

PRESS RELEASE**28 June 2023****Education / Entertainment / Performance / Installation****Humboldting! A school research project****August 2021 – July 2026*****Where are the vibes?* in connection with the *Humboldting!* project: an interactive public presentation on 7 and 8 July 2023, 7 July: 4 pm – 6.30 pm, 8 July: 2 pm – 4.30 pm.****Free admission (with a ticket that can be obtained in advance online or at the ticket desk in the foyer).*****Where are the vibes?* – Interactive installations by school students as part of the *Humboldting!* long-term project!**

Over the last five months, 30 school students have examined the “vibes” in the Humboldt Forum as part of the long-term *Humboldting!* project – but which vibes are already present and which ones are still missing? What does a young audience want to see and experience in a cultural institution with its own programme of events, and what kind of mood or atmosphere will they find there? Pupils from Berlin’s Thomas-Mann-Gymnasium have been working together with director Mirah Laline, set designer Sarah Seini and sound designer Fabiano Lima aka K’Bokoto to create four installations that actively invite the audience to join in and help seek out these “missing vibes”. You can find summer vibes in the Passage, spiritual vibes in the Mechanical Arena in the foyer, creative vibes with tape art in the Werkraum, and living vibes in Room 2, complete with a golden dance floor and music – and admission is entirely free of charge.

In August 2021, 30 school students from Berlin’s Märkisches Viertel area embarked upon a five-year voyage of art and research through the Humboldt Forum, inspired by Alexander von Humboldt’s expedition of the same duration. That journey, entitled *Humboldting! A School Research Project*, is being conducted entirely in the spirit of the Humboldt brothers: systematic, courageous, creative and full of the joy of discovery. Working together with a series of international artists who have been invited by the project’s artistic directors Darren O’Donnell and Alice Fleming, they are investigating every centimetre of the Humboldt Forum and asking all sorts of questions – and every

six months their findings are presented to the public. Absolutely anything can be taken as the subject matter for their research: the museum collections, the building, the history/ies of the site, the staff, the air conditioning, the museum shop, the food and drink on offer, the international cultural sector – even the pigeons on the roof.

Over the past two years, the school students involved with *Humboldtting!* have been active at the point where education and art meet. They have interviewed people such as other visitors, the staff, and their own parents, visited the Humboldt Forum's senior leadership team at home, presented one hundred of their personal possessions as part of a performance, and created their own artistic interpretations of the exhibits in the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst. For *Where are the vibes?*, their third public presentation on 7/8 July, the pupils will examine the feelings generated by various spaces in the Humboldt Forum. Then, from August 2023 onwards, they will be working on the project with Australian filmmaker Rhian Hinkley and artist Ivy Hinkley.

Born in Edmonton, Canada in 1965, **Darren O'Donnell** is an award-winning Canadian author, director and performer as well as the artistic director and founder of the [Mammalian Diving Reflex](#) collective. He has developed groundbreaking projects that examine unexplored aspects of cultural work – especially with young people, who are generally underrepresented in this sector. Mutual trust invariably forms the basis for working with this group as equals.

O'Donnell is a regular guest at international festivals such as the Ruhrtriennale and the Brisbane Festival. In early July 2023 he is showing *Nightwalks with Teenagers* as part of the Theater der Welt theatre festival in Frankfurt and Offenbach. His numerous publications on participation as a form of artistic expression include *Social Acupuncture* (2006), and his 2018 book *Haircuts by Children, and Other Evidence for a New Social Contract* advocates the cultural sector as a place to explore the development of a new social contract with children.

Alice Fleming is a creative producer working primarily in theatre and film. Her curatorial practice focuses predominantly on socially engaged projects for and with people who do not normally work in the arts and cultural sector. She regularly collaborates and tours with the Canadian performance group [Mammalian Diving Reflex](#). Recently she produced the Australian Back to Back Theatre's first feature film, *SHADOW*,

which was made in conjunction with an ensemble of actors who are perceived to have intellectual disabilities. Further production work with Back to Back Theatre includes a 20-part animated series featuring a group of people who identify as disabled. The series aired on ABC TV in early 2022.

Biographies of the artists who have participated in the project thus far can be found on the relevant Humboldting! events pages.

Production: Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss /**Art directors:** Alice Fleming and Darren O'Donnell

More **information and tickets:**

Current event "Where are the vibes?":

humboldtforum.org

Project website for Humboldting!

humboldtforum.org/en/humboldting

Press images can be downloaded at humboldtforum.org/en/press

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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