

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

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**Assessment of the Master's Thesis**

Author of thesis: Juan David Calderón Ardila

Title of thesis: Humour and Laughter as Social Venting in Colombian Photography

Assessment of the primary advisor X

Assessment of the opponent

Author of the assessment (first name, last name, workplace):

Mgr. Josef Ledvina Ph.D.

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.....C.....  
Ability to critically evaluate and use scholarly literature.....D.....  
Logicality of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....D.....  
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.....B.....  
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the development of the field of study.....C.....  
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....C.....

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

Juan David Calderón Ardila chose topic related to his country of origin. His intention was to provide a comprehensive analysis of a certain strand in Colombian photography that views serious matters of poverty and violence through the lens of humour and irony. Ardila calls this tendency “Macondian Photography” after the fictional town of Macondo from Gabriel García Marquez’s novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

The thesis is undeniably rich on original ideas, the chapter on personal photographer of drug lord Pablo Escobar for example corresponds well with Marquez’s claim that the Magical Realism of his novels is more believable than the reality itself. I also appreciate the discussion of Columbian phenomenon of “pornomiseria” and its

lamprooning in Columbian cinema and photography. Unfortunately, the work also suffers with many ills. The main of these is complete lack of focus that in many cases leaves reader guessing why a certain topic is opened at a certain place or, alternatively, opened at all. References to scholarly literature mostly do not support a systematic argument and the concepts or ideas introduced through them are often right after their introduction abandoned.

Despite the serious deficiencies of Ardila's thesis I appreciate the originality of his work and propose grade C.

Question:

Has Macondian Photography also entered the domain of contemporary folk art? Are there for example unknown Macondian Photographers that present their pictures on Instagram?

Date: .....

Signature:.....