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PRESS RELEASE

## First room in BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition now open online!

The Berlin Exhibition at the Humboldt Forum can now be explored virtually in advance of its live opening in January 2021. A digital version of the first room – "360° Thinking the World" – has gone online. The room's 375-m<sup>2</sup> mural entitled *Thinking the World* was designed by New York-based urban artists How and Nosm.

Urban art is typical for Berlin – which is why the immersive mural entitled *Thinking the World* by twin brothers How and Nosm will introduce visitors to the Berlin Exhibition at the Humboldt Forum. On 4,000 square metres of space, the exhibition examines the web of relationships between Berlin and the world while focussing on a wide range of topics such as Revolution, Free Space, Boundaries, Entertainment, War, Fashion and Interconnection. **Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin**, the co-producers of BERLIN GLOBAL, are opening the first room – "Thinking the World" – online two and a half months before the exhibition opens its actual doors. Additional digital experiences are expected to accompany the opening.

The topic of How and Nosm's mural is the **leitmotif of the exhibition**, namely **Berlin and its connections with the world**. At first glance the work's colourful figurative elements, applied to the walls with spray paint and tape, suggest light entertainment. But upon closer inspection they reveal **critical takes on specific historical events** that connect Berlin with the world. Crucial issues like German colonialism, looted art and environmental pollution take vibrant form, and famous individuals appear such as the Humboldt brothers, Elector Frederick William and Christopher Columbus. This first room provides an introduction to the exhibition's main topics.

Visitors can explore the "360° Thinking the World" room [online](#) in two different ways: as a **guided tour**, or entirely on their own by moving virtually around the room and approaching **16 points on the mural** that show background information about individual images. The two **guides** for the approximately 12-minute video are **educational scientist and critical race theorist Jennifer Danquah and Berlin-based photographer and art mediator Markus Georg**. They bring a wealth of knowledge and their own personal perspectives to the rich associations elicited by this work of art.

The "360° Thinking the World" online experience is a foretaste not only of BERLIN GLOBAL's content but also of its **participatory approach**. **Collaborations with artists and other experts** will continue to generate new views on the exhibition's topics. A multitude of voices is intended to reflect the city's diversity, and also include groups whose lived realities might otherwise not feature in a museum.

BERLIN GLOBAL will open to the public on 16 January 2021. Visitors will then be able to view the first room's extensive mural in person. The informational material from the 360° online experience will appear there on a rotary monitor. The innovative overall exhibition will offer **many interactive features**. Visitors can log in at the entrance and set off on an interactive path with an individualised dimension. Elements include "dilemma questions", i.e. two different statements between which visitors choose on entering each new room. Their decisions are logged by chips in their wristbands. At the end of the tour, they receive an individual print-out of their interactions and have a chance to talk with others about the exhibits and their own connections with the world.

**Two details from How and Nosm's mural and the "360° Thinking the World" experience:**

**Brandenburg's Elector Frederick William**, one of the patrons of the Berlin Palace, established the first German colony on the west coast of Africa in what is now Ghana. Clicking on his image in the 360° tour will reveal that Prussia was involved in the transatlantic slave trade until the colony was sold to the Dutch Republic in 1717. Around 30,000 enslaved Africans were sent from the colony to the Americas under horrendous conditions.

**Wilhelm and Alexander von Humboldt**, after whom the Humboldt Forum is named, also await exploration. Both built worldwide networks in the service of science – Wilhelm as a linguist, Alexander as one of the 19th century's leading naturalists. Here one learns that Alexander von Humboldt benefited from the support of colonial powers. Colonial rulers were interested in the geographical data from his expeditions to South and North America and Central Asia because of the advantages thereby acquired over places under their power. The mural also makes reference to Alexander von Humboldt as one of the first ecological thinkers of the modern age. In 1800 he was already warning about human intervention in nature.

How and Nosp, two urban artists with German roots, have lived and worked in New York since 1999. This mural was curated by Yasha Young, founder of the Urban Nation museum in Berlin.

*The BERLIN GLOBAL exhibition at the Humboldt Forum is a coproduction of Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Stadtmuseum Berlin. The exhibition's design and contents were developed by a team led by Paul Spies, Chief Curator for the State of Berlin at the Humboldt Forum and Director of the Stadtmuseum Berlin. Kulturprojekte Berlin is responsible for the production, communications and – together with the Stadtmuseum Berlin – displays which are universally accessible and inclusive.*

*Major actors at the Humboldt Forum include the Ethnological Museum and the Museum of Asian Art (Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz), Kulturprojekte Berlin, the Stadtmuseum Berlin and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, under the direction of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss.*

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.berlin-global-ausstellung.de/en/](http://www.berlin-global-ausstellung.de/en/)

Facebook: [berlinglobal.exhibition](https://www.facebook.com/berlinglobal.exhibition), Instagram: [berlin.global](https://www.instagram.com/berlin.global), [#berlinglobal](https://www.instagram.com/berlinglobal)

[www.humboldtforum.org/en/presse/dossiers/die-berlin-ausstellung/](http://www.humboldtforum.org/en/presse/dossiers/die-berlin-ausstellung/)

[www.kulturprojekte.berlin/en/project/berlin-ausstellung-im-humboldt-forum/](http://www.kulturprojekte.berlin/en/project/berlin-ausstellung-im-humboldt-forum/)

[www.en.stadtmuseum.de/humboldt-forum](http://www.en.stadtmuseum.de/humboldt-forum)

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