

HOLA, MIRO!!!

A TRAVEL
SKETCH JOURNAL

swasky



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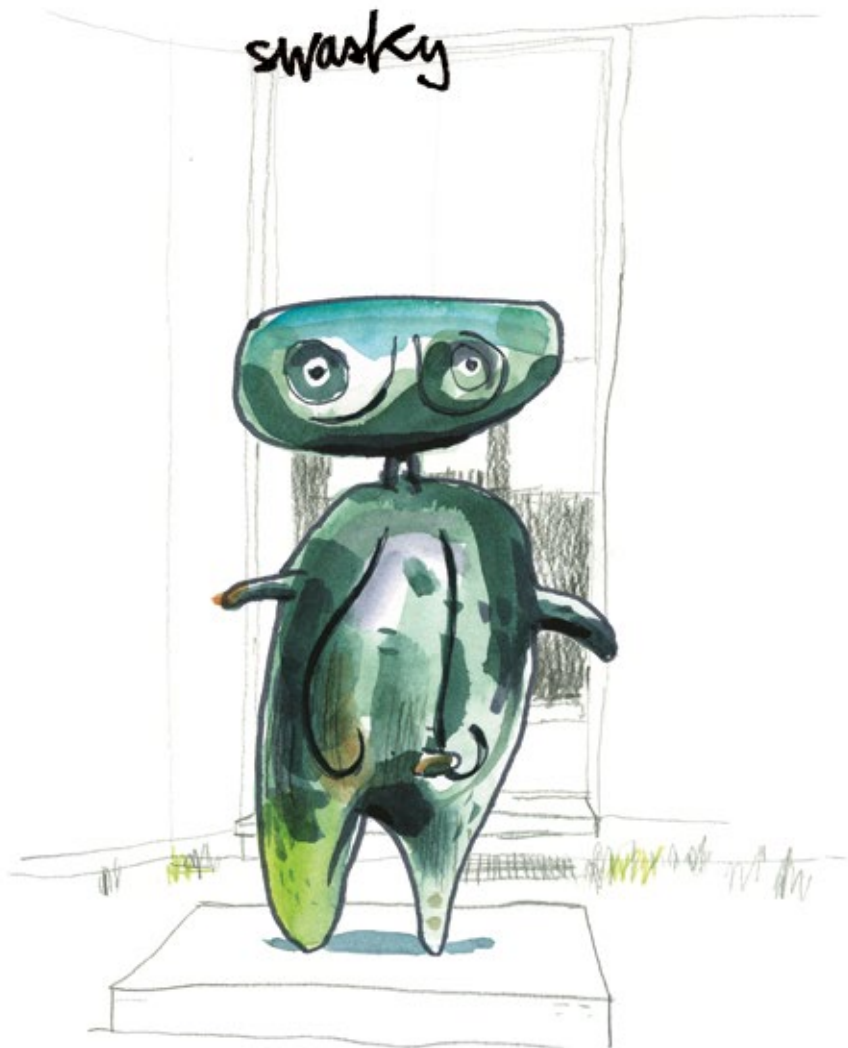
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This book is a travel journal. It seems ironical, as initially it was supposed to present Fundació Joan Miró, one single place, and yet the drawings took me much further and then the travel journal became a reality.

I've been from one place to another, but I've also travelled through creativity, my own and that of Joan Miró.

