

# OPPONENT'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN Master's THESIS

**Thesis title:** Somatic and Aesthetic Dramaturgies  
**Thesis author:** Susana Botero Santos  
**Programme of study:** Directing of Devised and Object Theatre  
**Programme type:** continuing Master's

**Definition of objectives and their fulfilment:** The objective is to describe, and research own artistic process and a process towards performing arts. It examines the process of transformation on a physical and emotional level, but it also demonstrates Susana's own artistic transformation. All the objectives declared are completely fulfilled

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

This work deals with very relevant topic of identity, appearance, needs to get transformed, etc. - in a way it deals with the deepest roots of theatricality as such. It is very "human based", yet not only personal.

**Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice:** Susana delivers a lot of information important on "stage-design" level and deals with costumes in a very specific context. All this is extremely relevant and also useful for any student (or artist) interested in kind of body transformation (and related costumes, etc.). It also balances between topics of visuality, dramaturgy and directing, from this aspect it is quite complex and tackles various professions and their interests.

**Logical construction and structuring of the thesis:**

The text is logically constructed and very instrumental, containing many specific examples and description, including photographs.

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

Requirements fulfilled.

**Work with information sources:**

Deep informational base, good sources, well elaborated. Integral part of the work.

**Level of language, style and terminology:**

Very high.

**Evaluator's overall summary:**

The thesis demonstrates Susana's fascination by her topic. What I appreciate more, is her ability to base profound research on that interest. This way we can follow her on a journey from an original ideal throughout a relevant description of individual phases. Her concern is not only deep, but constantly developed - her projects are more elaborated and follow a certain artistic way. Since I know her work, I can clearly compare her practice with theoretical foundation as well as detailed description, and I can observe a tight connection and a strong bond between both of them. Her work is based on research, but I appreciate how much she remains (and I used the word already above) "human". In the world of pre-apocalypse or post-humanity, I spot something deeply human in her work. Susana sees a human being as something that is ready to be changes - may the change start as an act of aesthetic improvement, one day the human being might change on a more profound level. Her text is very clear, instrumental, well organized, and therefore accessible, yet it does not resign from precision.

**Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:**

I appreciate the intensity you artistically search human body and its existence. Do you relate it, or have you so far come across the topic of spirituality? Does spirituality influence you in your work and thinking?

**Recommendation of the thesis**

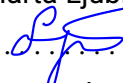
**for the oral defence:** Yes.

**Recommended grade:** A

**Date of elaboration of this**

**assessment:** 8 September 2023

Marta Ljubková



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8 September 2023