022	#Logoskop
28/03/2022	WeSearch
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Programmes & Special Exhibitions

***The Palace of the Republic is Present* programme**

***Meet the Palace* themed weekend: 30/04-01/05/2022**

***WENDECIRCUS. The Palace Edition!*: 12/05-15/05/2022**

Further events as well as a special exhibition are in preparation.

On the site now occupied by the Humboldt Forum, there once stood the Palace of the Republic. Despite its demolition, it still lives on in our consciousness. In a programme entitled *The Palace of the Republic is Present*, the Stiftung Humboldt Forum will explore the significance of both the Palace and other politically symbolic, identity-defining places, and also investigate power and participation.

Since 2014, the Stiftung Humboldt Forum's exhibition area, History of the Site, has been collecting, researching, publishing and curating over 600 years of the history of the site. The Palace of the Republic is a focal point; this was and is evident in the *Flashbacks* and *Videopanorama* permanent exhibition areas, the *Site Specifics* event series, in symposia and publications, as well as the growing collection, which includes significant parts of the Palace's interior furnishings.

The *The Palace of the Republic is Present* Programme will explore the theme chronologically in four phases over the next few years: it will look at architecture and its use from 1973 to 1989, the peaceful revolution in 1989/90, the Schlossplatz debate and its interim use until its demolition in 2008, and finally the memorial site and current debates. Responsibility for the programme will be taken on by a cross-departmental team, in conjunction with the Humboldt Forum's other stakeholders. One of the core anchors in the programme will be the *Memorial Work at the Humboldt Forum* project, which will include conversations and interviews conducted with contemporary eyewitnesses. The programme will be based on scientific research and investigations, and symposia with contributions from a wide range of experts. From the end of April, the programme team will begin sharing their approach in a public blog. In the coming months, the programme will gradually gain public momentum, with events and performances, installations and calls, discussion cafés and publications to look forward to. The high point of the programme will be a special exhibition.

***Meet the Palace* themed weekend**

A programme from the Stiftung Humboldt Forum, the Stiftung Stadtmuseum and the

Humboldt Labor, entitled *Meet The Palace*, will kick off with a weekend of events on 30/04 and 01/05/2022. Members of the public are invited to explore various aspects of the Palace of the Republic and its history, and to contribute their own memories and experiences.

Chez Company will be installing a memory machine in the Schlüter Courtyard, street artist Russlan will create a picture with input from the public, the Berlin exhibition space will host the 'Voices' sound installation and visitors will be able to see the Glass Flower from the Palace of the Republic on the Kosmograf. In the *Palace Rendezvous* in Hall 1, the theme will be the physical site. Two bowling alleys in the Schlüter Courtyard will awaken memories of the bowling alleys at the Palace of the Republic. There will be numerous activities for children to discover the history of a divided country. Film programmes will be screening rare footage from film and TV archives of the construction of the Palace of the Republic, and on the debate over the planning and design of Berlin Mitte in the 1990s. Curator tours of the Humboldt Forum and special tours through the Berlin Global areas will present objects from the history of the Palace of the Republic, and offer insights into the working processes and background of the presentation. Spoken word performance meets the podium in an evening event addressing how we negotiate and remodel a site. Finally, DJ Pasi will be playing the kind of music heard in the Palace of the Republic.

Wendecircus. The Palace Edition!

Circus and theatre, popular and high culture, the physical and the spiritual have long belonged together. Theatre groups glanz&krawall and KGI have succeeded in finding an example of the centuries-old tradition of the family travelling circus: Circus Magic from Zossen. During their rehearsal time together, they developed circus performances on the theme of German reunification. From the interplay of circus, theatre, theory and transformation, there emerged an extraordinary examination of this chapter in Germany's history.

Now they are coming to the centre of this city, to pitch their twelve-metre-high tent on the former site of the Palace of the Republic. Five full-length evening shows in the Schlüter Courtyard will present an artistic reflection on the negotiation processes of Germany's 'Wende'(change) – the transition period during 1989/90 – opening a window onto crumbling Utopias. Based on eyewitness accounts, *WENDECIRCUS. The Palace Edition!* sets the scene for a revue presenting a vision of this site of revolution such as has never been seen before.

