

**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):  
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.....B.....  
Logicity of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....B.....  
Language and stylistic level of the thesis.....B.....  
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.....  
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....B.....

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

Hana Selena Sokolović wrote a thesis about humour in contemporary art of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sokolović argues that humour serves a specific function in the post-conflict society of the country of her origin – it is used as “a coping mechanism as well as a cultural strategy that helps address the problems of politics, ethnicity and identity and daily life”.

The thesis starts with a concise exposition of the key motives in the rich philosophical, psychological, or sociological literature dedicated to the topic of humour and laughter. Even though Sokolović recapitulates Freud's or Kant's conceptions of humour she draws information exclusively from the recent publication

of literary critic and theorist Terry Eagleton (Humour, 2021). This general theoretical introduction is followed by the discussion of the specifics of Bosnian humour. Given the complicated ethnic relations in Bosnia and Hercegovina and in former Yougoslavia in general, it is not surprising that motive of ethnic identity and accompanying stereotypes plays big part in Bosnian humour. Even though Sokolović understandably focuses on local specifics, the comparison with similar tendencies to ironic self-stereotyping in broader region of former Eastern Bloc and Yougoslavia could be productive. For example, the phenomenon of “Slavs Squatting in Track Suits” could provide nice material for comparison.

I propose grade B.

Question:

Does the tendency of Bosnian art to ironic self-stereotyping have an analogy in work of some artists from former Eastern Bloc?

Date: 30.5.2021

Signature: .....

