

Press Release

8 September 2026

A new programming focus at the Humboldt Forum

Exhibitions and events from late November 2026 onwards

Mine. Yours. Ours!?

Global perspectives on property and inheritance

Starting in late November 2026, the four institutions comprising the Humboldt Forum are turning to our planet's natural and cultural heritage with a new two-year programming focus titled *Mine. Yours. Ours!?* It deals with the core questions of our time about possession, resources, forms of coexistence, responsibility, legacy, and the ramifications of all these issues. The opening weekend of 27 to 29 November 2026 will feature events, guided tours, and three new exhibitions concentrating on South America, Asia, and Africa.

***Mine. Yours. Ours!?* has been developed and curated in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut as well as the Global Cultural Assembly and other local and international partners.**

Who owns the world, the cities, the water? And what are we passing on to those who come after us? Property and inheritance shape the way people live, how they can access resources, and what prospects for the future are open to them. In an increasingly polarized world rife with battles about sharing out resources, how we deal with our cultural and national heritage is an increasingly urgent question. Water, land, housing, financial resources, and cultural heritage are unequally distributed worldwide – usually for historical reasons. At the same time, societies face the challenge of rethinking what should be preserved, what should be shared, and what should be passed on to future generations.

In the coming two years, the institutions at the Humboldt Forum, together with the Goethe-Institut, the Global Cultural Assembly, and other partners in Berlin and all over the world will be focusing on a central aspect of social coexistence. Various kinds of events such as exhibitions, performances, workshops, discussions, conferences, and guided tours will enable visitors to learn more about global perspectives, strike up conversations, and develop new outlooks.

Possession, heritage, and responsibility

The title *Mine. Yours. Ours!?* refers to the fundamental question of how people define possession, responsibility, and belonging. The issues that arise from this point affect us all. What is regarded as “mine”, what we recognize as “yours”, and what we share as “ours” is neither easy to define nor the same everywhere in the world. Ideas of individual and common property and of cultural heritage vary between societies. They are linked to questions of power and subject to change over time. The programming focus invites visitors to re-examine these questions and explore their relevance for our own time. For example, one section of *Mine. Yours. Ours!?* focuses on water as a source of knowledge, spirituality, and community in Brazil, Chile, and Colombia. A second presents pre-Columbian objects to showcase the close ties between earth, biodiversity, and cultural identity in Costa Rica, while yet others discuss the treatment of colonial collections from Togo and questions of cultural appropriation and participation as reflected in global pop culture phenomena.

Detailed information about the various projects can be found in this press release below and on humboldtforum.org.

Programming curatorship as an international collaboration

Thanks to its ethnological collections and the multi-faceted history of its own site, the Humboldt Forum offers the perfect prerequisites for placing historical interconnections and modern-day challenges into a larger context and fostering dialogue about how to shape our common future.

After the thematic focus *Blown Away: The Palace of the Republic* by Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss (2024) and the cross-institutional programme *Family Matters* (2025), the four institutions comprising the Humboldt Forum are continuing their joint exploration of core issues of our time with *Mine. Yours. Ours!?*, which focuses on property and heritage. Their close collaboration opens up new perspectives on the venue’s collections, programmes, bodies of knowledge, and history, creating fresh approaches to socially relevant topics and developing a museum practice that transcends classical exhibition formats and prioritizes exchange, a diversity of voices, and participation.

Mine. Yours. Ours!? is a two-year thematic focus brought to you by the institutions behind the Humboldt Forum – Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz with the Ethnologisches Museum and Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin Museum, and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. It has been developed and curated in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut and in association with the Global Cultural Assembly and other local and international partners.

Opening and initial phase

The programme will be ushered in with a grand opening weekend from 27 to 29 November 2026, offering a variety of events, participatory activities, guided tours, and the launch of three exhibitions focusing on South America, Asia, and Africa.

