



PRESS RELEASE
20 February 2023

Just released: Publications on the temporary exhibitions at the Humboldt Forum

With books on the indigenous ethnologist Francis La Flesche, the North Indian Naga and a presentation of sculptures from Asia, Africa and Europe, the Humboldt Forum Foundation presents three new publications on its temporary exhibitions.

The exhibitions were developed in collaboration with the National Museums in Berlin as well as communities worldwide whose history and identity are closely linked to the objects on display. Based on the historical collections of the Ethnological Museum, they provide insights into different societies and their cultural practices. They negotiate questions about the meaning of material culture and its colonial past and present new research findings on the provenance of the objects.

Against the Current. The Omaha, Francis La Flesche, and his Collection

The collections of the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin house around sixty objects from the Omaha of North America that were assembled by the indigenous ethnologist Francis La Flesche around 1895 on behalf of the Königliches Museum für Völkerkunde. It was a time of upheaval, when the lives of the Omaha were marked by loss of land, racism, and violence. The effects can still be felt today. This book offers insight into the life and work of La Flesche and the process of organizing the exhibition „Against the Current“. The catalogue of objects written by Francis La Flesche is being published here for the first time.

Published by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss
English edition, 128 pages, Softcover, 26,5 x 21,5 cm, Deutscher Kunstverlag, Berlin 2023,
22.- Euro

Naga Land. Voices from North-East India

The Naga represent a minority in north-eastern India and north-western Myanmar – yet comprise more than thirty ethnic groups with an overall population of three to four million speaking numerous languages. How have the Naga managed to preserve their traditions and customs and integrate them in today’s lifestyle changes – with modern tattoos, fashion and social media? Describing facets of their culture as it is lived today and relating them to the past, writers from Nagaland make the collection of Naga artefacts at the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin, now supplemented by contemporary exhibits, appear in a new light.

Published by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss
English edition, 96 pages, Softcover, 26,5 x 21,5 cm, Deutscher Kunstverlag, Berlin 2023, 22.-
Euro

Ancestors, Goddesses and Heroes. Sculptures from Asia, Africa and Europe

To protect, heal or punish – these are the powers that peoples of radically different ages and places of origin ascribed to the images that are here presented alongside each other for the very first time. The forty-five objects created between the fourth and nineteenth century are a vital attestation of the ever-present need for protection and orientation in times of crisis, whether at the personal or the social level. They stand for the existence of an invisible world of gods, spirits and ancestors that helped forge a palpable link between the here and now and a different reality as well as providing inspiration for the life of each and every individual.

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Information on Humboldt Forum Publications: humboldtforum.org/de/publikationen/
For copies of reviews: presse@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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