

# Cover Image: Statue of Limitations

**Kang Sunkoo**

Bronze, 275\*229\*1102 cm, 205\*143\*1102 cm  
1st Prize Competition 2018, Realisation 2020  
Humboldt Forum, Berlin-Mitte, Germany / Nachtigalplatz,  
Afrikanisches Viertel, Berlin-Wedding, Germany

Amidst current international resurgence of nationalism and historical revisionism, a new public cultural institution has been in the making in Berlin: the Humboldt Forum. It will be housed in a reconstruction of the historical Berlin Palace, which used to be the main residence of German emperors and Prussian kings. The former cultural landmark of the East German socialist party, Palace of the Republic was demolished to make way or what will be the largest cultural project of reunified Germany to date. The Humboldt Forum will encompass the “Outer-European” ethnological collections of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Statue of Limitations is a two-part bronze sculpture. It depicts a flag pole with the flag flying at half-staff. It is cut in two halves that will be installed in separate locations. The lower half of 11m height will be permanently installed in the stair hall of the Humboldt Forum in Berlin-Mitte. The upper half of equally 11m height will be exhibited on Nachtigalplatz, a public square in the so-called “African Quarter” in Berlin-Wedding. During German colonialist period, there had been plans to imprison and exhibit people and animals from Germany's African colonies in the municipal park, Volkspark Rehberge in immediate vicinity to Nachtigalplatz, where one half of the sculpture will be installed. The outbreak of the first World War prevented this plan. Until today, streets and squares of the “African Quarter” bear names of the German colonialist past. Gustav Nachtigal was known as an “explorer” and commissioner of the German Empire. Current

political efforts by the local government to rename the streets and squares with names of historic figures of the African resistance have encountered opposition from substantial parts of Berlin's citizenry.

Today there are unresolved questions about political and legal consequences of the genocide against the Nama and Herero people by the German empire and about the handling of collection 'materials' acquired or established under colonialist influence. The mourning and remembrance of the genocide remain concrete and vivid in the victims' descendant communities.