

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

Assessment of the Master's Thesis

Author of thesis: Alexander Rossa

Title of thesis: Creative Applications of Machine Learning in Photography

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.....C.....
Relative completeness of the literature used for the selected topic.....B.....
Ability to critically evaluate and use scholarly literature.....C.....
Logicity of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....B.....
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.....C...
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....B.....

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

Alexander Rossa's thesis deals with the topic of how machine learning can enhance or supplement work of an artist. Those who would expect wild speculations about artists being soon replaced by AI are to be disappointed. Rossa's thesis is written in a down-to-earth manner. It begins with a short historic overview, continues with an accessible exposition of ML basics: Artificial Neural Network, Convolutional Neural Network, Generative Adversarial Networks etc.

The mode of presentation feels sometimes overly pedagogical, particularly in the sections discussing how ML can serve to photographers as a tool for postprocessing and recommending to readers platforms with low-threshold GUIs for those who cannot code in Python. Only five pages long is the chapter dedicated to the

discussion of a few examples of contemporary artists that integrate ML into their work. In the conclusion Rossa not only summarizes but also very briefly touches some of the ethical and political questions related to the uses and misuses of ML/AI.

Alexander Rossa's thesis is well written and structured, but what it lacks is intellectual audacity to open more complex questions. Given the title, one would, for example, expect that the notion of creativity will be defined in clearer terms and that author will pose himself than a question whether AI can be creative.

I propose grade B.

Question:

Can AI be creative?

Date: 30.5.2021

Signature:.....

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Rossa', written over a dotted line.