Concept and artistic direction: Dennis Depta, Marielle Sterra (glanz&krawall) & Simon Kubisch (KGI)

Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters

17/06–30/10/2022

The National Museum of Australia's award-winning exhibition *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters* tells one of the central creation stories of the Australian continent. The exhibition was collaboratively curated by Margo Neale, Senior Indigenous Curator of the National Museum, and Indigenous community representatives from the Central and Western Deserts. It combines innovative multimedia exhibition design with contemporary art and performance to share Indigenous knowledge that has been passed on for millennia with an international audience. The exhibition is based on a ten-year collaborative research and preservation project led by Indigenous communities in partnership with the National Museum of Australia and the Australian National University.

Connecting Indigenous Australians and their land, songlines are a system of knowledge. Through story, song and visual culture like ceremonial performance or rock art, songlines transmit religious, cultural and ecological knowledge across generations. These pathways to knowledge map the routes and activities of the Ancestral beings, whose travels created the Australian continent. The Seven Sisters songlines tell the saga of seven women who cleverly and cunningly elude a male pursuer as they flee across three deserts.

The exhibition, too, is a journey. Through paintings, photographs, films, material culture and installations, it invites visitors to follow the path of the Seven Sisters. On their way through the show, visitors are guided by the *Virtual Elders*, life-size videos of members of the Indigenous Curatorium. One of the exhibition's highlights is a six-metre-high and wide multimedia dome, facilitating a cinematic and immersive journey to important Seven Sisters sites. A series of events and an educational program, developed together with representatives of the National Museum of Australia, expand and deepen the exhibition experience.

Originally shown at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra the exhibition travelled to Perth (Australia) and Plymouth (UK). In Berlin, *Songlines* is presented by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss in partnership with the Ethnologisches Museum – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. From Berlin, the exhibition will continue its journey to the Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac in Paris in 2023.

Events

Moving the Forum. Our bodies – our position – our dance Presentations on 26/03/2022 and 11/06/2022

Throughout the year, nearly 40 dance artists in 13 artistic teams will conduct research on the Humboldt Forum within the project *Moving the Forum* and present the results of their work. Using their bodies, they will position themselves within the context of not only the architecture, but also the history and exhibition content. Together, along with the public, they will explore ways to get this institution moving. Who moved? Who was moved? What has moved? Visitors of the Humboldt Forum can be spontaneous witnesses of a public rehearsal, be workshop collaborators or even partners in dialogue. The dancers invite everyone to join in on their investigations of the Humboldt Forum, its history and its collections. Four six-week artistic residency phases will each culminate in public presentation days. The website movingtheforum.org collects voices, texts and images during the project and also presents these artistic works.

Overall concept: Jana Lühje, Jo Parkes

Xijtemiki* Resident Music Collective Concerts from 15–17/04/2022

(*Dream it, wish it, do it!) is the motto of this weekend of concerts. In Nahuatl (the Aztec language), this would be: Xijtemiki. Following their performance at the 2021 openings, the Resident Music Collective will return to the Humboldt Forum in 2022, to spend the Easter weekend improvising together. Over the course of the three evenings, ten Berlin musicians from various diaspora communities in Berlin will showcase the power of spontaneity, and demonstrate how improvisation from different musical traditions can spark joie de vivre.

On 15/04, the musicians will take the audience on a journey of sound in an experimental expedition through space and time. On 16/04, audience members can participate in the *Sonic Challenge*, deciding for themselves what the musical line-up will be. Simultaneously competing against and working with one another – this will be fast improvisation as an expression of creative energies. The concert on 17/04, entitled *Spring*, is dedicated to the season of new life. The Resident Music Collective will celebrate the arrival of spring and

a new beginning with songs from a variety of traditions around the world.

Curated and coordinated by Ketan Bhatti, Elisa Erkelenz, Ali Hasan, Eleonora Reyes and Clemens Rynkowski

Humbolting! Pupil Research

Project duration: 2021-2026

Inspired by Alexander von Humboldt's five-year expedition to America, 30 schoolchildren from the Märkisches Viertel in Berlin, are embarking on a five-year research journey through the Humboldt Forum. They are proceeding in the spirit of the Humboldt brothers: systematically, courageously, creatively and full of the joy of discovery.

