

**PRESS RELEASE****13 September 2024**

**Temporary exhibition. The opening on 2 October 2024 at 6 pm will be attended by all participating artists and will feature a performance by Minh Duc Pham. The exhibition will run from 3 October 2024. Entrance free.**

## **Beyond Borders: Artistic Internationalism in GDR**

**The temporary exhibition *Beyond Borders* explores the GDR's relationships with friendly socialist states in the spheres of international politics, cultural policy, and the arts and looks at the enduring impact of these relationships on the present.**

To complement this year's feature exhibition at the Humboldt Forum, *Blown Away: The Palace of the Republic*, the temporary exhibition *Beyond Borders* – which has been conceived by Kerstin Pinther, the curator for modern and contemporary art at the Museum für Asiatische Kunst and the Ethnologisches Museum of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – will present a variety of artistic positions and archive materials that offer a broad, nuanced perspective. The exhibition's scope ranges from official East German cultural policy vis-à-vis friendly socialist states and liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and the Americas to the policy informing the international graphics exhibition *Intergrafik*, while also encompassing migration (hi)stories, (post-)migration remembrance cultures and the changes that took place after 1989. The music of the socialist international is represented by GDR Radio and the Festival of the Political Song and is based on the research project *Second World Music: Latin America, East Germany, and the Sonic Circuitry of Socialism* currently being conducted at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

The exhibition features works by Maithu Bui, Seiichi Furuya, Mio Okido, Minh Duc Pham, and Su-Ran Sichling that convey both individual experience and collective history. Collages and drawings by the artist **Mio Okido** touch on questions of cultural memory, including the sometimes-antagonistic remembrance practices of East and West Germany. (Other works by the same artist are currently on display in the special exhibition *Mio Okido: Remembered Images, Imagined [Hi]Stories – Japan, East Asia and I* at the Museum für Asiatische Kunst in the Humboldt Forum.) **Seiichi Furuya's** photographs

are concerned with the coincidence of individual and collective events. Hung in a loose arrangement, they show East Berlin city views and interiors captured between 1985 and 1987.

**Su-Ran Sichling** material-conscious approach to explore the themes of boundaries and permeability, social conformity and exclusion. Her series *Gelehrtensteine* (Scholar Stones) references the East Asian tradition of using naturally formed rocks as objects of contemplation, but here they are made of post-war modernist materials from East Germany. **Minh Duc Pham** and **Maithu Bui** likewise use evocative materials to reflect on their associations and connections with the migration history of contract workers from Vietnam and the conditions imposed by their residence status. Loans from the collection of Hung The Cao refer to the unofficial textile work done by Vietnamese contract workers. *Blick zu Nachbarn (Wiedervorlage)* (View of the Neighbours [Follow-up]), a textile work created for *Beyond Borders* by Su-Ran Sichling, looks at the contribution made by these migrants to the “alternative” history of fashion in East Germany and combines them with state-sponsored amateur textile production.

A module on *Intergrafik* featuring documentary and archive material portrays cultural and international exchanges and serves as a research resource on this subject. The international graphics exhibition *Intergrafik* took place for the first time in 1965 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and from 1967 onwards was staged regularly as a triennial show by the Central Executive Committee of the East German Association of Visual Artists. The invitations to artists to participate in these exhibitions and the selection of their works were used as an instrument of cultural and foreign policy. *Intergrafik* reflected the complex interrelationships and networks in the global art world, although the works it showed were by no means exclusively political. The first encounter with the art of the Global South in West Berlin came with *Horizonte 79*, the 1st Festival of World Cultures.

The *Beyond Borders* exhibition brochure will be available online as a PDF from 2 October.

A temporary exhibition of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss and the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz in cooperation with the artists Maithu Bui, Seiichi

Furuya, Mio Okido, Minh Duc Pham, and Su-Ran Sichling as well as Sydney Hutchinson (Humboldt-Universität).

***Transform!* themed days, 3–6 October**

From 3 to 6 October the Humboldt Forum will focus on the process of transformation that took place in the months and years before and after 1989 with a series of events titled *Transform!* Audiences will have a chance to see and hear prominent guests in debates, readings, performances, and concerts. The focus will be on concepts like change, demand and overload, and participation/inclusion as well as the question: What will happen to a Germany that is reunited yet still divided?

**Further information:** [humboldtforum.org/uebergrenzen](https://humboldtforum.org/uebergrenzen)

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

***Transform!* themed days:** [humboldtforum.org/transformiert-euch](https://humboldtforum.org/transformiert-euch)

**PRESS CONTACT**

Timo Weissberg, Press Officer Dahlem

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz

+49 30 266 42 6803, [t.weissberg@smb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:t.weissberg@smb.spk-berlin.de)

[smb.museum.de](https://smb.museum.de); [preussischer-kulturbesitz.de](https://preussischer-kulturbesitz.de)