

## OPINION

by **Doctor of Sciences** /1.3. Methodology of Teaching Philosophy / **Yana Dinkova Merdzhanova, Professor** /1.2. Professional Pedagogy and Theory and Methodology of Professional Orientation/ **at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'**

regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition

**of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'**

for occupation of the academic position **'Professor'**

in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory)

In the competition for the academic position 'Professor', announced in State Gazette No 96/20.11.2018 and on the web site of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education within the Faculty of Pedagogy, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD, lecturer in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' participates as a candidate.

**I General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate** - The competition for the academic position 'Professor' provides the required lecture workload - 155 hours, 120 of them lectures and 45 - on the competition's subject. All the required documents and a qualified list of the scientific publications of the only candidate - Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD, lecturer in the Faculty of Pedagogy, since 1987, as a part-time assistant in the Department of Aesthetic Education have been provided. Gradually, the candidate grew up as a 'Doctor' in 1999 and as an 'Associate Professor' in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts) in 2003. **All the teaching, research and project activities of Assoc. Prof. Markova are abundant and related to the subject of her scientific interest and her workload in the faculty and outside it.** Documents and certificates, certifying developed curricula, participation in a large number of exhibitions /55/ and 12 research projects, expert and consultancy activities, supervision of post-graduate students /3 doctoral students, successfully defended their dissertation/ and 55 graduates, administrative commitment and responsibilities at the university and the faculty /Working Committees, Vice-Dean 2008-2011, Quality Committee of the Faculty, Evaluation and Accreditation Committee of the University/ have been presented.

**II General Characteristics of the Applicant's Creative Production and Activities** - Assoc. Prof. Markova participates **in the competition with 57 works** full and diverse in genre, 42 of them are independent, 4 of the articles are in a foreign language, and 1 of them is published in a referenced and indexed scientific journal. In this part, the opinion focuses mainly on two monographs, 4 textbooks for higher education and 6 books for school and preschool education, as they are most representative for highlighting contributions and characteristics of the scientific and creative activity of the candidate for **the transfer of the artistic culture in the pedagogical field and in the educational practice. The monograph 'Diagnostic Opportunities of the Child's Drawing' of 2005** is valuable with its critical analysis of drawing tests' advantages and limitations,

as well as with the multi-layered presentation of the child's drawing as a 'mean of expressing the child's spirit', with its radiance and style whose interpretation is a creative process requiring practical skills. As an author, a pedagogue, a teacher and an artist, Daniela Markova looks for the synthesis of aesthetic freedom, artistry and insight, on the one hand, and technology and effectiveness as a lecturer, on the other hand. All her work is marked by this desire to preserve and develop the scientific and generic aesthetic erudition that seeks the most effective way to pass on to the next generations without being superficialized.

Assoc. Prof. Markova's latest monograph and habilitation work '**The Art of Seeing**', 2019 deserves attention. The focus is put on the altered states of consciousness, in their potential for understanding and 'seeing' the invisible. As if the research and scientific problem/question for the author is 'how does seeing depend on the state of consciousness' - she looks for ways to save the senses and to rediscover the contemplation ability. There is interdisciplinary relation between psychological, philosophical, sociological, religious positions. *There is not much information about Bulgarian pedagogical and socio-philosophical experiments and texts, and such exist.* They would also help to outline the tendency for overcoming the opposition in understanding of cultural and creative development of man. Assoc. Prof. Markova uses authors - erudites, working at the boundary between science, philosophy, 'philosophizing'; she herself demonstrates her erudition and diverse interests, as well as the ability to interpret, summarize, compare, hierarchize. She creates an interesting line between 'altered states of consciousness-changed perceptions-creation of view-staring at the empty-direct seeing-seeing the invisible-contemplation-mystical seeing-meditative seeing-merging with the view' to make creativity happen and bring the creative product to life.

