

**PRESS RELEASE**

**1 March 2023**

**26 March, 11a.m.-17 p.m., Hall 2**

**Film, Panel with Lars Kraume, Girley Charlene Jazama, Andreas Görgen i.a.**

**Guided tours through the exhibition *Confronting Colonial Pasts***

## **Measures of Men**

**The film *Measures of Men* addresses the genocide in Namibia between 1904-1908. For the Humboldt Forum, as the current exhibition venue of the Ethnological Museum and its cooperation project on the collections from Namibia, the memory of this genocide and its reappraisal is an important concern. On 26 March, the film will be presented at the Humboldt Forum, combined with guided tours through the exhibition on Namibia as well as a panel discussion with Lars Kraume, leading actress Girley Charlene Jazama, Larissa Förster, Golda Ha-Eiros and Julia Binter. Welcome address: Andreas Görgen.**

### **11 a.m. Film: Measures of Men**

“German South West Africa”, present-day Namibia, was a German colony between 1884 and 1915. It was there that German imperial troops committed the first genocide of the 20th century between 1904 and 1908. They systematically killed large numbers of the Herero, Mbanderu and Nama.

Lars Kraume’s fictional new film “Der vermessene Mensch” (Measures of Men) recounts this German colonial crime in the fictional story of a young, ambitious German scientist who crosses all moral boundaries throughout the course of the narrative. Not only does he steal cultural assets, he also sends skulls and skeletons of murdered Herero to Berlin for research purposes.

The memories of the genocide committed by the German colonial power and its impacts are omnipresent in Namibia even today, especially in the Herero and Nama communities. Conversely, these colonial crimes, the question of reparations and especially the problematic nature of (not) dealing the whereabouts of human remains, and restitution claims regarding cultural belongings (as cultural assets are sometimes known today) have not yet received equal attention in German society. The film *Measures of Men* intends to ignite the debate surrounding these crimes.

**1:30 p.m. Panel: German genocide in Namibia in film and museum**

The panel will discuss the making of the film and the work on set in Namibia from the perspective of the Namibian leading actress Girley Charlene Jazama and the German director Lars Kraume.

A special link between the film *Measures of Men* and the Humboldt Forum is the costume and fashion designer Cynthia Shimming, who died in 2022. The film is dedicated to her. She created the Namibian costumes for the film, partly based on her work in the research, exhibition and repatriation project *Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures* at the Ethnological Museum in Berlin. An essential part of this joint project between the Museums Association of Namibia, the National Museum of Namibia, and the Ethnological Museum/Central Archive of the Berlin State Museums is the return of the first artefacts to Namibia and the reconnection of the cultural belongings with local communities, artists and scholars. The aim is to rewrite (collection) histories from a Namibian perspective, therefore making it possible to come to terms with the long and complex history that connects Namibia and Germany.

Golda Ha-Eiros, Senior Curator at the National Museum of Namibia and Dr Julia Binter, Provenance Researcher at the Berlin State Museums, both of whom are responsible for the current project, will report on the joint process of tapping into the healing and creative potential of the colonial collections.

**Host:** Hadnet Tesfai

**Welcome address:** Andreas Görden, Member of the Board of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, Head of the Office of the Commissioner for Culture and Media

**Panel:**

- **Girley Charlene Jazama**, the film's leading actress
- **Lars Kraume**, the film's director
- **Larissa Förster**, Humboldt University Berlin
- **Golda Ha-Eiros**, Senior Curator at the National Museum of Namibia, Curator „Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures“
- **Julia Binter**, Provenienzforscherin, Provenance Researcher, Berlin State Museums, Co-director of the research, exhibition and repatriation project *Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures*

**4:00 & 4:15 p.m. Guided tours: Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures**

Guided tours by Golda Ha-Eiros (EN) and Julia Binter (DE) will provide in-depth insights into the exhibition “Confronting Colonial Pasts, Envisioning Creative Futures” in the Ethnological Museum's permanent exhibition as well as the opportunity for personal discussions.

**Tickets:** Film, Panel and guided tour: 20 Euro.

Film und Panel: 16 Euro. Panel: 8 Euro

**Informations:** [humboldtforum.org](http://humboldtforum.org)

**Press images:** [humboldtforum.org/presse](http://humboldtforum.org/presse)

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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### **Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - Preussischer Kulturbesitz**

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