

Panopticon
Curious Peepholes

Manufacturer: Replica, made in the LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

Year of construction: Model from the late 19th century

Owner: LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

Panoptics were a common fairground attraction from the early 19th century onwards. In these stalls, pictures and objects could be viewed through peepholes. The display of wax models was characteristic.

The travelling panopticon reached its heyday in the second half of the 19th century. The curiosity for the bizarre and exotic, catastrophes and earthy humour, as well as eroticism, were typical of this time. The heyday of the travelling panopticon came to an end in the 1920s at the latest. At that time, film reports and movies reached the masses in local cinemas and competed with the show booths for curious audiences.