Agua. The art and cosmologies of water

28 November 2026 to 30 June 2027

How does water shape the way that people and communities coexist? Water as a living, spiritual, and political force: this exhibition shows how Indigenous and traditional communities in South America are connected to rivers, seas, and rain cycles – and how traces of historical colonial violence, spiritual practices, technological interventions, and future scenarios are inscribed and overlap in these bodies of water.

Comprising twenty works of art from Brazil, Chile, and Colombia, this exhibition presents water as the source of knowledge and spirituality. It also addresses current conflicts about the environment, resources, and participation in society. The exhibition has been co-created with artists, curators, Indigenous groups, and traditional communities, building on years of exhaustive research in various regions of Brazil, Chile, and Colombia. This multi-sensory experience for visitors includes an interactive artwork that brings the materiality of rivers into the exhibition. It also features immersive installations that translate the idea of a fish trap and a house of fish creatures into multimedia spaces and plunge visitors into the images and sounds of Guanabara Bay in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro and the Amazon region in Colombia.

A cooperation between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, the Ethnologisches Museum – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and the Goethe-Instituts in Bogotá, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, and São Paulo.

Tracing Shiva. Between Berlin and Kathmandu

28 November 2026 to 31 October 2027

This copper-gilded Chatumurkha Shiva Linga *kosh* is the veteran of a long journey – from a temple in Kathmandu to the collection of the Museum für Asiatische Kunst in Berlin. How does the meaning of this sacred object change when it is removed from its cultural and religious context to become part of a museum collection? This is the question explored in the film and research project by visual anthropologist Deepak Tolange. The presentation uses the history of the Shiva Linga *kosh* to combine historical materials with documentary film footage of modern-day worship of the god Shiva in Nepal. It also traces the journey of the object from Kathmandu to Berlin, examining its provenance and how it came to be part of the museum collection while allowing believers, researchers, and other Nepalese participants to have their say, too. Their perspectives show the significance of sacred objects for Hindu communities then and now and what their loss means for Nepal. At the same time, the presentation asks about the responsibilities of museums in the case of objects that form part of lived religious practice elsewhere.

A cooperation between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

Togo: Forging New Connections

Permanent exhibition, from 28 November 2026

The new permanent exhibition *Togo: Forging New Connections* came about in cooperation with researchers and artists from Togo. It brings together historical museum holdings, contemporary works of art, and provenance research, making visible both the enduring effects of their shared history and the potential for new relationships.

The extensive historical collections from Togo in the Ethnologisches Museum offer a variety of opportunities for reinterpretation and contextualization. This process is largely facilitated by cooperation with Togolese researchers. At the same time, six artistic standpoints respond to the shared past of Togo and Germany: artists from Togo and the diaspora engage with this history in the medium of sculpture, installations, photography, and performance art. *Togo: Forging New Connections* is envisaged as an invitation to undertake joint reflection and knowledge production, providing inspiration for a sustainable, future-oriented approach to the colonial collections from Togo.

The creative work is based on years of cooperation within the framework of Das Kollaborative Museum (CoMuse), a joint initiative by the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst.

Preview: 2027

2027 will see the launch of exhibitions about pop culture and cultural appropriation as well as Costa Rica, land, and remembrance, followed in 2028 by the themes of "who owns the city?", fashion, design and origin, and dealing with museum collections.

The Humboldt Labor is reflecting the topic in its programming and in the form of a thematic trail. Taking the topics of the exhibition *On Water. WasserWissen in Berlin* as a starting point, the question is posed as to who owns water, who has authority over it, whether it can be inherited, and whether water itself possesses rights.

In the Berlin Museum, *Mein. Dein. Unser!?* will be accompanied by various kinds of events such as a series of panel discussions accompanied by a documentary film, the participatory project *Runde Geschichten* with senior citizens, and the WELTSTUDIO day of action devoted to upcycling on 21 March 2027.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please visit: humboldtforum.org

Press images: 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 the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition.



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