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

Assessment of the Bachelor's Thesis

Author of thesis: Gayoun Ji
Title of thesis: To what extent can originality and authorship be defined with the interference of Artificial Intelligence?

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
Logicality of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters..................................... A
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).................. 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 master thesis of Gayoun Ji aims to explore how the emerging AI affects human-centred conceptions of art, originality and authorship. The complexity of this question and the difficulty to find the answer is evident. However, Gayoun Ji managed to deliver a coherent account of AI and art relation mainly with his ability to break down his key research question into several relevant sub-questions by which he frames all chapters of his thesis.

 The thesis is written in a good academic style, and its structure is logical and well elaborated. In the first chapter, Gayoun Ji considers how "new media" makes the notion of art uncertain. In the second chapter, he outlines the history of AI, both from the conceptual and technological perspective. In the third chapter, he explains the relationship between creativity, originality and authorship. The rest of the thesis considers how contemporary artistic uses of AI question and further destabilises human-centred conceptions of creativity, originality, and authorship.

The thesis draws on relevant literature, which is appropriately used to support the author's argumentation line. Gayoun Ji further demonstrated that he is familiar with recent AI art projects and how AI works. The core of Gayoun Ji's contribution to the debates on machine art generally and AI specifically is the formulation of essential questions for considering the entrance of AI into the art field. The final distinction between AI-as-author and AI-as-tool aptly draws the line between human-centric and machine-centric approaches to AI technologies.

Gayoun Ji submitted a perfect thesis. From the perspective of a supervisor, I appreciate mainly Gayoun Ji's independence throughout the process of thesis writing. I recommend his thesis for the defence and propose A as the final grade.

Questions for the defence:
In conclusion, you mention Issac Asimov's famous three laws of robotics. Do you think these laws are being applied (and applicable) to AI technologies entering our everyday life and the art field? Are these rules implemented into the "programme" of autonomous machines?

Date: 24/02/2021   Signature:.......................................