

CMF in commemorative ceramics. Project of a color and texture palette on the example of “Ckliwie na szkliwie” – Nostalgic Glaze. Personal collection of memories on ceramic plates.

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Abstract

The idea is to document the existing design elements used in the fading tradition of making commemorative plates. The research and design work included the development of colors and technology of decorating unique ceramic plates. The project became an inspiration and an impulse to cultivate memory and build a community based on the Silesian tradition. The service of creating commemorative plates is based on the stories that users tell and, together with a designer, translate into a graphic design. A characteristic imaginary map is created, which is a personal record of the space, images, colors, words that are in the memories of the participants. The entire process consists of developing a personal story (interviews and workshops), designing a color palette and graphic decors of decals, for any personalization by participants, up to the final product of the project – a unique commemorative plate.

Keywords: color, CMF design, ceramics, paints, textures

INTRODUCTION

“Ckliwie na szkliwie” – Nostalgic Glaze is a personal collection of memories on ceramic plates.

The project started with documentation of existing design elements applied in the commemorative plate-making tradition. The archiving process consisted in conducting queries and photo-documentation in the museums of Silesia, which hold collections of such ceramic objects, as well as conversations with collectors and enthusiasts of regional porcelain who have invaluable contribution to saving the heritage of ceramic objects of the Silesia material culture.

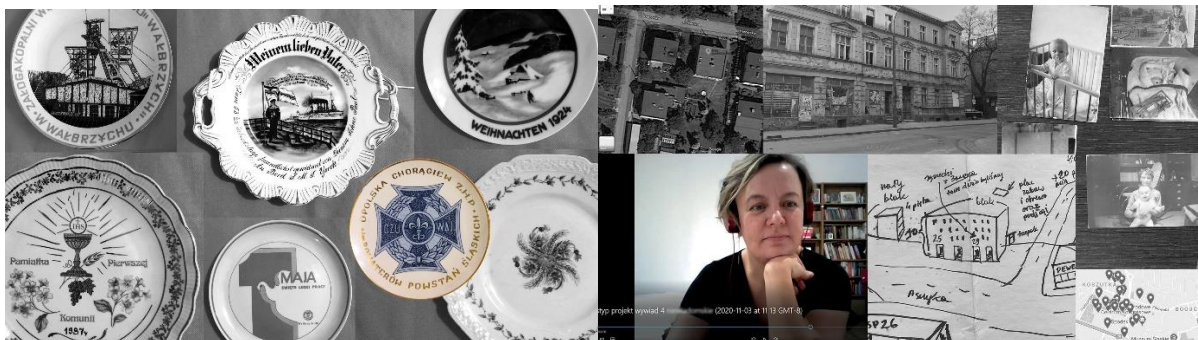


Figure 1: Introduction

The project and research part consisted of several stages:

- Creating a service, including a cycle of interviews, designing the shape, color palette and decoration and producing modern commemorative plates;
- Conducting the service for a selected group of several tens of participants;

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- Producing several tens of commemorative plates, presented on the project website: ckliwienaszklwie.pl
- Preparing the entire technological process and materials (plates, decals, technological background) for the prospective stationary workshop.

METHOD

The design process involved research in the area of individual color symbolism, color semantics and the possibility of mapping selected colors in ceramics (glaze, overglaze paints, ceramic decal). A series of tests was carried out to reproduce the colors described by the participants, and the palettes and ceramic samples were selected to enable their reproduction.

The research work was based on qualitative research (e.g. individual interviews, development of semantic graphs).

Conversations carried out with the users facilitated specifying colors evoking their associations and bringing back memories in reference to childhood objects (green surroundings, red window shutters etc.). Next, a matrix was developed and filled in – a sematic graph, into which the participants wrote all the associations connected with a given color. By means of color samples (such as color-aid booklet, pantone-postcards), they attempted to verbalize the meaning they attached to a particular color, define its hue, so that the glaze produced in the further stage of the project came possibly closest to the described color.

