

GREAT BARRIER REEF

THE MAGICAL WORLD OF THE CORAL REEF

From the very beginning of his first trip to Australia, Yadegar Asisi was fascinated by corals. Their concentric symmetry lends them an enchanting beauty and they are washed up time and again on the beaches in the form of multifaceted skeletons. Asisi discovered that a coral reef is created beginning with a tiny polyp, a cnidarian in the water, and its symbiosis with certain algae (the zooxanthellae), which live in the skin of the polyp and supply it with essential nutrients by means of photosynthesis. Polyps are sedentary and form large colonies. On their base, they excrete lime – a process that ultimately results in reefs and over the course of thousands of years enormous reef structures from the lime skeletons of dead corals: the Great Barrier Reef consists of an area corresponding to the size of Germany.

The 360° GREAT BARRIER REEF Panorama fits into the series of Asisi's natural Panoramas. It portrays the unique underwater world of the coral reef in all its fragile beauty and complexity. The photo-realistic scenery of the cylindrical Panorama artwork, which acts as a "genuine" or "real" phenomenon, allows the visitor to completely immerse himself in the flora and fauna of the underwater habitat with all its diverse characteristics. A particular aspect of the approach adopted for the composition of the image here is the creation of a location, which appears completely natural and realistic although – as with all the other Panoramas – it has been created by the artist. The Panorama depicts an idealised space that in nature would rarely be recognised in its entirety at the same time.

In a dazzling display of colours encompassing the myriad shades of blue, azure and green, the observer views the magical submarine world of corals and sea creatures in bright contrasting tones of yellows, reds and pinks – as he would when snorkelling. The fascinating refraction of sunlight in the water gives the scenery a particular attraction. The blaze of colour and richness of detail of the Panorama emphasises the uniqueness of creation while simultaneously creating an awareness for its preservation.

GREAT BARRIER REEF premiered in Leipzig in 2015 and since then was on show in Rouen or rather is in Pforzheim.