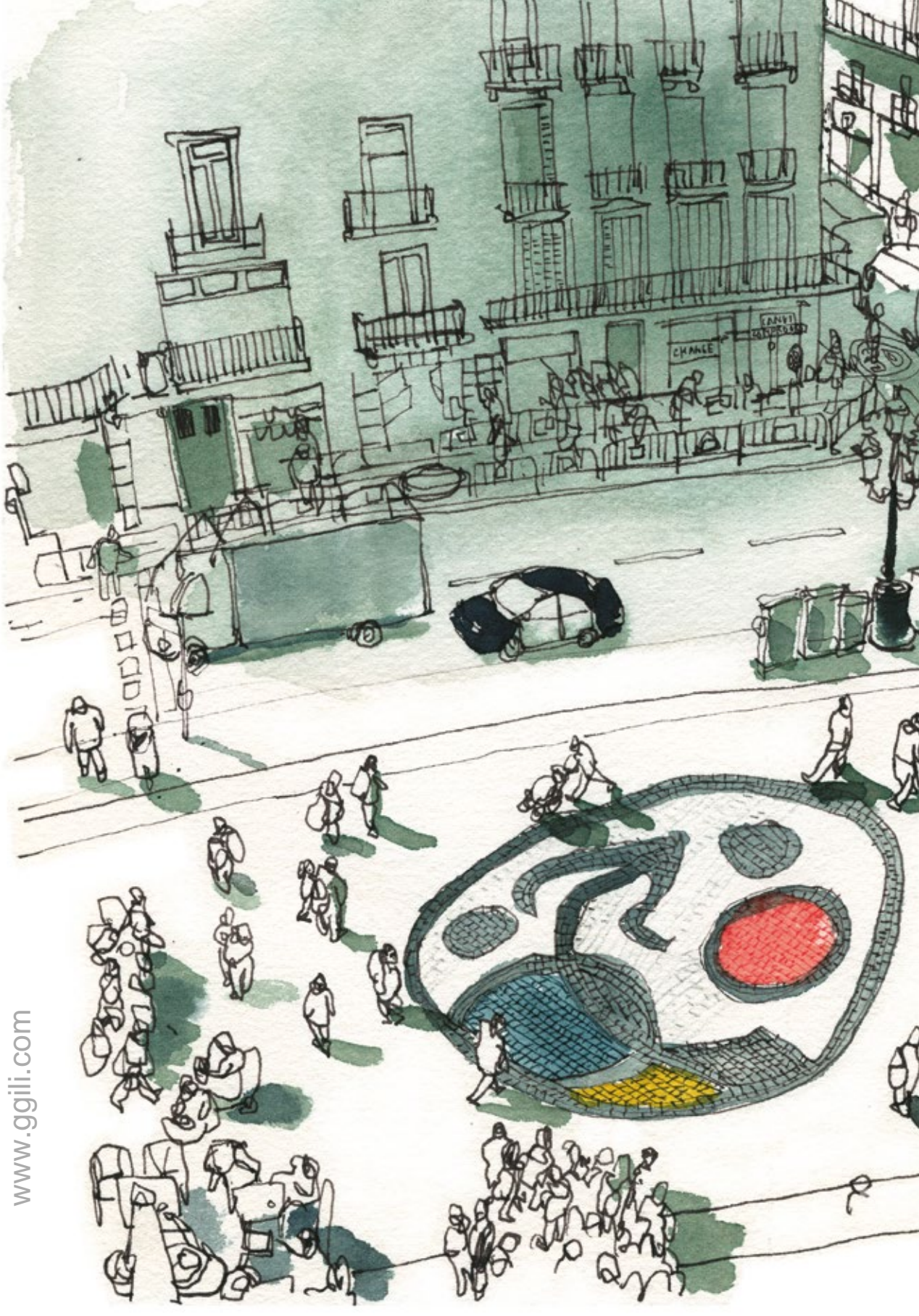
Today it would seem that the talent for invention or creation in teaching is scorned; it has no place in educational programmes or curricula, where all that is assessed is the ability to answer questions based on memorising knowledge and filling in blanks. Teachers are debating between what they would like to do and curricular requirements. Maintaining a creative attitude cannot be either incidental or secondary.

Human beings are inventive and imaginative, and yet to allow boys and girls to be creative is tricky because creative people seek answers and challenge established order. Joan Miró took his risk and sought new paths to see and show his surroundings in a different way. Thanks to this journey through Miró's creativity I've been able to experience how infinitely far he travelled from his first paintings, the ones I like the best, leading me to places in his oeuvre hitherto unknown to me.

Joan Miró and I have a number of things in common: in the first place, we were both born in Barcelona (on the left you can see Passatge del Crèdit, the street on which he was born). Secondly, both of us worked in a drugstore and I think the experience wasn't too satisfactory for either of us. Finally, we are both very down to earth and never forget our origins.

I start this journey in Barcelona, at Fundació Miró, but I will also travel to Chicago, Illinois, San Francisco, Paris, Beijing, Mont-roig and Almadén, before returning to Barcelona. Some of these places I have visited physically, while others I have experienced through the eyes and the words of other people. I hope you enjoy the following drawings and lines as much as I have.

