

## REVIEW

by Prof. Biser Iliev Damyanov, Doctor of Art Studies, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski',  
of the materials submitted for participation in the competition  
for occupation of the academic position 'Professor'  
in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'  
in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts,  
Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts,  
Scientific Speciality: '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 - **the only candidate**.

### 1. General Presentation of the Received Materials

By Order No P33-1121/05.03.2019 of the Chancellor of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition for occupation of the academic position 'Professor' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory), announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education within the Faculty of Pedagogy.

The set of materials **presented by Daniela Markova in paper format** complies with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and includes the following papers: application to the Chancellor, curriculum vitae, diplomas (for completed education – Master's degree, PhD degree, for the academic position 'Associate Professor'), a list of scientific works, a reference confirming compliance with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, an annotation of the scientific and creative works, a declaration of originality and authenticity of the included papers, copies from the minutes of the Department Council, the Faculty Council and the Academic Staff related to the competition, information about the academic workload related to the announced competition, a copy of the State Gazette containing the competition notice, a work experience certificate, proofs of teaching work, proofs of research work (abstracts and texts of scientific works), papers proving artistic and creative activity, a CD with materials, reference of citations.

The candidate Daniela Markova included a total of 56 scientific works that can be classified as follows:

- monographs - 2;
- textbooks - 4 (2 for university students, and 2 for secondary school);
- teaching aids - 6 (2 for secondary school and 4 for kindergarten);
- articles - 40 (4 in a foreign language, and 3 in co-authorship).

In the Period 2000 - 2017 Markova participated in 13 projects, and managed two of them.

The applicant provided for review a CD of works presenting her artistic and creative activity. They include an electronic album and other type of evidence, mainly for participation in exhibitions.

Only publications, artistic and creative contributions of the candidate, corresponding to the scientific specialty are reviewed for the competition.

Only publications, other than dissertation and habilitation works are reviewed: 1 textbook for university students and 10 articles directly corresponding to the competition's code, as well as other publications - monographs, textbooks and articles indirectly corresponding to the competition. The materials related to the artistic and creative activity of the applicant are also reviewed.

The applicant submitted a complete set of papers for the competition. The presented materials are in compliance with the minimum national requirements for occupation of the academic position *Professor*.

## **2. Brief Biographical Data on the Applicant**

Daniela Markova graduated from the National Academy of Arts - Sofia in 1987, as a Master of Fine Arts with a Teaching Qualification.

In 1987, she was a part-time Lecturer in 'Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts'. In 1988, she was elected for Assistant in Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts in Kindergarten in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. In 1993, she was elected for Senior Assistant, and in 1994 - for Head Assistant.

In 1998, she defended a thesis in a scientific specialty 'Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts' (topic of thesis: 'Increasing the Expressiveness of the Child's Drawing in 6-7-Year Old Children through the Conventionality of the Picture'), on the basis of which she was awarded the educational and scientific degree *Doctor* (05.07.03).

In 2003, D. Markova obtained the scientific rank *Associate Professor* in the scientific specialty (05.07.03) 'Methodology of Teaching' (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts in Preschool Age).

In the period 2008-2011, she was Vice-Dean for Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

After completing her higher education, Daniela Markova starts working in the field of painting and regularly participates in art exhibitions. She works mainly in the field of easel painting. She is a member of several scientific and art organizations: Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Regional Committee for Preschool Education OMEP - Plovdiv, Plovdiv Artists Association, 'Group Colour' - Bulgaria.

## **3. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity**

### ***Assessment of the Educational and Pedagogical Activity***

The main teaching activity of Daniela Markova has been done in Plovdiv University 'Paisii

Hilendarski', where she has been working for many years and has gained rich teaching experience. During her many years of practice Assoc. Prof. Markova has hold various compulsory, elective and facultative courses in various specialties. She has read lectures, has conducted seminars, has supervised doctoral students and graduates.

Assoc. Prof. Markova has participated in the elaboration of curricula for bachelor and master programs. She has developed curricula and lecture courses with relevant multimedia presentations for different academic disciplines.

Currently, Assoc. Prof. Markova reads training courses on Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts in Preschool Age (Specialties: Preschool Pedagogy, Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy), Painting, Colour Theory, etc. (Specialties: Pedagogy of Fine Arts, Graphic Design and Advertising).

Markova applies modern pedagogical technologies, interactive methods, multimedia presentations and various types of demonstrations in the students' training.

D. Markova participates in various committees for preparation and improvement of educational documentation, as well as in many educational projects. She is in charge of the Quality Committee in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

Assoc. Prof. Markova is the adviser of two doctoral students who have successfully defended a dissertation and of many graduates from the following specialties: Preschool Pedagogy, Primary School Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts, Social Pedagogy.

