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Development of Illustrations for the Yulia Bobyk's Book "Instincts of Memory"

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Abstract. *The paper examines the features of the book illustration design process through the creation of a visual concept for the author's book Instincts of Memory. The role of illustration as a means of visual communication that shapes the emotional atmosphere of the work and deepens its psychological perception is analyzed. The stages of developing a creative concept, the algorithm for determining design solutions, and the principles of constructing a symbolic visual system are described.*

Keywords: *graphic design, book illustration, symbolism, cover, visual concept.*

INTRODUCTION.

Book illustration is an important means of visual communication that shapes the emotional perception of a work and deepens its content. The study by O. Yezhova and T. Motorna [1] emphasizes that illustration directly affects the reader's emotional response to a book and the overall impression of the publication. In works of a psychological nature, it allows conveying the internal state of a character through composition, color, and symbolism.

As noted by M. Kolosnichenko, Ye. Hula, K. Pashkevych, and others [2], book graphic design constitutes a complex system of interaction between textual and visual elements, where composition, color, and graphic means form a cohesive artistic image of the publication.

Researchers of Ukrainian book design highlight the growing role of illustration as an independent artistic element of the book and an important tool for communication between text and reader [2].

Authorial creative approaches of illustrators, which combine symbolism, experimental techniques, and conceptual solutions, play a significant role in the development of contemporary Ukrainian book illustrations [3, 4].

The aim of the study is to develop an illustration concept for the book Instincts of Memory and to determine the principles of forming its visual imagery.

DESIGN RESULTS.

The preparatory stage involved a structural-semantic analysis of the text with the identification of key themes: memory loss, identity crises, and the protagonist's

internal conflict. Based on this, a visual system with elements of symbolism was formed: darkness, mirror, sight, broken glass, deformed letter “I”. These images reflect psychological instability and the disruption of personal integrity.

Designing was carried out in stages: determination of the emotional dominant, selection of symbols, development of compositional variants, and formation of a color solution. The palette combines dark cool tones with saturated red accents to enhance drama and focus attention on semantic centers. As shown in Fig. 1, the cover is constructed on the principle of internal contrast—a combination of restrained form and intense symbolic content. The use of ambivalent images creates multi-level interpretation and engages the reader in active comprehension. Fig. 2 presents the developed diptych, which continues the cover’s concept, revealing the theme of duality and the restoration of the protagonist’s internal integrity through the motif of the mirror.



Fig. 1 Working sketch of the cover for the author's book "Instincts of Memory" (Yulia Bobyk, 2026)



Fig. 2 Working sketch of the diptych for the author's book "Instincts of Memory" (Yulia Bobyk, 2026)

CONCLUSIONS.

The development of illustrations confirmed that the creation of book graphics requires a combination of literary analysis and systematic design planning. The developed concept ensures the integrity of the visual image of the book Instincts of Memory and contributes to a deeper disclosure of its psychological content. Illustrations act as an independent artistic layer, expanding the interpretative possibilities of the work.

References

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