

The subject of my doctoral dissertation is an artbook about the Paris metro. I have included the reflections on it in the theoretical part of this work and in the artbook, which is an integral part of it. In the first part of the thesis, I focus on the history of the Paris metro, then I follow its history from its creation in 1900, the decision to build it, the first lines and the way to their expansion. Further on, I present the history of how the appearance and decoration of stations have changed over the years. The characteristic white tiles, as well as each chair and lighting feature, also have their own history. In addition to the stations, to which I devote most of the dissertation, I also write about their entrances. What happened to those designed by Hector Guimard and why were they not welcomed by Parisians? As a designer, I can't ignore its communication aspects. The history of the metro identification: station name signs and typefaces used over the years also found their place in my thesis.

In the next chapter, I present examples of how the Paris metro inspired artists in the past, and my doctoral dissertation shows that it still arouses curiosity and stimulates creative activity today. The Paris metro is a place closely related to art and culture. Its corridors are filled with posters, pictures of artists' activities, some stations serve as exhibition spaces, or are little pieces of art in their own right. There is a lot of literature in the Paris metro, the book is an integral part of it. Music spreads through almost every meter of the metro corridors. You can listen to solo musicians or come across an orchestra concert. As examples, I present works by artists from the field of literature – after all, there are plenty of books where the Paris metro is the main character. There's also music, film and even theater. The famous scenes in the subway from the films by Kieślowski or „Amelia” by Jean Pierre-Jaunet are remembered by many of us. Polish musical „Metro” or Franz Kafka's „Diaries...” are just some of the examples that I provide in my dissertation.

Following in the footsteps of Inspiration, I try to explain what made me decide to make this project. Although I strive at inviting the readers to join me in my journey, the power with which the Parisian metro affected me, renders this project highly subjective. My explanation also included why I wanted to portray the beauty of the Paris metro in the form of a book. An art book, a book-object, related to the concept of *Liberature* created by Zenon Fajfer, where he defines such a book as a total book.

In the last part of the thesis, I present my process of creating the book. When I started working on it, I knew it would be a complex. I did not have any predefined frames or templates that I wanted to fit into; I allowed myself, my sensitivity, and – above all – time, to act. Work on it consisted of many arduous processes, but in the end a book was created, in which – apart from the content – printing, entirely analogue, is also important. It was

printed with riso and silkscreen. I also made the bookbinding part myself. I used three colors in my book: black, cyan blue and fluorescent green. These colors were not a random choice, either.

The combination of design, the principles of book design with my analogue approach to self-expression were successfully combined into one work, a work that reflected my idea with which I imagine each book. I managed to give this book a soul.