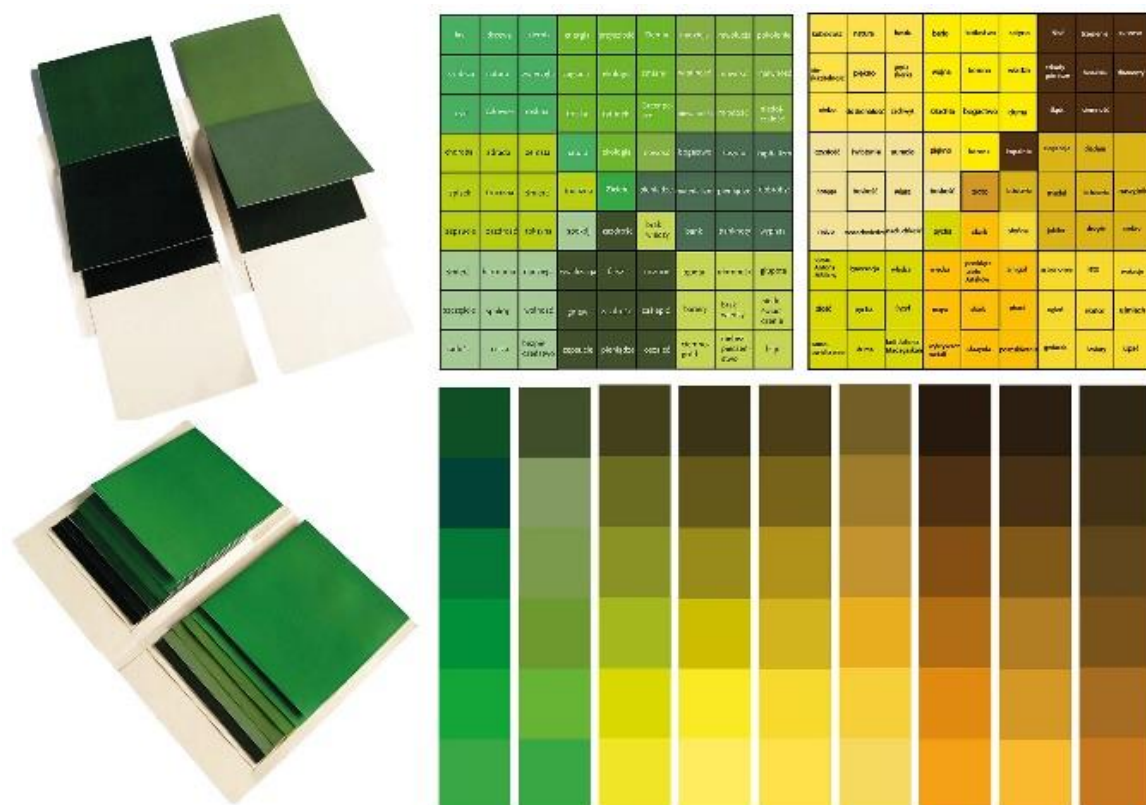


Figure 2: Methods

The design work included the preparation of samples of textures, surfaces and colors in various ceramic techniques and translation of selected color values into the design of ceramic plates.

Beside the above mentioned experiments with color, various textures and level of gloss, dimness, homogeneity and graininess of the glazed surface were tested. As regards CMF design (color material, finish), all these elements are crucial for color perception, as they are directly connected with cultural context and individual user experience. It was especially important in the case of this project, because the colors and manner of glaze finishing were intended to connote personal memories of the project participants.

Due to the character of Silesia landscape, colors most frequently associated with memories and recalled for sentimental reasons were black and anthracite – related to the symbolic of coal, red – as element of local architecture (brick walls, window shutters), as well as green and sky blue – colors associated with nature.

The listed colors were reproduced with glazed samples in many variants, based on original recipes presented below (Table 1: Selected glaze recipes dedicated to colors described by project participants, Figure 3: Methods, glaze samples, Figure 4: Methods, glaze descriptions).

glaze		temp.	base	description
TC 7992	MK III	1220°C / 1060°C	porcelain	high / low temperature glaze
TC 8944	MK I		faience	
TC 8483	MM I		clays: pottery / chamotte / red	Predominance: cobalt and copper oxides / copper and iron oxides / crystalline zinc
TC 7992	KG I			
TC 18056	JP I			
TC 8218A	St 3			
TC 9631	KM 1			

Table 1: Types and predominant content of glazes, applied bases, bake characteristics.

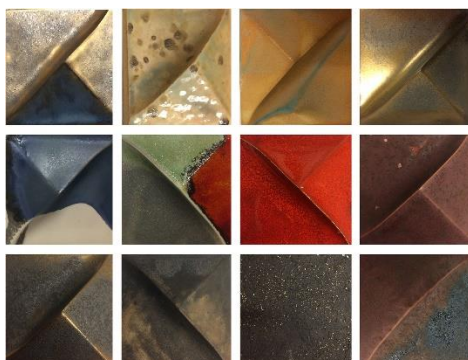


Figure 3: Methods, glaze samples.



Figure 4: Methods, glaze descriptions.

