

AMAZONIA – Yadegar Asisi's Magical Picture of Nature

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The world's largest 360° panorama, in celebration of Humboldt's legacy. On display at the Leipzig Panometer from 28 March 2009

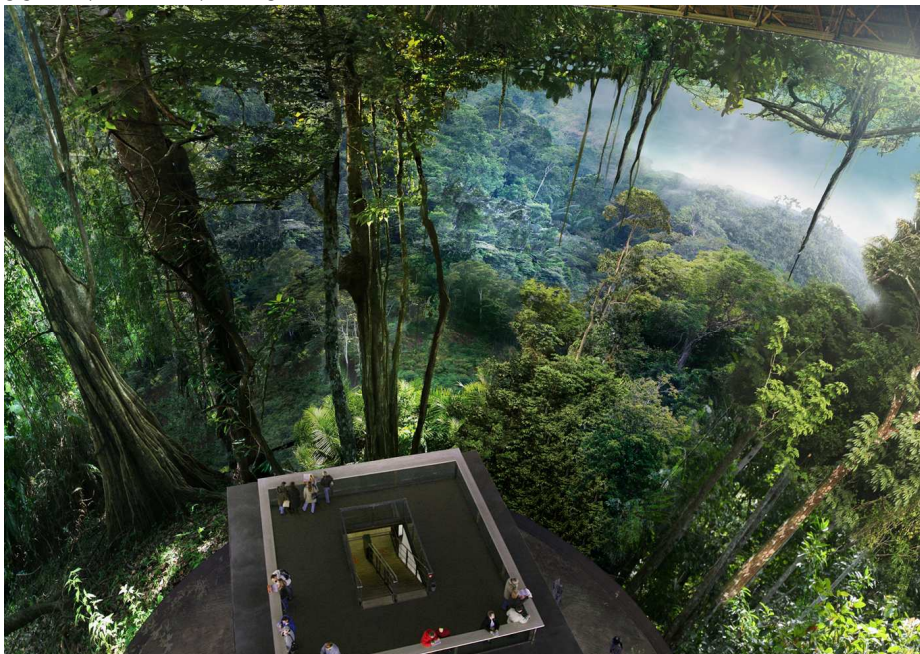
Come to Leipzig, and learn how to identify a particular shade of green amidst an infinite expanse of greenery, or find out why the sloth likes to hang out. On 28 March 2009 the panoramic artist Yadegar Asisi opened his 360° panorama AMAZONIA, the largest in the world. In homage to the natural scientist Alexander von Humboldt, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his death, Asisi takes us off to the green world of the rainforest, close to the equator.

In a special printing works in North Rhine-Westphalia, over thirty enormous lengths of fabric were printed and then sewn together by hand using special machines to create the gigantic panoramic painting, which has a total

surface area of over 3300 square metres. At the beginning of March, alpine climbers were called in to help with the complicated procedure of hanging up the picture in the panorama building, before AMAZONIA opened its doors to the public on 28 March. Asisi's magical picture of nature, "AMAZONIA", over 100 metres long and around 30 metres high, reveals the complexity and beauty of the rainforest in its original size. From the viewing platform, standing at the centre of the circular painting at a height of six metres, you can see deep into the rainforest all around you, as though you were in a forest clearing.

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HOURS OF OPENING
Di – Fr: 9 – 19 Uhr
Sa, So & Feiertage: 10 – 20 Uhr
Montag geschlossen



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Your eyes wander over the tropical river landscape and the savannah, the mighty tree trunks and treetops, to the slopes of the tropical mountain rainforests in the background. Thanks to an incredibly high resolution it will be possible, with the help of binoculars, to catch sight of details such as a caterpillar on a leaf or parrots in the treetops. AMAZONIA shows a fictive, condensed segment of the detailed and colourful world of the rainforest, sensitising your eyes to the seemingly impenetrable greenness around you. It illustrates the complex relationships between the countless varieties of flora and fauna. Tropical background noises and music specially composed by the composer Eric Babak round off the panoramic experience.

Yadegar Asisi dedicates the Amazonia panorama to Alexander von Humboldt. The natural scientist, famous for his research in the Amazon region, was full of praise for the panorama; it was his wish for a "magical picture of nature" to be created. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of his death, Asisi fulfils this wish by successfully portraying nature in its abundance and fullness of life.

The panorama is accompanied by an exhibition where you can learn more about the characteristics of the rainforest ecosystem, the incredible variety of species to be found there, the watercycle, how insects camouflage and disguise themselves and the world of tropical blossoms. The highlights include an original-size spatial simulation of a jungle tree over 25 metres high, or a model of a tropical mosquito sixty times its original size. There are also walk-in installations, or exhibits that play with spatial effects, such as a simulation demonstrating the unbelievable

masses of water that pour down from the sky in the rainy season.

A video installation shows a colony of ants on the go, busy at work in the rainforest. To produce this film, the artist accompanied an ant with his video camera for a whole day. In the section "Blossoms", on the other hand, things are seen from quite a different angle. Here, the viewer becomes a microcosm, transported to the macrocosmic world of the rainforest. This is accomplished by means of an anamorphosis, in which reduced perspective and distorted portrayal are used to turn you into an insect visiting a gigantic tropical blossom. From the insect perspective, you can look through the blossom and out into the rainforest.

To accompany the exhibition a comprehensive educational programme will be available, encouraging visitors of all ages to develop a new spatial way of seeing. This will include various guided tours, talks, workshops, events and activities (www.asisi.de).