

OPPONENT'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title: Understanding Art: Ways of Seeing
Thesis author: Raphael Taterka
Programme of study: Photography
Programme type: Bachelor's

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment:

Raphael Taterka's thesis asks the challenging question, "What is art?" Given the vastness of the debate around this question and the variety of definitions of art, he attempts to find an answer, particularly at the intersection of the philosophy of art (aesthetics) and the sociology of art.

Topicality of the thesis topic (and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis):

The topic is particularly relevant concerning the transformations of the art world that are taking place, especially in the context of recent technological changes (e.g., AI). However, Raphael devotes only limited attention to these changes in his work.

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

The author de facto recapitulates the well-known debate between the philosophy of art and the sociology of art. In the final chapter, he uses this recapitulation to offer his perspective on the question, What is art?

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.

Work with information sources:

An automated plagiarism check did not reveal any flaws. The thesis correctly uses an acceptable number of relevant scholarly sources. Each chapter is mainly based on one source (book),

which I do not consider a severe shortcoming concerning the given type of thesis. In some parts, long verbatim quotations do not seem to be fully justified, and the author could have paraphrased them.

Level of language, style and terminology:

The linguistic and language quality of the text is excellent. The text is readable and clear, and the terminology is used correctly.

Evaluator's overall summary:

Considering the complexity of the question posed by the author, it is not surprising that he does not de facto find an unambiguous answer to it, or he concludes that the answer to the question of what is or is not art is relative, in the sense of historical, socio-cultural and subjective circumstances. In this context, he inclines more towards the view of Janet Wolff, who calls for a kind of sociological aesthetics.

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

I have a straightforward question. Why do we need to know the answer to the "What is art?" question?

Recommendation of the thesis for the oral defence:

I recommend the thesis for defence.

Recommended grade: B

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



Michal Šimůnek

4/6/2023

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Name of the thesis opponent

(date and signature)