PROJECTS RESULTS

The developed color palette was used in the original project, focusing on the idea of visualizing individual associations and images with the help of ceramics and graphics. Conducted interviews, which translated into the project, encompassed individual stories, memories of people, familiar space, colors, textures, and all the related elements that build memories. A plate or a set of plates was intended as a tangible representation, a lasting record of fading memories.

The final design solution was a set composed of:

- Graphic representation of a landscape described by the participant
- Map (street grid) of the immediate surroundings
- Words, patterns, characteristic symbols
- Round ceramic molding made in porcelain mass or color argil along with glazing – according to the color palette described by the user.

The participants talked about their childhood, e.g. about the garden in which they used to play, about beautiful trees their grandfather had planted for their grandmother, family meetings in the kitchen, games around the block, their way to school and church. They described the district or city in which they had grown up, important points on the map, squares, sculptures, greenery and walking areas... They recalled the name of the street where their family house was before the war... where they moved and what they took, in their hearts, from the places in which had lived before...

Many interviewees equated home and family, children, grandchildren, the community; they attached great value to their family roots as well as expressed the desire to perpetuate the current moment in their lives.

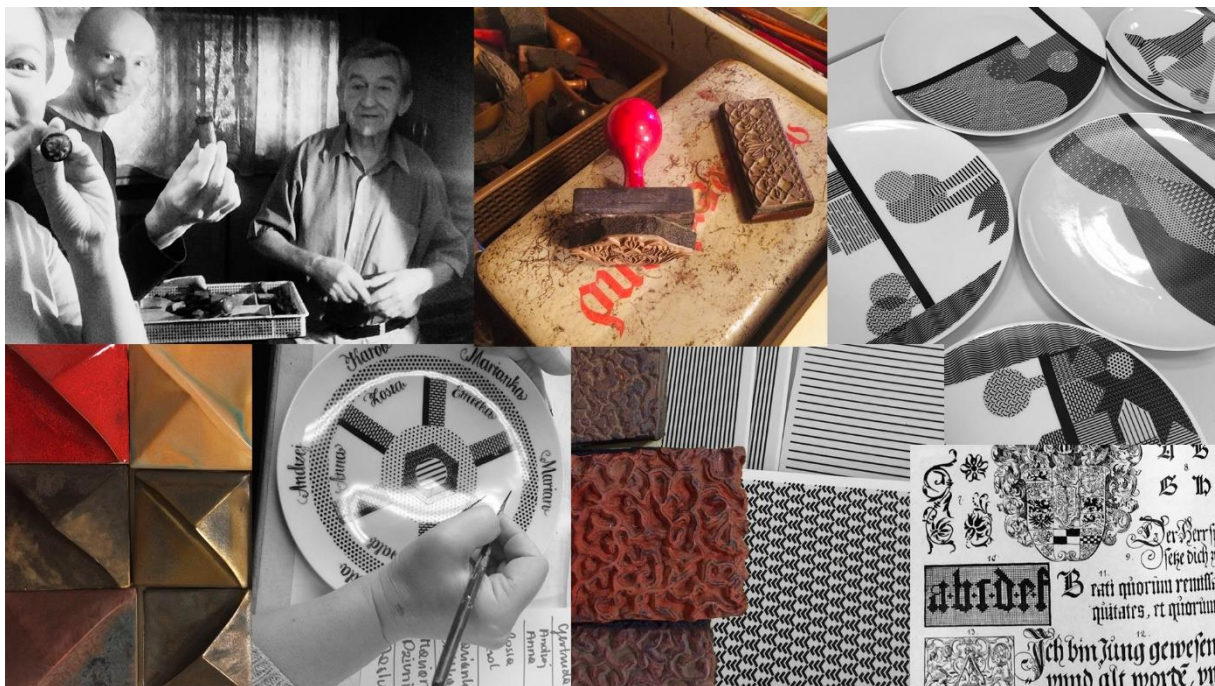


Figure 5: Project process.

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Figure 6: Project results.



Figure 7: Project results.

CONCLUSIONS

The research program and project activities were carried out in 2020 within the Minister of Culture and National Heritage scholarship, awarded to artists and designers by the Polish government for projects related to the dissemination of culture as well as project and research activities.

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The project involved workshops carried out with users, designing a color palette based on the conducted research and production of a series of ceramic plates in partnership with Porcelana Bogucice – one of the oldest porcelain manufacturers in Poland.

It was implemented by the end of 2020 and nominated for the Śląska Rzecz 2021 – Silesian Icon 2021 award (Gołębiowska ed., 2021, p.92) in the service category.

The documentation is available on the website: www.ckliwienaszklwie.pl

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