

Thesis advisor's review on Sofja Mironenko's essay "Protest Art & Revolt in the light of Ai Weiwei's artworks and Albert Camus's writings"

As a supervisor I appreciate student's choice of the topic that is both current and controversial, i.e.: something to write about. I also appreciate the endeavour to analyze Ai Weiwei's artworks within the philosophical frame, in this case, with help of Albert Camus' famous concept of "rebel". One of the points of the essay: that contemporary protest art enables involvement of the masses regarding the burning political or global problems (and thus a redistribution of power), *without* inevitable violence, also deserves acclaim. Including the conclusion that protest art enables globalization of the problems that we can no longer see as taking place in "in a galaxy far, far away".

Nevertheless, the essay remains rather vague: both the historical overview and the philosophical analysis jumps from one observation to another (the summary of Camus' book is the most cohesive chapter of the essay, one of the reasons being that it sticks to Camus' text), which is also reflected in the usage of sources (sometimes paging is missing). Havel, Chaloupecký, Camus, Kristeva, they all address the topic, but the author did not manage to interconnect these views into a structured logical argument. Instead, we witness a flow of significant but, unfortunately, undeveloped opinions.

Yet the point is there: hence I recommend the grades "2" or "3", depending on the defence.



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