

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

Assessment of the Bachelor's Thesis

Author of thesis: Hana Selena Sokolović

Title of thesis: The Role of Humour in Bosnian Contemporary Art Practices

Assessment of the primary advisor ✓

Assessment of the opponent ✕

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

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

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

The aim of the master thesis of Hana Selena Sokolović is to explore the position of humour in contemporary Bosnian art. Specifically, Hana focuses on how different approaches to humour can be used as an artistic tool and a means of coping with the miseries of everyday life in wartime and the post-conflict society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The thesis is written in a cultivated academic style. Its structure is clear and logical, the argumentation solid and supported by correctly applied conceptions of humour. In the first chapter, Hana - drawing on Terry Eagleton's recently published book *Humor* – outlines three core theories of humour (the superiority theory, the relief theory and the incongruity theory). The second chapter provides an overview of the role of humour in Bosnian history. This chapter is a thorough literature review on this topic. It familiarises the reader with several examples of wartime humour (Sarajevo Survival Guide etc.) and the meaning and logic of humour in the Bosnian society, which is necessary for understanding the artworks presented in the next

chapter. The third chapter describes and, through theories introduced in the first chapter, interprets artworks of the selected contemporary Bosnian artists. Hana focuses on visual (photographic) artworks of Nedžad Begović (his photographic project Interventions on bird shit) and The Tač.ka Collective project and artistic interventions Imaginary Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It has to be stressed that Hana Selena Sokolović submitted an excellent bachelor thesis. The argumentation is straightforward, clear, original and telling. I particularly appreciate the author's ability to interlink particular chapters, mainly to correctly outline theories of humour and apply them to specific cases of artwork using humour as an expressive tool.

I consider Hana's thesis excellent. I recommend it for the defence and propose A as the final grade.

Questions for the defence:

In conclusion, you remarked that "if tragedies provoke deepest emotions of fear, humour, to an extent, can also be considered as an act of bravery". However, when using humour as an emotional and discursive defence against everyday tragedies, miseries, misfortunes and even atrocities, one can quickly get beyond the bounds of decency or correctness. Consider black humour and humour based on us versus them rhetoric and negative stereotyping. Is the humour related to wartime miseries accepted only positively (as bravery), or is it possible to trace critical, adverse reactions or even rejections of this kind of humour as incorrect or inappropriate?



Date: 24/02/2021

Signature:.....