

PERGAMON

The PERGAMON panorama takes the viewer on a journey to the ancient Greek city of Pergamon in Asia Minor as it existed in 129 AD. In the work, Yadegar Asisi deals with Roman times under the Emperor Hadrian, who is known to have visited the region in that year. Built into the terraces of the Acropolis high on a 300-metre fortress hill near the western coast of modern Turkey, the city's grandiose architecture, with its temples and theatre, blends into the surrounding hilly landscape. The sprawling Roman cityscape spreads out from the bottom of the mountain, while the Mediterranean can be glimpsed on the horizon. The citizens of Pergamon are portrayed alongside the emperor in various scenes and arrangements, which really capture the vibrancy of life in the metropolis some 2000 years ago.

In reworking the first PERGAMON panorama of 2011, it was important to Yadegar Asisi to make the city scenes really come alive and more sophisticated. Hence, he populated many of the scenes with inhabitants of and visitors to Pergamon. They are portrayed in myriad scenes going about their ordinary daily and working lives, as they would have been in Ancient Greece 2000 years ago. Consequently, the reworked panorama looks more like life as it is today. At the same time, however, the differences are also clearer. Corrections were also made to architectural and topographical elements.

The concept of Yadegar Asisi and the Collection of Classical Antiquities of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Berlin State Museums) envisages a temporary exhibition building near the Pergamonmuseum that displays part of the original collection, but also focuses on the exhibits that are not accessible – particularly the Pergamon Altar. In a globally unique collaboration, the museum exhibits will be interwoven with the work of a contemporary artist, blending the categories of traditional museum and art gallery.

The 100-metre-long building contains about 80 original items from the Collection of Classical Antiquities in Berlin, which are set among spatial, light and moving image installations. The central piece is a 30-metre-high 360° panorama in which artistic style, specialist knowledge and original exhibits merge together, enabling visitors to experience antiquity visually, acoustically and emotionally.

The panorama premiered in 2011 as part of a special exhibition at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. In 2016, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York displayed a video installation related to the panorama. Since 2018, the work is on display once again in Berlin, in the Pergamonmuseum. Das Panorama opposite the Bode-Museum and not far from the Pergamonmuseum.