



FACULTY OF ARTS  
Charles University

Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

Supervisor's Report on B. A. Thesis  
"Persephone the Wanderer:" Myth in the Poetry of Contemporary American Women Poets  
by  
Dominika Kecsová

If a supervisor's report exceeds a brief recommendation that a work should go forward for defence, then a problem has arisen in the supervision. I am happy to say that this was not the case here. The student has written an outstanding and ambitious thesis (despite the fact that I was on leave for several months earlier this year).

U. S. poetry is both illuminated and plagued by categories and binaries like formal/experimental, Native American, African-American, slam/academic, intellectual/populist. U. S. poetry has also, at least since the 1950s, been subjects to various critical rummaging in what Philip Larkin called the "myth kitty." By the end of the 1960s it was no longer helpful to discover deep mythical structures in a literary work. However, this student's return to an old critical manoeuvre is paradoxically innovative, as it allows her to sidestep many of the categories and binaries mentioned above. It is difficult to imagine many works of contemporary criticism that would consider the work of poets as various as A. E. Stallings, Jorie Graham, Rita Dove and Louise Glück. If this in itself is striking, then also noteworthy is the intelligent and perceptive way that the student deals with the individual poets, searching for commonalities while never occluding differences. This is an excellent thesis and I recommend the grade of **1/výborně**.

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