

Opponent's review of Ing. Marek Jezo, ArtD. habilitation thesis

Opponent: Klaus Krall

This report evaluates the work of Mr Marek Jezo and is presented as a summary of his artistic creations in the field of visual effects, that have been accomplished over the last 11 years.

The presented artworks represent a combination of several genres. The mix of feature and short films together with documentaries show a wide range of the artistic work he has been part of.

The works contain not only original Slovak works, but also world-class international artistic output. Most of the works presented have won many awards at festivals, with the film "Anomalisa" even being nominated for an Oscar.

From my personal standpoint, those works, that have been screened in the largest cinemas in the world, have the most added value. It is far from common for artists from Central Europe to have had such a global impact, with consistently high audience retention, together with high ratings from critics of the works in which Mr. Jezo participated. The presented works include almost every area of visual effects, from concepts, look development, matte painting, simulations, animation, to lighting and compositing.

In the short film "Pillow Talking" we see full CG photorealistic environments together with various animals, dinosaurs and aliens. It is a very good example of how visual effects can complete a story that takes place in just one room. Thanks to the modern visual effects techniques, it is possible to tell the story to the viewers in a way that would not have been possible in the recent past.

In the feature film "Asura", visual effects complete the aesthetics of the palace environment. In addition to a number of static elements such as chandelier, bed sculptures or aquarium curtains, we can see dynamic CG assets like magical milk, tentacles and jellyfish. Thanks to these elements the whole environment comes to life and acquires a magical feeling. It is clear that the aesthetic of each asset was carefully crafted to highlight this and help to tell the story.

The movies "Diablo", "Day of Falcon", "Strach a Napatie" or "Arsy Versy" are perfect examples of the many high quality invisible visual effects. Indeed, in feature films such as "Asura" or "Pillow Talks" the importance of using visual effects becomes obvious. When the story needs aliens or magical creatures there is no other way than using high end visual effects. However, these days extra seamless and invisible visual effects are crucial to the story. The presented works achieve, from a technical point of view, the highest quality of processing. Therefore, I can subjectively evaluate a positive

impression of the artistic creation of the individual visual effects.

Thus, after careful consideration, study and evaluation of the individual presented works, I recommend to award the title of "Docent" for artistic contribution in the field of visual effects. In the justification of this recommendation, it can be stated that Mr. Jezo has been steadily and continuously working in the visual effects area for more than a decade. The quality of his output is constantly increasing, and his contribution continues to spread the good name of Slovak art internationally.

I also have to point out that we, k-effects as a vfx-specialised company located in Vienna/Austria, enjoyed the cooperation with Mr. Jezo and his team. We had a lot of jobs within the field of visual effects, shots for feature films and commercials where it was our pleasure to outsource some parts of the creation process to Mr. Jezo. Every collaboration was successful and gratifying. His understanding of the different tasks and the implementation was always exemplary. It is always a great pleasure to work with Mr. Jezo as a vfx-supervisor on set, as well as a partner for creative implementations. His extensive know-how and precise way of working means that we can always rely on achieving a perfect result.

Finally, Mr. Jezo's calm and friendly personality is an important aspect of the excellent and professional collaborations he is involved with.

We believe Mr. Jezo would provide great enrichment for the students and the faculty.

Vienna, 22.5.2020
Klaus Krall

