

Atmospheres of Trams in and through Art

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Atmospheres are how we feel in a certain situation or a place. They emerge in a combination of subjective perception and objective characteristics of environments. Invisible yet powerful, atmospheres can affect our moods, experiences and behaviors. When it is “hard to define on a theoretical level, the atmospheric is nevertheless easy to identify in art” (Griffero 2014, 83). Art gives us atmospheric knowledge (Novak 2019) when we see how atmospheres can be created by artistic means and articulated in an expressive form.

A tram factor is when people prefer trams over other means of public transport and city authorities opt for tramways even if they are longer and more expensive to implement (Hasiak 2016, Scherer 2012). Do trams have certain atmospheres, and if yes, what are they and how to study them? I use two methods of examining how trams are represented: in visual art (research in art) as well as creating my artistic projects on board trams (research through art or artistic research).