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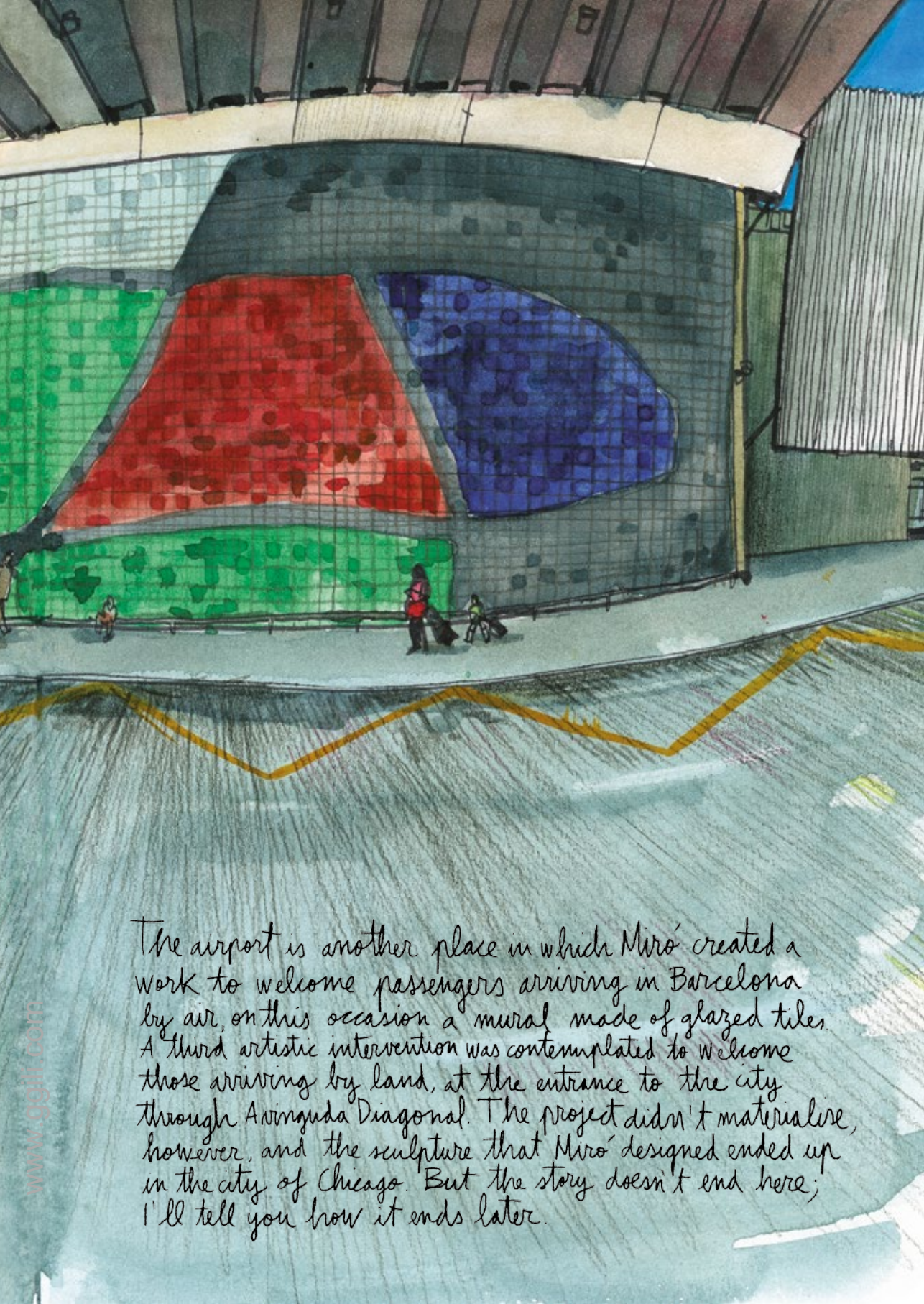


Before the Ramblas were filled with tourists, the Pla de l'Os was a meeting point for men out of work who were waiting to be hired as transporters at the Boqueria market. This is the story Eli told me when I showed her this drawing.

It's funny how a sketchbook is gradually defined, as is the style of a book. I began by drawing Passage del Crèdit and left the sketch half done. Involuntarily, white has become a constant in my sketchbook.

The Pla de l'Os mosaic welcomes all those who arrive at the port of Barcelona by sea.





The airport is another place in which Miró created a work to welcome passengers arriving in Barcelona by air, on this occasion a mural made of glazed tiles. A third artistic intervention was contemplated to welcome those arriving by land, at the entrance to the city through Avinguda Diagonal. The project didn't materialize, however, and the sculpture that Miró designed ended up in the city of Chicago. But the story doesn't end here; I'll tell you how it ends later.