Assoc. Prof. Markova is author of **4 textbooks for students**, that correspond to the lecture courses and to the perimeter of her research and teaching accents - the methodological aspects of decoupage and the colour theory handbook, as well as the creative activities in kindergarten are inspired by the belief that their 'achievement and mastery' happen through practicing. These books can also serve as a Personal Development Handbook as they include attempts to look into the depths of colour theory and colour harmony.

The participation of Assoc. Prof. Markova as an **author of Fine Arts textbooks for first and second grade at school and of cognitive** books for the first-fourth group in the kindergarten in new sessions for textbooks and teaching aids since 2016 is very valuable. They are accompanied by **Teacher's Books**. This part of the author's work protects a PEDAGOGICAL self-determination in a convincing manner, and according to me it proves the identity and the justified **self-confidence of Assoc. Prof. Markova as a candidate for Professor in the relevant professional field, which is in the area of Art Studies, but also in the respective faculty - Faculty of Pedagogy.** I believe

that exactly such personalities, scientists, lecturers - creating, living and synthesizing interdisciplinarity, are to determine **the future image of an enlightening education.**

In the documents are described **25 citations** in peer-reviewed monographic resources and **20** in refereed scientific journals and publications.

**III Critical Notes and Recommendations** - they continue the scientific and cultural dialogue:

1. *Question:* How does the author refer to *Kant's transcendental 'thing-in-itself'* - does she want to reveal it to the end, especially in the creative process, or is it a kind of stimulating determinant for creative imagination and productivity?
2. *Recommendation:* *more intensive publishing in reviewed and indexed scientific journals*, which is necessary to promote and disseminate the applicant's ideas and experience, and which would immediately affect the use and the transfer of these ideas /incl. as citing in this kind of specialized scientific environment/.
3. *Question:* On page 256 of 'The Art of Seeing' it is said, 'there is no rational description that completely exhausts all the meanings of the image' - is there such an creative depiction that exhausts an image?
4. *Note:* The last seven paragraphs in 'The Art of Seeing' (the artist's view, description of the view, the way to the view, to hear and to see, time for observation, point of view change, the everyday view) begin rehashing and complementing what has already been said in the previous ones. *If the logical synthetic bridge itself was more concise and systematized, the monograph would free up space for an applied transition that would make it a more complex and fully developing the problem for the Creative View, on a theoretical and applied level. That would also increase its applied value. It seems, as if the author has become more distracted in sharing her own personal discoveries and showing erudition.*
5. *Question:* How would the author synthesize *the key scientific theoretical and applied contributions of her work?*

Any real creative work raises questions and that is part of its wealth. **But there are significant scientific theoretical and applied contributions as well**, which I see here in three global directions:

1. **Summary of interdisciplinary /philosophical, psychological, sociological, culturological, aesthetic/ cultural experience in revealing the profound mechanisms of artistic work and creative processes.**
2. **Highlighting principles and mechanisms for sensing, harmonizing and mastering colours by preserving and developing man's senses and contemplative abilities - on the boundary between art studies and pedagogical and methodological field.**
3. **Pedagogical and methodological transference and operationalization of creative skills and experience for educational purposes:**
  - **for preparation of teachers in HEI;**
  - **for primary school education in cycle 'Fine Arts';**
  - **for pre-school education and fostering artistic sensitivity in the youngest.**

**CONCLUSION** - The candidature of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova **meets all the criteria** and requirements laid down in the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Rules for its implementation in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. She presents a sufficient number of high-quality scientific works, demonstrates years of experience and productivity in working with university students, pupils. **She is an appropriate candidate for 'Professor', in view of the scientometric indicators.** Her work **expresses authentic and original style**, on the basis of correct erudite pedagogically transferred use of world cultural achievements in an interdisciplinary field. Her long-term activity **corresponds to the necessity of professor in the respective field, stated by the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'**. There are undeveloped issues in the author's work as well, which are a wonderful perspective for personal growth, and thus for growth of the field.

That is why, **with total conviction, I propose that** the members of the Honorable Committee **should support the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova on the academic position 'Professor'** in Area of Higher Education 8. Art Studies, Professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory), for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education, Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

02.04.2019

**This opinion is prepared by:**

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