#### ***Assessment of the Scientific Activity of the Applicant***

D. Markova is author of monographs, scientific articles and teaching aids. Many of the publications have a direct connection with students' training in the field of fine arts and with the subject of the competition. Other publications deal with general issues that are indirectly related to the subject-matter of the competition.

I will outline the scientific works of D. Markova, directly related to the competition.

On the subject of the competition, Markova has published a 'Colour Theory Handbook' (University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2018, p.112) - a textbook directly related to painting training, used for teaching the subject 'Colour Theory'. Key issues of colour theory, such as color, light, light and shade effects, colour mixing, classification of colours, colour characteristics, colour contrast, etc. are developed in the textbook. The handbook is addressed primarily to university students studying fine arts. Basic concepts, important to the theory and practice of painting, are developed in the book in the form of short articles. The text is concise; the exposition is clear and precise. Photographs, illustrations, colour tables and diagrams are presented in an Appendix.

Besides monographs and textbooks, Markova presented a total of 40 publications - scientific articles and reports, read on scientific forums, published in journals and collections. Materials from these publications are included in the monographs and the teaching aids.

The articles comment on issues in different thematic areas. In general, they can be distinguished in the following way: university students' training in the field of fine arts; teaching in the kindergarten; child's drawing; fine arts and education; drawing tests; art therapy and work with adults.

Related to its subject, in the competition are included articles dedicated to university

students' training in the field of fine arts, fine arts and education, as well as some of the materials, where general issues of art education are discussed.

Eleven articles that outline a broad view on the problems of university students' training in the field of fine arts are entirely related to the subject of the competition. The articles discuss important issues of teaching such as: drawing from nature and its importance, stimulation of creative thinking through creative and visual tasks, development of watchfulness, teaching colour theory, alternative teaching methods, students' attitude towards fine arts, fine arts and university education.

In the article 'Development of Students' Watchfulness in the Process of Teaching Fine Arts' ('Perspectives in Education' Collection, University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2012), are considered methods that stimulate students' watchfulness in the perception of objects.

In 'Teaching Colour Theory' in the speciality 'Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts' (Third International Conference on Colour and Colour Theory Issues, 2013), the purpose and content of the discipline 'Colour Theory', as well as the teaching tasks and problems are clearly outlined and well-substantiated.

The article 'Teaching Fine Arts in Search of Alternative Methods' ('Alternative Methods in Education' Collection, Volume II, University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2016), contains valuable insights into the rethinking of the curriculum in art specialties and introduction of new approaches and non-traditional forms of activity derived from modern art.

In the article 'Fine Arts in the Light of University Education' ('Contemporary Education: Strategies, Trends, Values' Collection, University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2012), an interesting idea of fine arts and development of culture of senses are presented.

Another group of articles discuss general issues of fine arts, colour theory and art, and personality development, with original ideas and opinions on the topics: (*An Insight into Modern Trends in Fine Arts* ('Education, Society, Personality' Collection, University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2015); *The Expressive Power of Colour* (Second International Conference on Colour, 2007); *Teaching Fine Arts and the Problem of Spirituality* (In: *Сб. Система ценностей, Новосибирск, 2011*)).

The rest of the publications are directly or indirectly related to the subject-matter of the competition.

The monograph 'The Art of Seeing. Altered States of Consciousness and Seeing', ('Iztok-Zapad' Publishing House, 2019, p. 328), is an interesting study of the phenomenon of seeing. The author shows an in-depth knowledge of the subject-matter. On the basis of an interdisciplinary approach to the problem original views about controversial issues related to seeing and altered state of consciousness are presented. The book is particularly interesting in the parts that examine the relationship between creativity and mystical state of consciousness, and constraints on viewpoint, imposed by social stereotypes. Some of the topics discussed in the book correspond to the need of developing non-traditional approaches toward seeing and the necessity of introducing new methods of visual thinking - a condition for perceiving the world and art in a new way.

The monograph 'Diagnostic Opportunities of the Child's Drawing', ('Veda. Slovena – ZhG' Publishing House, 2005, p. 184), deals with current issues of the child's drawing and its assessment. The author discusses both the positive and the negative aspects of using drawing tests, such as the risk of inaccurate conclusions, subjectivity of the assessment, contradictory

results, etc. Especially meaningful are the parts, where the approaches and the main groups of drawing methodologies are considered.

Most of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Markova are result of her many years of work in the field of teaching fine arts in preschool age. 'Methodological Aspects of Decoupage' (University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2011, p.135) is a textbook for university students. The application of decoupage in Kindergarten and Primary School is discussed. The specific aspects of decoupage in terms of colour, shape and composition, as well as important methodological issues related to the implementation of decoupage, are clearly and comprehensibly described. Besides this work, Markova has a number of articles devoted to various problems of teaching fine arts in the kindergarten.

