

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

Assessment of the Master's Thesis

Author of thesis: Yeting Xu

Title of thesis: The "Phantom" in Photography

Assessment of the primary advisor

Assessment of the opponent

Author of the assessment (first name, last name, workplace): Tomáš Dvořák, KF
FAMU

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.....	C
Relative completeness of the literature used for the selected topic.....	B
Ability to critically evaluate and use scholarly literature.....	D
Logicity of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....	C
Language and stylistic level of the thesis.....	C
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 candidate must address in
his/her thesis defence:

Yeting Xu's master thesis addresses the problem of "blur" in photography and its
aesthetic significance. The author describes a large number of examples of what she
understands by blurry or fuzzy photography while drawing on many Western and
Eastern artistic as well as scholarly approaches.

The thesis presents an extremely interesting subject; unfortunately it falls into a kind
of circular logic when the subject took over the mode of presentation. The thesis is
not only about blurry images but blurry itself: the manifestations of blur described in
the text do not arrive at a coherent concept but rather keep shifting the attention to yet
another case of fuzziness (there is a blur of vision, of title and text, artistic conception
or correlation...). In consequence, the message of the text is a very vague one and the

reader has to employ much attention to get things into focus. It is also difficult to read, most likely due to it being a more or less literal translation from Chinese.

I very much appreciate the author's effort to engage in difficult philosophical matters and of building up a kind of an aesthetic system of her own. However, to do so one would need to work on a different scale – both in terms of the word count and academic and artistic sources. I recommend the thesis for defence and suggest C as the final grade.

Date:

Signature:.....