

SUPERVISOR'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title: Creatively Accessible: Prioritizing Accessibility Practices in the Curation of Virtual Artistic Spaces
Thesis author: Ava Holtzman
Programme of study: Photography
Programme type: Bachelor's

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment; Topicality of the thesis topic (and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis):

Ava Holtzman's thesis is devoted to the issue of creative accessibility in contemporary curatorial practices. She specifically addresses this topic through the example of intersections of art and technology and focuses on the issue of digital inclusion using digital technologies and virtual environments. However, the work also discusses curatorial disability accommodation in traditional physical galleries and museum spaces.

Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice:

Ava Holtzman's thesis, based on a thorough investigation and discussion of successful and not-so-successful curatorial approaches to disability inclusion, highlights the need for standards for accessible digital curatorial work. Notably, the author provides several examples of good and not-so-good practices so that the thesis can serve curators and artists who seek to make art more accessible.

Logical construction and structuring of the thesis:

The thesis is clearly and logically structured.

Formal requirements and requisite contents of the thesis, including its length:

From the formal point of view, the thesis is correct.

Level of language, style and terminology:

The thesis is written in an excellent academic style. The author is correct and confident in using terminology and approaches within disability studies and curating.

Reviewer’s opinion on the result of the check by the Theses system:

An automated plagiarism check did not reveal any flaws. The text is obviously original. The thesis correctly uses well enough of relevant scholarly sources.

Evaluator’s overall summary:

The issues that Ava Holtzman addresses in her thesis are very complex both in the sense of heterogeneity of disabilities and in the complexity of curatorial practices in offline and online spaces. Ava Holtzman consistently guides the reader through critical aspects of this area. I also appreciate the author’s reflexive approach in clearly defining her position in relation to the issue under study. Part of this reflexivity, moreover, is the ethical emphasis she places on the need to engage individuals within disability communities to build accurate and beneficial solutions and initiatives.

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

You mention in your thesis that there is low awareness at FAMU of the need to consider the inclusivity of students' works or the navigability of exhibitions. What action would you recommend to increase this awareness and develop students' knowledge and skills in this area?

Recommendation of the thesis for the oral defence: I recommend the thesis for defence.

Recommended grade: A

Date of elaboration of this assessment: 4/6/2023

Michal Šimůnek

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Name of the thesis supervisor

4/6/2023 

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(date and signature)