Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, Study Program Art in Context

Diploma project: *Lettermania*
Diploma candidate: Erfan Sabzipoor
Project supervisor: Tomáš Džadoň
Project opponent: Barbora Klímová

Opponent's reflexion
Already in his previous works, presented in the portfolio, Erfan Sabzipoor reveal his deep interest in the medium of language, its seeming obviousness, comprehensibility, but also its emptiness and exploitability. In addition to working with language, its ironic and poetic abbreviations, I also appreciate the author's ability to intervene in public space. Erfan's printed T-shirts with the inscription "The Biggest Room in The World Is Room for Improvement" are among the works that will remain in my memory.
I am reviewing the submitted work of Lettermania based on text and image documentation, or rather text and one image, without the possibility of watching the video that is part of it. Therefore, my reflection is rather general.
The author interprets his work in the context of the dematerialization of language in the era of large language models (LLM). But he also obeserves pressure on the construction of meaning within artistic praxis and art studies. In the text part of the work, he writes about frustration from the feeling that he is not capable of a legible artistic statement, he feels “semantic exhaustion to forge legible, "meaningful" artistic statements”. These moments seem to me to be crucial. The decision to work with the monumental space of the Academy building, which in itself creates a certain pressure, is probably related to them.
I would like to highlight here the complexity of the work. It is based on long-term interest, practice and study of related literature. (As for theoretical sources, I would also recommend theorists dealing with text in urban contexts.) The text part testifies to a deep immersion in the issue, clearly describes the motivation, the process of creating the work, as well as specific aspects of personal limits, frustration, inability. I find this very valuable. I consider the resulting installation to be successful, relating not only to the modern dematerialization of language, but it can also be read as an institutional critic of art academies and artists positions, which with their weight, history, etc., press on the meaning and meanings of works. The pile of spatial letters, along with the disturbing sentence stuck on the windows "I am very misra about sentences", in my opinion fulfill the author's intention to create a physical obstacle from broken words and sentences, as well as a "spatial monument to his own semantic exhaustion". It could also be a monument commemorating the death of letterpress. Another important element of the installation, which has an almost ornamental effect, are the chains stretched from the letters of the sentence on the window to the industrial monitor at the top of the pile and further down to its edges.
Given the certain overload of chains in contemporary art installations in the last few years, I have a question in mind: does the author perceive their use more in connection with this overuse, or should I read it more generally, for example as shackles with which institutions and our relationship to them bind us?
I would like to add the following questions to the author: Why is the sentence on the window different from the one you mention in the text ("I am very miserable about sentences")? Are the objects visible on the windowsills part of the work? Can the installation be moved to another location? Last but not least, I consider it important to assess the relationship between moving image within the installation. In this context, I would like to point out the issue of deadlines for submitting work, which we probably face across all art schools. Students do not submit their work for assessment on time, thereby depriving themselves of the opportunity

for comprehensive reflection. However, I would not like this remark to play a role in the commission's reflexion of Erfan Sabzipoor's work itself. I consider the project to be very successful, I recommend it for defense and propose an excellent (1) grade.

Brno 29. 5. 2026 Barbora Klímová 