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The cover image, titled Subway Map was created in the spring of 2000 by Matt Knutzen, artist, cartographer and Assistant Chief Librarian of the Map Division of the New York Public Library.

In this image, the chaotic is superimposed onto the rationalized. The dark foreground was created using traditional copperplate etching taken to an extreme: the usually controlled technical processes were allowed to run their natural course, resulting in a deeply etched, corroded abstraction. The plate was printed onto a NYC subway map. The image is a meditation on the ever-changing, transmutable nature of geography, and simultaneously a challenge to the authority of the map.