

Abstract

This thesis follows up the topic of protest art in public space and identifies potential legal responsibilities through the media activism and culture jamming phenomena. The opening of the thesis is focused on key theoretical aspects of media activism and culture jamming in order to understand the concept of protest art. Dividing and comparing mentioned media phenomena required a recourse to the field of media studies to get a comprehensive overview of the need to oppose mainstream culture. The goal set in the second chapter of the thesis is to investigate potential legal impact of protest art coming both from public and civil law. The phenomena of legal responsibility is described from the perspective of legal theory and applicable law first, than from the perspective of judicial practice. Learned theoretical facts are creating a ground for case studies of publicly well known legal conflicts with artistic activists aiming at national symbols. First part of the third chapter follows the Red Shorts case of the Ztohoven activists. Thesis confronts presented courts arguments and decisions along with the issue of Czech Republic's civil claims for non-material loss. Second case study provides detailed analysis of the case file led on activist painter Tomáš Ráfa. Furthermore the thesis demonstrates the absurdity of some legal actions reminding totalitarian practices performed by public authorities. Case studies were chosen because both activist actions were considered as an attack against national symbols of Czech Republic. Both cases are very different at the same time when it comes to alleged harm to the interests protected by law. Ztohoven activists were prosecuted for the performed form of their expression, when Tomáš Ráfa had to face legal proceedings for the very content of his artistic designs. Thesis in general presents selected expressions of protest art, potential legal impacts of activism and makes conclusions on the present mood in Czech society.