



PRESS RELEASE
13 Dezember 2022

**The Humboldt Brothers, Das Museum Sem Nenhum Caráter,
Contemporary Art in the Humboldt Forum**

Three new books by the end of the year

With *The Humboldt Brothers. Stories from the Present*, the fifth publication of the Humboldt Forum short guides has been published by Prestel Verlag. Also just released: the book *Contemporary Art in the Humboldt Forum*.

Initiated by a burning museum in Brazil, the *Das Museum Sem Nenhum Caráter* project spanned over two years in cooperation with the Museu Nacional and the Goethe-Institut Rio de Janeiro. The free digital publication explores questions surrounding decolonial curatorial practices.

The Humboldt Brothers. Stories from the Present

Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt are the namesakes of the Humboldt Forum. The brothers' biographies, works and points of view build a compelling relationship with the prominent cultural site in the heart of Berlin.

This book is dedicated to the Humboldt brothers' travels, their studies of nature and language, and their cosmopolitan curiosity, linked to the present not least by their insights into the interconnected world.

The Humboldt Brothers. Stories from the Present

Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Ed.)

Paperback, flap brochure

128 pages, 57 colour illustrations, 12 x 22 cm

German and English Edition

Prestel Verlag, 12,50 Euro

ISBN 978-3-7913-7955-5 EN, ISBN 978-3-7913-7954-8 DE

Contemporary Art in the Humboldt Forum

A Japanese tea house, an audio installation with sounds of Nigeria, a two-part flag-pole made of bronze: numerous, often large-scale works of contemporary art can be discovered throughout the spacious displays at Berlin's Humboldt Forum. Works by artists from different cultures around the world enrich the collections shown in the exhibitions of the Ethnologisches Museum, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, and the Federal State of Berlin. In addition, seven works of Kunst am Bau (art in architecture) have been realised at the Humboldt Forum. They address the location's history and the Humboldt Forum as a site representing the world, encouraging encounters and exchange, or paying tribute to the Forum's namesakes, the brothers Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt.

This book presents selected works of art in informative, richly associative texts and impressive photographs. Together they offer entirely new insights into the diverse voices that make up the Humboldt Forum cultural venue.

Contemporary Art in the Humboldt Forum

Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (Ed.)

Hardcover

German and English Edition

192 pages, 28 x 24 cm

Deutscher Kunstverlag, 34,- Euro

ISBN 978-3-422-99031-9 EN, ISBN 978-3-422-98996-2 DE

Information on the publications of the Humboldt Forum:

humboldtforum.org/de/publikationen/

Review copies: presse@humboldtforum.org

Das Museum Sem Nenhum Caráter – Resisting the Universal

The project's initiation resulted from the tragic fire, which almost entirely devastated the Museu Nacional de Rio de Janeiro's collection and building. With some 20 million objects, the collection is one of the most important in Latin America and the world, with the loss including perhaps the last testimonies, in the form of artefacts or language

records, of the numerous Indigenous communities in Brazil. The collaborative project *Das Museum Sem Nenhum Caráter* took its inspiration from the novel *Macunaíma: O herói sem nenhum caráter* by Mario de Andrade and gathered a variety of practitioners and thinkers to explore questions surrounding decolonial curatorial practices and the evolving of museum concepts around care. In particular, the digital workshops held throughout 2021-2022 addressed questions of how a pluralisation of narratives and perspectives can become visible and the role translation, fictionalization and the voids in collections is within museums and their narratives.

Over the course of several digital workshop sessions, the project invited participants to share their thoughts and responses on the subjects of postcolonial curating, translation and fiction and subsequently resulted in the publication of a rich and multilingual compilation of essays, photographs, a poem and a recipe. The contributions are primarily in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

A cooperation between Museu Nacional/UFRJ, Goethe-Institut Rio de Janeiro und Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss. Funded by Auswärtiges Amt.

Das Museum Sem Nenhum Caráter – Resisting the Universal

Michael Dieminger & Thaís Mayumi Pinheiro (Hrsg.)

Digitale Publikation

Spanisch, Portugiesisch, Englisch

135 Seiten

ISBN 978-65-00-53162-6

The full version is free to access under the following link: 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.

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