

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

Assessment of the Master's Thesis

Author of thesis: Juan David Calderón Ardila

Title of thesis: HUMOUR SANCTIFIES HORROR: Humour and Laughter as Social Venting in Colombian 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)

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|---|---|
| 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 scholarly literature..... | B |
| Logicality of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters..... | A |
| 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)..... | D |
| 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..... | B |
| Overall evaluation of the thesis..... | B |

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

The thesis analyses a tendency in recent Colombian photography and audio-visual culture based on the use of humour as a form of aesthetic outlet of adverse social conditions. It deals especially with the work of Paola Rojas, Luis Ospina and Edgar Jiménez aka El Chino. The author relates their work to the tradition of magical realism and coins the term “Macondian photography” to distinguish and characterize their work.

I really appreciate the author's effort to define a particular style, however, the examples given are too few and incoherent to substantiate such a claim. The allusions to Freud, Bergson and other conceptions of humour are rather centrifugal as well; humour comes in a wide variety of forms and facets, one would have to define much

more clearly what exactly is the typical “macondian” jocular form. Also, its relationship to magical realism (in visual arts) calls for a more thorough elaboration. Although the author did not succeed in defining a specific photographic style, he still managed to describe a characteristic tendency in recent Colombian photography and visual culture. The thesis is well researched and structured and manages to situate the photographers and their work within larger cultural, social and political contexts.

I recommend Juan’s thesis for defence and suggest B as the final grade.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping letters that appear to be 'DM' or similar initials.

Date: ...16 August 2020...

Signature:.....