

**Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague**  
**Department of Photography**

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**Assessment of the Bachelor's Thesis**

Author of thesis: Karol Sekta

Title of thesis: Sally Mann and David Hamilton. Comparison in the context of nymphet archetype and its photographic representations.

Assessment of the primary advisor

Assessment of the opponent

Author of the assessment (first name, last name, workplace): Václav Janošík,  
Academy of Fine Arts, Prague

Evaluation of the content and final form of the thesis (A/excellent – B/very good – C/good – D/good with objections – E/satisfactory – F/unsatisfactory – not recommended for defence)

Suitability of the selected objective and work approach.....B  
Relative completeness of the literature used for the selected topic.....A  
Ability to critically evaluate and use professional literature.....D  
Logicity of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....C  
Language and stylistic level of the thesis.....B  
Compliance with citation norms (should the text repeatedly contain adopted passages without citing the source, the work cannot be recommended for defence).....B  
Sufficient extent of image attachments, justifiability and suitability of attachments, graphic layout.....C  
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the development of the field of study.....D  
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....C

Verbal evaluation of the thesis including questions that the diplomate must address in his/her thesis defence:

Karol Sekta chose for his bachelor thesis a comparison of two controversial photographers Sally Mann and David Hamilton. Obvious connection of their work and the point of departure of the of the thesis lies in an archetype of a nymphet. Nonetheless we don't really get to any closer determination of the concept. Author proceeds from stylistic analysis of work of both photographers to general characterization of "worlds" they represent. Last and most significant part of the text is dedicated to literary and cinema context of their work.

I must appreciate the vast amount of literature, that would actually deserve itself some concise introduction or bibliographical note, and numerous footnotes. Nonetheless, what the work of Karol Sekta lacks is more critical approach to both the artworks and the secondary literature. Often it is hard to distinguish whether author just refers to other sources or whether he actually articulates his own points.

The common points of work of Sally Mann and David Hamilton the author identified are quite naturally not only the subject matter, but also the ambivalence in respect to moral and aesthetic issues, interference or direct engagement of the photographer himself or herself and last but not least their literary and cinema references.

In this respect and even within rather brief conclusion Karol Sekta offers neat introduction and comparison but the research itself does not offer much new. Therefore lack of critical resolution, originality and dependence on stylistic biographical levels of analysis are the most visible limits of the thesis. On the other hand I must admit the scope of artistic references and secondary literature and apparent personal involvement of the author are admirable.

I hereby recommend the thesis to be approved with overall evaluation C.

Questions for the oral examination:

1. How would you structure or critically assess the secondary literature on the authors; more precisely which interpretational frameworks or attitudes are prevalent or how have they evolved?
2. In the very end of the work you ponder on the “criterion of reverie” implying that there is no determinate interpretation of the works of both photographers. Can you elaborate this idea further?

Date: .....

Signature:.....