

PRESS RELEASE**February 14, 2023****Exhibition, events, informational and educational programmes.****1 April – 26 November 2023. Día de los muertos: 1–5 November 2023****Press conference: 30 March 2023****in_finite. Living with Death**

The next major programme cluster in the Humboldt Forum focuses on an existential human topic: living with death. An immersive exhibition, events, and an educational programme allow visitors to approach the often taboo topic from both personal and scientific angles. In this experiential staging, visitors and their experiences take centre stage. The extensive educational and event programme also offers plenty of room for encounters and exchange—and ends with a highlight: the Mexican festival of the dead, Día des los muertos.

Death is a topic that concerns all mankind. All cultures have approached it philosophically, artistically, or spiritually, devising stories and rituals and developing ideas about the afterlife to make the inexplicable comprehensible and the unbearable bearable. Even the earliest surviving narrative, the Epic of Gilgamesh, is about death and humankind's search for immortality.

The Stiftung Humboldt Forum addresses this topic with *in_finite. Living with Death*, a polyphonic programme focusing on a large special exhibition and educational and event programmes in cooperation with numerous partners.

The exhibition

The exhibition stages dying and dealing with death as an immersive, multimedia experience in five acts and foregrounds the visitors as protagonists.

Hartmut Dorgerloh, General Director of the Humboldt Forum: "The certainty of death connects all human beings and yet is one of the last great unknowns. This fourth special exhibition in the Humboldt Forum focuses on an existential human topic and offers room to pause, take a stand, and immerse oneself in realms of experience."

As mortals, visitors enter the stage of the exhibition and become part of the captivating staging. On their tour of the exhibition, they encounter a wide range of concepts of death and burial and commemorative rituals that, through the interplay of videos,

sounds, voices, installations, and experiences of space, turn into moments of intense confrontation. The exhibition presents perspectives from Berlin's diverse society, practical knowledge of terminal caregivers from twelve countries, a non-religious and an Islamic corpse washing, as well as scientific approaches to the topic. The knowledge of the vulnerability and transience of all living things also raises ethical and moral questions. The exhibition thus extends the personal perspective to a global and planetary scale. It shows death from a neurological point of view, the unequal living and dying conditions in global society, the responsibility for the nameless dead—and that of humans for life itself, in the context of climate change and the extinction of species.

The educational programme

The educational programme draws a line from individual, existential issues to societal questions. Based on the question "How do we live with death?," adults and students from seventh grade can explore, discuss, and question the exhibition together whilst making connections to the Humboldt Forum's permanent exhibitions and collections. The guided tours and workshops are designed to be dialogic and participatory. They were developed in cooperation with the Björn Schulz Foundation, which provides professional support for severely-ill children and their families. Advanced training for educators and multipliers is offered as well.

Events

Reflection on death in a global context – across genres, categories, and generations – is the focus of the programme of events. Voices from cultural and religious communities get their say, and experts share their (practical) knowledge of terminal care, burial practices, and memorial culture. On the weekends, consultation hours provide visitors with the opportunity to talk to a terminal caregiver, a pathologist, or a funeral speaker. Storytelling programmes for children and families as well as for adults focus on parting. A film programme foregrounds the Global South. The Resident Music Collective takes care of the musical part: over the Easter weekend, the ensemble will play contemporary pieces and pieces in contemporary interpretations on the topic of death. A highlight at the end of the exhibition is the Mexican festival of the dead, Día de los muertos, during which the Calaca Association, an organisation that has been active in Berlin for many years, invites everyone to the Humboldt Forum to enjoy music, performance, a family programme, and a decorated altar.

The publication

A publication of the same name will accompany the exhibition. It documents the contributions to the exhibition, with essays and artistic photo series presenting complementary perspectives. The publication offers insights into very different experiences, ranging from the individual understanding of our personal and cultural view of death to current scientific and media scenarios of dying and extinction in the age of the Anthropocene. This publication includes contributions from Stephen Cave, Cristina Cattaneo, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Robin Wall Kimmerer et al.

in_infinite. Living with Death

1 April – 26 November 2023. Día de los muertos: 1–5 November 2023

Press conference: 30 March 2023

Exhibition admission: 12 / 6 Euro

Information and tickets: humboldtforum.org/un_endlich

Press images: humboldtforum.org/presse

The Humboldt Forum extends its gratitude to the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung, and the Björn Schulz Stiftung.

PRESS CONTACTS

Michael Mathis, Press Officer,

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

Kathrin Luz, Kathrin Luz Communication

+49 171 3102472, kl@luz-communication.de

Andrea Brandis, Press and Communications

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