

PRESS RELEASE**24. October 2022****27th-28th October: Two days with impulses and artistic interventions****Meetup: 99 Questions Gathering**

As of early 2021 and as part of the 99 Questions series, a network of international artists, curators and scholars, have sought to rethink ethnological museums with their global perspective on colonial collections. Approaches to dealing with coloniality were developed together with experts, key questions hereby included digitisation and forms of restitution. The series, initiated by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, completes its first cycle with a two-day gathering on the 27th and 28th October 2022 with readings, performances, films, talks and short impulse sessions. With contributions by Priya Basil, Beatrice von Bismarck, Onyeka Igwe und Denilson Baniwa and more.

As part of the *99 Questions* series, international curators, scholars and artists question the connections between museum collections and colonialism, whilst developing approaches to a new curatorial practice. The initial *99 Questions* cycle will conclude with a two-day event, which, similar to a pilgrimage, simultaneously represents a departure. From the 27th – 28th October several artistic interventions, performances, films and impulse sessions will take place across various decentralised locations at the Humboldt Forum. The focus hereby largely lies on subjects such as digitisation and technology, ecologies of knowledge and understanding of aesthetics, forms of restitution and the various connections of museum collections to ecology.

Programme**Walking in Words – An immersive reading experience with Priya Basil**

The writer and activist Priya Basil will open and close the *99 Questions Gathering* days with two immersive readings at the Humboldt Forum. In her reading, she will take on the role of an active observer and reflect on the Gathering literarily.

Impulse Sessions including on Curatorial Hospitality and Restitution

The sessions are a possibility to attend various short subject related impulses. Amongst the speakers are the *99 Questions Residency* Fellows (The Nest Collective and Open Restitution Africa) who will speak to forms of restitution and collections and about data and the ongoing violations of African knowledge systems. Further guests are Sara Garzón who will introduce

an intersectional dialogue around technology, curator Andrei Fernández will cover her practice with indigenous-feminist weaver-collectives and Beatrice von Bismarck will discuss curatorial hospitality.

No Archive can restore you – three films by Onyeka Igwe

A filmic intervention in the permanent exhibition spaces of the Ethnological Museum. The filmmaker Onyeka Igwe has developed a language to work with the sensitive and oftentimes racist audio-visual ethnographic documentation material. The three films *Specialised Technique, the names have changed, including my own and truths have been altered* and *No Archive Can Restore You* will be shown in front of the Ethnological collection's display cases. Through the use of movement and rhythm, the films contrast the static presentation of the objects, whilst melting together colonial histories with personal memories.

Places of Belonging – Performance by Tila Likunzi, Iris B. Chocolate, Jaliya The Bird, Mwana Pwo and Liliane Kiam

Places of Belonging is a performance by Angola-based artists and curators, addressing the re-appropriation of objects as a process of cultural displacement and active memory work. At its core is the Chibinda Ilunga sculpture displayed in the Ethnological Museum, a mystical hero who is recognized as one of the founders of the Lunda-Dynasty, in present-day Angola. In a poetic dialogue with the sculpture, the performance reflects on the diaspora of displaced objects and explores the question, of whether the powers of a figure – detached from its cultural, religious and political contexts – were displaced with it.

Maloca Museum – Talk with Denilson Baniwa and Thiago Lopes da Costa Oliveira

The collections of the Ethnological Museum hold artefacts and images collected in the upper Rio Negro. With the *Maloca Museum* project, the artist Denilson Baniwa and curator Thiago Lopes da Costa Oliveira support the process of re-appropriation of knowledge, which emanate from these objects. As an itinerant installation, the *Maloca Museum* will be installed at various locations of the Rio Negro and thereby provides a space for exchanges and encounters, in order to learn more about the meaning and practices inspired by the contact with the artefacts.

The detailed programme, including schedules of the two-day gathering, can be found at humboldtforum.org/gathering.

The events are free and open for everyone to participate, be it the whole day or just to drop by. The impulse sessions however are limited in capacity and will require registration via 99questions@humboldtforum.org.

One building, four partners: This 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 GLOBAL exhibition.

PRESS CONTACTS

Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss

Michael Mathis, Press Officer

+49 30 265 950-525, michael.mathis@humboldtforum.org

Andrea Brandis, Press and Communications

+49 30 265 950-237, andrea.brandis@humboldtforum.org

Mirko Nowak, Head of Communications

+49 30 265 950-236, mirko.nowak@humboldtforum.org

humboldtforum.org/press