

PhD Thesis Summary

A. Jagna-Janicka

A Symbolic Landscape. Research Record on Searching for Visual Language of Wojciech Smarzowski's Film *Clergy* (*Kler*).

This PhD thesis draws on the issue of imputing symbolic, iconographic meanings to a set design of a realistic fiction film as well as transferring a script's literary meaning into images that are built by the film's sets' decorations and props.

The first chapter describes the meaning and the role of a symbol in modern art with special regards to transferring the symbol into spatial structures that can be compared with the spatial structures of a set design. The second chapter is a record of work on creating the set for the fiction film *Clergy*. Lastly, the third chapter is a summary of the work's effects and attaining initial assumptions.

The most elaborate is the second chapter describing each and every film's sets design as well as the process of building the characteristic visual language. Every character has an ascribed world which includes: the interior, the location, the props, the architecture, the images, and the colours. Individual artefacts influence each other strengthening scene's interpretation and building visual climax and narration. Therefore, they create individual language of the film.

The thesis aims at proving the hypothesis that the set design is not only building a realistic location for acting, but it is also defining visual rules that are symbolic for acting.

The author aims at pointing that the film set is a field for creating visual structures based on literature and ascribing meaning to those structures, and not only building the interior.

Additionally, the thesis is supplemented with photographic material documenting some of the most important props and decorations and the process of scenes' creating.