

ROME 312

EXPERIENCE THE ETERNAL CITY

The Rome 312 panorama has a particular significance, as, without it, the rest of Asisi's panoramas would, most likely, not have existed. In 1993, Asisi undertook to organise the architecture for an exhibition entitled 'Desire: The Panorama as Mass Entertainment in the 19th Century' at the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn. He reconstructed Josef Bühlmann and Alexander von Wagner's 'Panorama of Ancient Rome and the Triumph of Constantine, 312 AD', based on a contemporary concertina photograph of the 1888 work. He was fascinated by the synergies between architecture, history and art – the dialogue between science and art, which, he feels, is often sadly lacking in this day and age. Using the black-and-white concertina photograph, he produced a 40 x 430 cm oil painting. This served as the basis for the digital enlargement of the image to around 10 times its original size, which was then printed on fabric for display.

So captivated was Asisi by the rich detail of the scenery, as well as the glorious architecture and urban development of Late Antiquity Rome, that he decided to turn ROME 312 – which was already around 30 metres high and 110 metres wide – into a panorama work. For this, too, he used the concertina photo of the 1888 painting. To achieve the results he wanted, however, he had to change the composition of the image by significantly altering and extending its height.

The viewers' vantage point is the Capitoline Hill. From here, the eye sweeps across the densely built-up hills of the city, past temples, spas, basilicas and triumphal arches. Buildings whose remnants characterise images of modern Rome. In the panorama, however, there are no ruins – just buildings teeming with life in a city in its heyday, fitting perfectly into the overall architecture of a pulsating metropolis. On the horizon, the Sabine Hills, the Apennines and even the coast can be seen.

The ROME 312 panorama was exhibited for the first time in Leipzig in 2005. Since then the panorama could be admired in Dresden, Rouen and Pforzheim.