Another significant part of Markova's publications are textbooks and teaching aids for kindergarten and primary stage of secondary education. She is a co-author of fine arts textbooks for 1st and 2nd grade, containing developed tutorials and illustrative material. She is a co-author of the teacher's books for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, as well, where she participates with methodological texts for lesson presentation. She is the author of the texts in educational field 'Fine Arts' in the Teacher's Book for Kindergarten (1-4 group) (Friends, 'Anubis' Publishing House).

### ***Contributions and Citations***

The number of the scientific works, their subject-matter and the quality of the scientific text fully meet the requirements for the competition. Monographs, teaching aids and articles are written in a good scientific style, their presentation is clear and the issues are logically presented.

The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Markova's works are of scientific and applied character. They represent personal work of the candidate. The main contributions of the theoretical studies can be summarized as follows:

An in-depth study of key issues related to training students in the field of Fine Arts has been done.

Theoretical and methodological formulations for introduction of new methods in fine arts training in HEI have been developed.

Teaching Colour Theory, as well as its content and basic tasks have been described.

To summarize, I think that, as a whole, the works of Assoc. Prof. Markova contribute to the development of the theory of teaching fine arts. Besides theoretical, they have also applied significance in terms of teaching fine arts, and in particular of teaching painting.

The presented reference of citations, show that Markova is cited in a significant number of scientific publications, which means that her works are well known among fine arts teachers and experts. Personally, I have not come across negative citations of the candidate's works.

There is no plagiarism in the applicant's scientific works (monographs, studies, articles).

### ***Assessment of the Artistic and Creative Activity of the Applicant***

As the candidate is assessed in professional field *Fine Arts*, besides the scientific production, her creative production is taken into account.

Data submitted by Assoc. Prof. Markova reveals great activity in terms of creative practice.

Obviously, she skillfully combines research, workload, artistic and creative work. Markova has participated in numerous exhibitions, workshops and symposiums, including international ones. During the period 2003-2019, she has participated in 55 exhibitions, 44 of which organized by Plovdiv Artists Association. Besides her regular participation in the events of Plovdiv Artists Association (annual exhibitions of the association, periodic exhibition 'Colours', 15x5, etc.), she participates in exhibitions at the Goethe Institute, charity exhibitions and others. Some of her works are featured in several catalogues. She is author of illustrations, some of which are featured in fine arts textbooks. Some of D. Markova's creative works are presented in an electronic catalogue, containing a creative biography and 22 reproductions of paintings.

I will note some of the peculiarities of Daniela Markova's works. She works mainly in the field of easel painting. She is author of great number of easel paintings, for which she uses mainly oil painting, acrylic painting or mixed painting techniques. In her works, characterized by rich colour, associativity, figurativeness of the picture, Markova achieves her own personal style and a particular world ('Arch', 'Tenderness', 'Two Figures' (electronic catalogue)).

#### **4. Assessment of the Applicant's Personal Contribution**

All materials submitted by the candidate, related to the competition's code, are original. This means that the contributions mentioned above are her personal merit.

#### **5. Personal Impressions**

I know personally Assoc. Prof. Markova as a lecturer, artist and expert in the field of teaching fine arts. She is a hard-working and responsible colleague, tolerant and erudite lecturer, critical of her own work, precise in her scientific research. She is a researcher open to non-traditional topics in education and science.

As a university teacher Assoc. Prof. Markova has a high level of competence in the subject, and uses a modern style of teaching.

I think that the candidate possesses rich creative culture and in-depth knowledge in the field of teaching fine arts, which is a prerequisite for a modern and effective style of teaching in the field of fine arts.

As a lecturer Assoc. Prof. Markova uses contemporary approaches, interactive methods and multimedia technologies in training, a professional and accessible language, on the basis of which she gets high achieving students. Assoc. Prof. Markova is an erudite lecturer, critical of her own work, possessing rich creative culture and in-depth knowledge in the field of art history.

### **CONCLUSION**

The papers and works, submitted by the candidate Daniela Markova for the competition, meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for its implementation, the Rules and Criteria for Awarding Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. They contain scientific and creative works that contribute to the field of painting and teaching fine arts. The publications are of theoretical significance and demonstrate the necessity of scientific competence in the field of fine arts, in particular, in painting. The theoretical developments of Assoc. Prof. Markova have practical applicability, and many of them are directly oriented to the

academic work in HEI. Markova's results, achieved in research, artistic, creative and teaching activities comply fully with the specific requirements for occupation of the academic position 'Professor' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Faculty of Pedagogy.

All this gives me reason to give my **positive** assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova for the academic position 'Professor' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts, Scientific Speciality: 'Painting and Colour Theory'

Signature:

15.04.2019

Reviewer: Prof. Biser Damyanov, Doctor of Art Studies