

Press information

Dresden, July 2017

PANOMETER DRESDEN

Gasanstaltstraße 8b, 01237 Dresden

360°-panorama »DRESDEN 1945 – Tragedy and hope of a European city« by Yadegar Asisi in the Panometer Dresden from January 13th 2018 until April 22nd 2018.

Yadegar Asisi's monumental 360°-panorama »DRESDEN 1945 –Tragedy and hope of a European city« will be on display in the Panometer Dresden for the fourth time. On a 1:1 scale, the panorama takes its visitors on a journey back in time to the city of Dresden in the immediate aftermath of the Allied bombing raids from 13th to 15th February 1945. Asisi has dedicated a second artwork to the Saxon metropolis. This project was developed in close technical dialogue with the German Armed Forces Museum of Military History in Dresden. The successful collaboration with the composer Eric Babak, famous from international film and television productions, has also borne fruit with the overall concept of DRESDEN 1945. His accompanying music together with the background soundscape attuned to the panorama rounds off the visual impressions.

An accompanying multi-media exhibition provides visitors with an introduction to the subject matter. This exhibition was created in close collaboration with the historian Steffen Liebscher (as scientific consultant) and Mathias Thiel, the Creative Director at asisi F&E GmbH. It encompasses the history of the city, ranging from turn of the 20th century, via the Weimar Republic, the period of National Socialism under Hitler through to the post-war era and the onset of East Germany. The extensive research in archives and scientific institutions complements the concept with its in-depth scientific foundation. Personal experiences from contemporary eyewitnesses support the ideal complement. Important impulses in this regard were the large number of rare photos and personal recollections reaching the artist following an appeal to the public. Several of the contemporary eyewitnesses lend a human face to the aspect of hope in the exhibition in a totally individual manner.

With DRESDEN 1945, Asisi not only focuses on the situation of Dresden as a victim, but also opens up the perspective to a greater context. The internal destruction of Dresden had begun as far back as 1933 with Hitler's assumption of power, the extermination of countless human lives and – from 1939 onwards – of a large number of cities in Europe. Many European cities were destroyed by German bombing raids, including Rotterdam, Coventry, Stalingrad and Warsaw. Although this Panorama project is intended to pay tribute to the reconstruction efforts, which continue through to the present - day, it also questions urban planning concepts. After the rubble was cleared, the post-war building authorities carried out radical large-scale clearance work – in tune with the zeitgeist then prevailing everywhere in Europe. By this means, a large number of burned out historical buildings, such as the Sophienkirche and the Albert Theatre were irrevocably destroyed. Others remained as memorials and could be reconstructed like the Semper Opera House in 1985 and the Frauenkirche in 2005.

An extensive pedagogical programme on the Panorama is also available, providing visitors with an insight into this period of more than 70 years ago. This programme includes various tours, lectures, events and workshops.

Asisi's intention with »DRESDEN 1945 – The tragedy and hope of a European city« is to broach global issues: how can the experience of history and the tradition of terror, war and destruction feed into decisions, which of necessity repeatedly affect each and every individual? How can we create the future together? From 2015 on, it is intended that DRESDEN 1945 will be on display annually in the first months of the year – around the day of remembrance of the destruction in February (www.panometer.de).