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PRESS RELEASE

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Generaldirektion, Stauffenbergstraße 41, 10785 Berlin

On the Way to Humboldt Forum

Until 2019

A project of the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin at the Kulturforum and Museum Island Berlin

The collections of the Museum für Asiatische Kunst (Asian Art Museum) and Ethnologisches Museum (Ethnological Museum) – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin are going to be viewable for visitors during the move to the Humboldt Forum. *On the Way to Humboldt Forum* is the title of a series of dialogic special exhibitions, presentations and events that will take place until 2019 at the Kulturforum and the Museumsinsel, involving selected works and objects from the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin's two non-European collections.

Kulturforum, Kunstgewerbemuseum

Vis à vis. Asia meets Europe

12 May 2017 – April 2019

A presentation of the Kunstgewerbemuseum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

On January 2017, the Museum für Asiatische Kunst has shut the doors on its Dahlem location to prepare for its reopening in the new Humboldt Forum. We are taking advantage of this opportunity to present an exquisite selection of the museum's holdings, shown in the context of the permanent collection of the Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts). Within a framework of five thematic discourses, works from both museums enter a dialogue with each other, offering insights into more than a century of transfers of materials, techniques, forms, and subjects between Asia and Europe. The first presentation is devoted to the material group "Horn, Bone and Ivory". The second discourse is devoted to ceramics: European Art Nouveau porcelain and stoneware forms a dialogue with vessels from China, Japan and Korea. The Kimono and its influence on western fashion is at the center of the third, current discourse. As of December 2017, the joint presentation will be presented in its entirety.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Altes Museum, Neues Museum, Bode-Museum, Alte Nationalgalerie

New Neighbours. On the Way to Humboldt Forum

14 June – 30 September 2017

A presentation of the Ethnologischen Museums and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

New Neighbours presents over 20 objects from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst in dialogue with the collections of the Museumsinsel Berlin. Conceived as a series of pop-up displays in the Altes Museum (Old Museum), Neues Museum (New Museum), Bode-

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Museum (Bode Museum) and Alte Nationalgalerie (Old National Gallery), the show explores all sorts of ways of introducing completely different eras, regions, themes and histories to one another. It will give visitors a thematic foretaste of the unique synergy between the Museumsinsel and the Humboldt Forum which will create a multi-perspectival meeting-place for world cultures in the heart of Berlin.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Neues Museum
China and Egypt. Cradles of the World

6 July – 3 December 2017

An exhibition of the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in collaboration with the Shanghai Museum. For the first time the exhibition at the Neues Museum will present ancient Egyptian and ancient Chinese artefacts side by side. Many exhibits from China have never been on show in Europe, with the bulk of the loans coming from the Shanghai Museum, enriched by objects from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst. The exhibition features about 250 objects, including significant treasures from both regions. Reflecting the full time-span of ancient Egyptian civilization, the works on show range in date from 4500 BC into the Greco-Roman period (332 BC to 312 AD). The direct comparison of works from these two highly advanced civilizations makes clear the extent to which both have significantly defined the course of human history.

Kulturforum, Kunstbibliothek

Exchanging Gazes. Between China and Europe 1669–1907

29 September 2017 – 7 January 2018

An exhibition of the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence – Max-Planck-Institut. The exhibition illustrates the hitherto neglected reciprocity of cultural exchange between China and Europe, displaying approximately 80 objects, primarily from the 18th century. These include copperplate engravings and photographs of the European palaces in Beijing, the door of a chinoiserie cabinet, and porcelain pieces made in both China and Europe. The exhibition reveals that the unexpectedly intense mutual exchange was not limited to artistic motifs, but also included materials and techniques.

Kulturforum, Kulturforum, Exhibitions Halls

Faces of China.

Chinese Portrait Painting of the Ming and Qing Dynasty (1368–1912)

12 October 2017 – 7 January 2018

An exhibition organized by the Museum für Asiatische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Palace Museum Beijing, in cooperation with the Royal Ontario Museum Toronto.

Faces of China will be the first exhibition in Europe to explicitly focus on Chinese portrait painting, which experienced a boom beginning with the arrival in China of the Italian Jesuit Matteo Ricci in 1583. Presenting an unparalleled selection of over 100 portraits from the collections of the Palace Museum in Beijing and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the exhibition covers a span of 350 years, focusing particularly on the Qing dynasty. During this period portraiture reached a previously unknown level

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of variety, encompassing portraits of members of the imperial court, as well as of ancestors, heroes, literati, and women.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Bode-Museum

Beyond Compare: Art from Africa in the Bode Museum

27 October 2017 – Spring 2019

An exhibition of the Ethnologisches Museum, the Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Mythical ancestors from the Congo hold up the world of the living with sublime ease. Their presence in the Bode-Museum raises the question of why Christian Europe needs a suffering God. Bronze sculptures from Italy and the kingdom of Benin reflect artistic interaction and trade between two continents. Until the opening of the Humboldt Forum 70 major works of African sculpture will appear on Berlin's Museumsinsel in dialogue with European works of art. Experimental art-historical comparisons of such themes as depictions of mothers and children, protective figures, reliquaries, and ruler portraits, illustrate the correlations and differences between these objects, revealing new perspectives on both collections.

For more information on the program of *On the Way to Humboldt Forum* please visit the website:

www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/humboldt-forum/auf-dem-weg-zum-humboldt-forum.html.

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