

ROME 312 – Experience the Ancient Metropolis

Yadegar Asisi's 360° panorama of Rome at the time of Emperor Constantine

From 10 December 2011, Yadegar Asisi invites you to travel back in time to the impressive world of ancient Rome: »ROME 312« at the asisi Panometer Dresden. The circular painting, based on the historical panorama by Josef Bühlmann and Alexander Wagner from the year 1889, is an original-size photorealistic simulation of the legendary metropolis, depicted down to the last detail. The 360° panorama »ROME 312«, refurbished and complete with the addition of many new details and figures, shows the ancient city with over a million inhabitants in the year 312 AD, after Emperor Constantine's victory over his opponent Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge on the River Tiber. This marks the start of the panoramic artist Yadegar Asisi's panoramic *Year of the Ancient World*. From September 2011 to September 2012, whilst Roman antiquity is shown in Dresden with »ROME 312«, Greek antiquity will be featured in »PERGAMON – panorama of the ancient metropolis« in Berlin – with Emperor Constantine in Dresden, and at the side of Emperor Hadrian in Berlin.

Seen from the viewing platform in the inner rotunda, 15 metres above ground, the asisi panorama »ROME 312« reveals the architectural splendour and the hustle and bustle of Rome, drawing you into the ancient scene until you almost feel you are there yourself. Let your eyes wander over the heavily built-up hills surrounding the city, admiring the famous temples, thermal baths, basilicas and triumphal arches. You will see all of the famous buildings whose remains still dominate the Roman cityscape to this day. In »ROME 312«, however, they are not ruins but intact pieces of architecture in their original state, surrounded by the pulsating everyday life of Imperial Rome.

»ROME 312« also shows a turning point in history, away from the ancient world and towards the Christian West. It depicts the triumphant entry of Emperor Constantine, his entourage and his legionaries into Rome following the victorious battle against his rival Maxentius. According to legend, Constantine set the course for the spreading of Christianity on the eve of the battle. A shining sign of the cross appeared before him with the inscription "*In this sign, conquer!*" Upon this, Constantine had the sign of the cross (Labarum) inscribed on the shields and standards and proceeded to conquer

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his opponent. Up until just a few years before the *Constantinian shift*, the early Christians had suffered severe persecution.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Scholl, Director of the Antiquities Collection of the National Museums in Berlin, on »ROME 312«: “We see that Asisi’s artistic, archaeologically sound reconstruction of an antique cityscape can actually awaken a great interest in the medium of the panorama and classical antiquity, even in the present day. In view of this encouraging experience, I am eager to see his revised version of the 360° panorama of ancient Rome in the asisi Panometer Dresden. With this venture, two of the largest cities in antiquity – Rome and Pergamon – are set in relation to one another in an extremely interesting way, thus creating a new image of the ancient city.”

In the meantime, Yadegar Asisi’s existing panorama »1756 DRESDEN« will be updated and completed. The revised and newly printed asisi panorama of the baroque city of Dresden, incorporating an extended understanding of the term *baroque*, will be on display again in Dresden from September 2012. The “scent of time” and local colour will be intensified by the addition of historical characters and scenes.

360° panorama: Yadegar Asisi

Music: Eric Babak

Curator: Dr. Stephan Oettermann

Accompanying exhibition: Mathias Thiel