Together with different international artists, the young researchers will explore the Humboldt Forum and take an artistic look at a new aspect every six months: the museum collections, the building, the history(s) of the site, the ethical issues, the staff, the air conditioning, the museum shops, the gastronomic delights, the international cultural sector and even the pigeons on the roof. They will then present their findings to a wider audience in a series of public events.

Artistic direction: Darren O'Donnell, Alice Fleming

German Non-Fiction Prize

matinee on 29/05, award ceremony on 30/05/22

2022 sees the awarding of the second German Non-Fiction Prize. The Stiftung Buchkultur und Leseförderung des Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association's Foundation for Book Culture and the Promotion of Reading) will present the award on 30 May at the Humboldt Forum. The prize is awarded to an outstanding German-language work of non-fiction that promotes social debate.

On the day preceding the award ceremony, the nominee authors can be heard in conversation at the Humboldt Forum.

Hosted by: Shelly Kupferberg, Hadnet Tesfai and Jörg Thadeusz

Mexico Aura (premiere)
musical dance theatre by Diana Syrse, with text from Eva Hibernia and John von Düffel,
beginning 21/07/2022

Nighttime at the museum. A curator opens the door to a woman. Is she an artist, or a political activist? Fires are raging outside. Rubbish dumps in Mexico. Journalist Claas Relotius reports live on everyday life in Mexico, border militias, violence and Mayan rituals. In the museum, a man with a dog's head sings about his wife, for whom he has spent centuries searching.

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 is both humorous and profound, bringing together Mexico's past and present, and its indigenous and new music.

In this first musical dance theatre premiere at the Humboldt Forum, the international team of artists, together with the Berlin Zafraan Ensemble, will stage a fantastical and intricate journey into the global present over three weekends, presenting a story in music and objects about myths, about longing for the divine and about violence, power and new colonialism.

A joint production with the Neuköllner Oper, Berlin

Airing Out. Open Air in the Schlüter Courtyard
28/07-20/08/2022

This summer, the Schlüter Courtyard will be transformed into a stage. Following its successful launch in 2021, Airing Out is back for a second series, inviting visitors into the Courtyard for four weekends of events. The programme for the main stage focuses on music, presenting performances every Friday and Saturday evening drawn from Berlin's diverse music scene, along with discussions, performances and video art. These events put the spotlight on people whose work is a statement for a diverse, integrated view of culture, history and identity, regardless of the genres of music they perform or their countries of origin. Families and young people are invited to enjoy an artistic programme every Saturday, with opportunities to take part in workshops and to listen to stories. This year's event will also feature colourful pop-up architecture and catering outlets.

Artistic Direction: Melissa Perales

Discussion and Event Series

Meet the Scientist

10/03/2022: What is a *Kunstkammer*?

Between the 17th and the 19th century, the Berlin Palace housed the *Kunstkammer* (Chamber of Art and Curiosities) of the Prince-electors and Kings of Prussia-Brandenburg. It contained an ever-changing collection of art pieces, natural history objects, scientific instruments, and ethnological exhibits which formed the foundational basis of Berlin's museums. But what exactly was a *Kunstkammer*? What was collected in it, how were its objects handled and what could be learned from them about the world?

With Marcus Becker, Eva Dolezal, Meike Knittel, Diana Stört and Sarah Wagner (Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik)

The *Meet the Scientist* series takes place in the Humboldt Lab's current exhibition. Scientists give short introductions to their respective research projects and then answer questions from visitors. Some of the scientists present freely, others work at research stations or talk about objects in the exhibition. Participation is free of charge and open to all visitors to the Humboldt-Universität exhibition *After Nature*.

Next event in this series: 17/03/2022: *Would You Take the Blue or the Red Pill?*

The Humboldt Experiment

17/03/2022: Ascent of Chimborazo

Media artist Nelson Vergara from Colombia meets Humboldt expert Tobias Kraft. Following the footsteps of Alexander von Humboldt, Nelson Vergara dared to climb Chimborazo, the tallest mountain in Ecuador which was considered the tallest in the world in Humboldt's lifetime.

