

Abstract:

Nowadays, many of Belgrade's walls form an imaginary gallery of large-scale street paintings: murals. This thesis builds on an argument that in order to understand this phenomenon, it is important to go beyond its visual and aesthetic qualities. Instead it approaches murals as complex entities that shape and reflect life and events in a given urban space and Serbian society undergoing post-war, post-socialist and neoliberal transformations. With a help of a metaphor „ecology of walls“, this thesis aims to show that murals can also be seen as a kind of „organisms“ which have their own socio-material life and agency, and are closely intertwined with the „ecosystem“ of the capital city and Serbian society as a whole. This „ecological“ perspective allows to think about the issue holistically. That is, as an intersection of actions and events involving walls and facades, creators and passers-by, local moods and global politics.

Keywords: Murals, street art, ecology, materiality, urban space, Serbia