

1001SOUL

Art Mapping the World - 2021 begins with UTOPIA

(text: Nic Leonhardt, January 2021)



100 of 1001 paintings in the Utopia venue. Reza coordinating his pictures of the world.

Every centimeter a piece of earth; the canvas a map of this world. Colorful is the world. Peaceful. There is still a hint of Nepalese temple scent in one corner; in the pictures of Florida, here and there leaves and grass stalks have immortalized themselves in the paint strokes. The memory of the tropical air of Malaysia lies next to the history-steeped spirit of Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin. Rhythms from the Auvergne set the surface vibrating. The sight of a picture of a mother and her child gets under your skin. We look and marvel ourselves: The world has really not seen anything like this before.



Connecting the world through art is the idea, the vision of **1001SOUL**. At the end of the project there will be 1001 pictures, 1001 encounters and countless conversations about being human and humanity: What does it look like, the world we want to live in? At the beginning of January, we had the first opportunity to put together all the pictures Reza has painted so far for 1001SOUL. 100 pictures. Almost 500sqm. A crazy sight, all the Soul Paintings – , painted in Indonesia, Malaysia, Chicago, L.A., Miami, Gannat, Cologne, Berlin, - just to name a few stations of our journey so far.

It was magical to unroll the canvases, some of which had been rolled up for two years, and even more magical to lay them side by side. **Like a new mapping of the world.**

The place of the first meeting was the [Utopia Venue, Munich](#). Utopia! A place that does not yet exist, the idea of an ideal world. There could not have been a better place than this great building in the west of Munich. Over two weeks we had the opportunity to roll out the canvases, assemble them and record the gigantic image in various media formats.

We are very grateful to [Michi Kern](#) for the trust he put in us to let us use the hall for our project. In terms of photo, film and technology Max ([dronext](#)), Dominik, Bennie and Aye accompanied us and worked out great material. Amir, Aydin, Farnoush, Felix and Inge supported us mentally and logistically. A thousand thanks for your efforts!

Looking at the pictures that have been created over the past three years, we also had to think of the **many, many people we met on the journey so far, who supported the project in various ways and thus became a part of 1001SOUL**. You are woven into the painting. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

100 out of 1001 pictures. – An auspicious start into 2021!

In the coming weeks, we will work on the visual concept and the **project video trailer** and get our **1001SOUL foundation** off the ground. We will keep you up to date! Here, on Facebook and Instagram.

Come well into the new year!

Nic & Reza

www.1001soul.world
soul@1001soul.world

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