

NEW YORK 9/11 – A WORK BEFORE FINISHING

Yadegar Asisi is nearing completion of his latest panorama project, which as an anti-war exhibition aims to make a statement against terror and violence and to question the Western world's reaction to the fateful day 20 years ago.

Berlin/Leipzig, September 2021

With NEW YORK 9/11, Yadegar Asisi deals with what is probably one of the most defining moments in modern history. In 2002, he himself was one of the few people who was able to enter "Ground Zero" directly after the attack. For the architectural competition for the new World Trade Center, the artist developed a panorama for Daniel Libeskind's later winning design that shows the view from the gigantic hole of the former towers and felt the extent of the destruction directly on site. He was not aware at the time, however, that all of this created a vast iconic scene, the scale of which was capable of setting in motion virtually anything in the name of retribution, protection, justice or identity and freedom.

The attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the resulting wars that plunged entire continents into unending chaos and reinforced the lines of conflict between cultures and religions are an essential part of our present and the central theme of the Panorama and accompanying exhibition.

The Panorama does not depict the tragic events of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center itself, but presents the silhouette of Manhattan with the world-famous Twin Towers immediately before the terrorist attacks. A typical morning is shown in the metropolitan rhythm of the multicultural metropolis of New York: people of all origins hurry to their offices, wait in front of the takeaways and stream out of the underground exits en masse. In combination with bright sunshine and the clear sky of the beginning autumn day, this creates a colourful, busy and yet surreal peaceful scenery.

In contrast, the path into the panorama leads through the aftermath of this fateful day and shows the global impact of the events and the much magnified human suffering in the aftermath of the catastrophe. Here, Asisi addresses the questions: *"What reactions and responses do we have to violence?"* and *"Which of today's events do we still associate with 9/11 and how much do these effects interfere with our lives?"*

The new exhibition around the panorama of the American metropolis will open shortly before its most defining moment in contemporary history on 12 March 2022 in the Panometer Leipzig.