

by Prof. Mga Jaromir Sofr

The evaluation of Evan Barry's Master thesis:

THE ART OF STATIC: RUBEN ÖSTLUND

Very conscientiously created master thesis. Evidently there is still opportunity to adapt the way of storytelling by cinema medium closer to the individual innermost creators need, approaches, feelings which can be communicated thanks to formal speciality. In case of Ruben Östlund method consists of seemingly very objective view of situation from unusually distant camera position able to evoke the feeling of eye-witness experience, sometimes able to provoke desire to see as much as possible, but the viewer's feeling of authenticity is never disturbed. On the other hand the structure of editing is impressively enriched by extreme close-up shots of faces, as we can see in Force Majeure. There is of course question in the statement of John Mullarky: "Why should the human face be the place to look to learn about character in a film?" and answer: "The way he or she stands, the movement of a hand, or the spatial configuration of bodies might be far more telling". Undoubtedly Ruben Östlund is master of employment all the formulated creative possibilities which reflects with other speciality his personal gift breeding his visual language innovative enough appreciated by theoreticians and jury members of all significant festivals. To understand the originality of creative method of Ruben Östlund means to see at least three of his recent movies and I had the pleasure of this experience. For the first this director can be seen as magician as for manipulation with running time of his movie. He is able to include extremely long shots into the structure of the plot, seemingly unbearable static, but all of them are emotionally functional. The stories communicated by him are of highest meaning as moral message for example the violence of young in "Play" which leaves no one sensitive cinema goer calm. In "Force Majeure" the plot is more subtle as family crisis but presented as moral challenge as well.

As a conclusion is necessary to appreciate diplomat's valuable effort to concentrate attention towards the creative means of contemporary one of the best. All this is significant reminder of the fact that old medium of movie if dealt by artist like Ruben Östlund can be still enriched by blossoms of new scents or colors in mass communication.

My evaluation of Master thesis of Evan Barry is:

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