This lecture-performance is the premiere of the performative event series *The Humboldt Experiment*, staged by Brazilian director Mirah Laline. It creates encounters between Humboldt researchers from the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) and contemporary artists. On six evenings, scientific lectures meet video art, dance, drama and music. The postcolonial perspectives of the artists from Latin America create a dialogue between the research by and on Alexander von Humboldt.

Next event in this series: 19/05/2022: *On the system of slavery*

99 Questions and more. Global perspectives on colonial collections

21/03/2022: (De)Colonial Ecology

99 Questions kicked off the year in February with *Gardens of Empire: On the politics of collecting nature*, a discussion on the colonial legacy of the (natural) sciences and its pervasive manifestations in museums, archives, and collections. In the following event on 21 March, a further examination of the (de)colonial constructions of ecology, environment, and nature will be conducted. With Malcolm Ferdinand and Jasen Allen-Paisant, curated by Michael Dieminger in cooperation with the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin.

With the opening of the exhibitions of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, numerous objects will be on display that arrived in Europe during the colonial period under often unequal power relations, sometimes even by force. *99 Questions* takes a critical look at both institutional as well as German colonial history and aims to promote reflection on the colonial implications of the collections in the long term through public dialogues, podcasts, workshops, meetings and residencies.

Next event in this series: 11/04/2022: *New Ethics, New Museums*

#Logoskop

23/03/2022: #Logoskop five

Poetry and Science, with Lucia Lucia and Noah Klaus

Once a month, poetry and science come together at the Humboldt Lab. In the Logoskop's fifth's edition, renowned spoken-word poets Lucia Lucia and Noah Klaus will explore the exhibition *After Nature* with live performances of their work. Visitors are invited to join them on their tour of eloquence.

WeSearch

28/03/2022: How can we think literature globally? On entangled temporalities in art and literature

At a time when the global is at the centre of political, economic and cultural debates, literary scholars are asking how literature can be understood as a global phenomenon. The Cluster of Excellence *Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective* at Freie Universität is all about examining literature beyond traditional categories such as nation and epoch.

With Anne Eusterschulte, Simon Godart, Andrew James Johnston and Volker Wieprecht.

In the *WeSearch* series, prominent scientists from a wide variety of fields will present their ideas, their questions and their methods for discussion. This series of presentations aims to be a continuation of the Kosmos Lectures given by Alexander von Humboldt in the 1820s, where he considered the world from a global scientific perspective. The *WeSearch* series follows this tradition with easy-to-understand presentations.

Next event in this series: 25/04/2022: *Humans and environment: How serious is their domestic crisis?*

Future Forum – Sustainable City

Next dates: 19/05/2022, 20/10/2022, 01/12/2022

In the Future Forum, science, politics and civil society discuss together with the audience how we can shape the change towards more sustainability. In three events, the focus this year is on the various aspects of urban life. The Future Forum is a joint event of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Joachim Herz Foundation.

Further events and tours continually updated at humboldtforum.org

Dates and Facts

Number of visitors

Around 500,000 exhibition visitors since the July opening as well as since the opening of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst in September 2021:

Palace Cellar: 90,000

Terrible Beauty (until 23/01/22): 80,000

Berlin Global: 103,000

After Nature: ca. 71,000

Ethnologisches Museum and
Museum für Asiatische Kunst: 146,000

Have a Seat!: 10,000

110,000 visitors participated in the cultural programme,
above all in the 422 events.

70,000 Roof Terrace visitors

9,000 participants of 2460 public tours

674 Group bookings with 9,500 participants

19,300 participants of the educational offers

Opening hours

Mon, Wed–Fri 11am–7pm

Sat 10am–8pm

Sun 10am–8pm

Closed on Tuesdays

From April:

Mon–Thurs 10am–8pm

Fri–Sat 10am–10pm

Sun 10am–8pm

Closed on Tuesdays

Admission

Palace Cellar, Videopanorama and Sculpture Hall:
Free admission

Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische
Kunst: Free admission

After Nature: Free admission

BERLIN GLOBAL
7 € / reduced 0 €

Have a Seat! An exhibition for children
10 € / reduced 5 €

Media Guide
3 €

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Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz

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Berlin Exhibition

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