

Barbara REITER

Visualizing Human Rights

A subway station in urban Berlin, inscribed with the text of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on tiles, behind the rails. A book you can walk in, texts you can read while waiting for your train to come; not advertisements, but rights in the normality of the big city. How does this contribute to a public and individual process of learning? How can it change, if at all, our ways of looking at urban walls as a part of a public good? Can we assume that there is a shared responsibility for the looks of the public sphere? I will pose these questions by showing my movie „Under the Earth Under the Skin“ (length: 13:45 minutes, 2001) about the Human Rights subway station „Westhafen“ (artists: Françoise Schein and Barbara Reiter, completed in 2001) and discussing it.

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