

TWENTY YEARS AFTER 9/11: ARE WE AWARE OF THE REAL SCALE OF THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES?

Opening of the new exhibition *NEW YORK 9/11* on 9 April 2022
at the Panometer Leipzig, Germany

‘We look back on 20 years of war, triggered by the attacks of 9/11. Will we carry on as we have, after this experience, or are we finally able to learn from history?’

– Yadegar Asisi

Berlin/Leipzig, 17 February 2022

Twenty years later, everyone who was old enough at the time still remembers the events of 11 September 2001. But are we also fully aware of the far-reaching consequences of that fateful day, which continue to affect our present life? While we usually only perceive the after-effects as a distant media echo, they are still a bitter reality for the victims of the attacks and especially the wars that followed. Rarely do events of a single day have such immense ripple effects.

Yadegar Asisi’s new exhibition project *NEW YORK 9/11* aims to question political and social thought and action as well as have us challenge our own perceptions. It shows the often forgotten side of the suffering and demonstrates the enduring impact of the terrorist attacks. The project will open on 9 April at the Panometer Leipzig, Germany.

The exhibition extends over five spacious rooms in the outer circle of the Panometer and takes visitors on a journey through the past 20 years. Space-consuming installations show the profound consequences of 9/11 and are intended to make comprehensible the extent to which the lives of thousands upon thousands of people around the world are still shaped by that day. The big, complex themes such as warfare, the use of capital, flight and expulsion become just as visible as selected individual fates.

In contrast, a 32-metre-high panorama installation shows the area around the World Trade Center on the morning of 11 September 2001. The events of the terrorist attack itself won’t be seen. Instead, visitors suddenly find themselves in the midst of a colourful, bustling and peaceful scene: the morning immediately before the attacks. It is a typical autumn day in Manhattan. People of all backgrounds rush to their offices, wait outside takeaways and stream out of the subway exits en masse. The sky is cloudless and clear, pilots call this weather condition ‘severe clear’, meaning there is unlimited visibility. A typical urban idyll. After walking through the previous exhibition rooms, it’s a surreal moment – and a look back at a supposedly ideal world.

Panoramas by Yadegar Asisi have been on continuous display in the historic gasometer since 2003. This is where the revival of panorama art started. Currently on show is *CAROLA'S GARDEN – A Return to Paradise*, which has been transporting visitors to the exotic macro world of the home garden since January 2019 and will be on display until 27 March. In addition to Leipzig, the artist's panoramas can also be seen in Berlin, Dresden, Lutherstadt Wittenberg and Pforzheim. Further exhibition venues are also being planned.