

Supervisor's Report on M.A. Thesis by

Iva Martináková

BEYOND HORROR: OR, EXPLORING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN E. A. POE'S  
WRITINGS AND A. HITCHCOCK'S CINEMA

Ms. Iva Martináková sets out in her thesis to portray the facets of the interconnective nature between the writings of Edgar Allan Poe and the cinema of Alfred Hitchcock as far as the concept of horror and sublime go, even as the candidate argues that the selected artworks open out movingly onto dystopic contours well beyond the horror genre and modality.

The thesis contains 83 pp. across an introduction, five chapters and a bibliography. As for the prose style, it reads very cleanly and has been well and carefully written. This is to be commended.

This reader appreciated the rigorous use of close reading of the target cinematic and literary works, and the very solid research that stands as scaffolding for the structure of the candidate's compositional work and speculations on the conceptual intersection between a medley of theories and artworks. Theorists rolled in include Edmund Burke on the sublime, Sigmund Freud's theories of the mind and of the uncanny, Paul Ricoeur on Freud, Julia Kristeva's theory of the abject, Gilles Deleuze on film, Vladimir Propp and Laura Mulvey too, inter alia; all of these toss good light on the art-works under the candidate's critical purview.

The conclusion on pp. 72-76 stands out for this reader as a splendid encapsulation of the basic theses of the MA text and clinches the deal to give the work empirical substance and coherence.

Further than this, I would be interested to know the candidate's position on the status of the artwork in general in the academic cultural system and the question of whether the artwork in spite of its autonomy as a cultural form may be seen as a beneficiary of this kind of inter-disciplinary approach of looking at two media with the conceptual firepower of theory as an aid and support. Are there some losses in such an approach? If so what would they be for example? What are the gains if any, and why are they so?

In light of the foregoing mentions, I hereby recommend for Iva Martináková the pre thesis defense mark of 1 (výborně) for the thesis work.

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