

# SUPERVISOR'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

**Thesis title:** 'Patience and Paranoia':  
The Necessary Art of Observation in a Modern World  
**Thesis author:** Michael Lozano  
**Programme of study:** Photography  
**Programme type:** Bachelor's

, the decision to look beyond the self and try to make sense of what goes on around us, always and everywhere, is something else entirely.

Efforts made through scientific research, philosophizing, religious devotion, and artistic expression often overlap as people all the world over attempt to make sense of living, society, and existence as a whole;

**Definition of objectives and their fulfilment:**

B

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

B

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

A

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

B

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

B

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

A

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

OK

**Evaluator's overall summary:**

Michael Lozano`s thesis, baroquely titled *'Patience and Paranoia': The Necessary Art of Observation in a Modern World*, is an unconventional accomplishment. The key item in Lozano`s list of literature is the novel by American writer Thomas Pynchon *The Crying of Lot 49*. Through quotes from Pynchon`s dense prose, Lozano builds a cascade of analogies between the character of its principal protagonist Oedipa Maas and what he sees as dispositions typical of a documentary or street photographer. Central one among these documentarist dispositions could be summarized as a constant state of acute anticipatory awareness bordering on paranoia.


Firstly, the stylistic and literary qualities of Lozano`s thesis must be acknowledged, it more often reads as a piece of reflexive prose than a theoretical inquiry. From a more theoretical point of view, Lozano`s image of a photographer sometimes looks rather conventionally "Bressonian". Theoretically most promising (and less conventional) aspect of Lozano`s inquiry is his suggestion that the truth-searching documentarist picture making can paradoxically lead to any notion of truth undermining "paranoic" world-attitude.

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

Is there a place for a photographer in our present predicament characterised by picture overproduction? It would seem the overproduction undermines pictures capacity to organize information flow (i.e. to "decrease information entropy") ...

**Recommendation of the thesis  
for the oral defence:** yes  
**Recommended grade:** B  
**Date of elaboration of this  
assessment:** 4. 6. 2024

.. Josef Ledvina. ....  
Name of the thesis supervisor

4. 6. 2024 .....  
  
(date and signature)