

## **Paris across the Arts: the intermedial palimpsest and the construction of cultural imaginaries**

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Paris has always held a unique place in the European cultural imagination, transcending its physical, geographical, and observable reality to become one of the most frequently depicted cities in Western culture. Thus, this paper aims at understanding how different artistic languages construct distinct imaginaries of the city of Paris, from the mid-19th century to the present day. In other words, it proposes to analyse, considering the concept of the intermedial palimpsest, how the city's identity has been continuously rewritten through literature, painting, film, and television series. To this end, an interdisciplinary comparative methodology will be adopted, in which literature, the arts, and environmental humanities provide a theoretical framework for analysing Paris as a cultural landscape and symbolic heritage. The discussion will also focus on how the different arts contribute to the construction of the imaginary of a heritage city in the works under analysis. The representation of a place through an intermedial palimpsest occurs when a real or imaginary geographical space is constructed through the superimposition of different artistic languages, where interpretive layers from the literary, visual, and cinematic past coexist and reveal one another. In this context, Paris should not be understood as a city with a single cultural identity, but rather as a dynamic urban landscape that different artistic media help to construct. The various works under analysis reveal multiple and often contrasting images of the same city: a cosmopolitan, romantic, glamorous, monumental, artistic, and nostalgic Paris, but also a socially fragmented, multifaceted, impoverished, and violent Paris.

