

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Kalina Hristova Hristova, PhD
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regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for occupation of 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)

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, from the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', participates as a candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate

The competition was duly announced in State Gazette No 96/20.11.2018 and on the web page of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', provided with lectures and exercises in painting, colour theory and methodology of fine arts required by the law. The only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD.

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD completed her Master's degree in 1987 in the Academy of Arts 'Nikolay Pavlovich', city of Sofia. In the same year she began her teaching activity as a part-time lecturer in Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts in the Faculty of Pedagogy of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', and in 1999 she defended a dissertation in the same field. In 2003 she became an 'Associate Professor' in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts).

During the period 2008 - 2011 she was Vice Dean for Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Pedagogy. This is recognition not only for her teaching and research activities, but also for her skills in solving a number of administrative tasks. This statement is supported by the reference for administrative activity and participation in accreditation procedures. Since 2008, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD has been the Chairman of the Quality Committee of the Faculty of Pedagogy, and since 2018 she has been a member of Evaluation and Accreditation Committee of

the University. For the period 2006-2018, she participated in 22 accreditation procedures and accreditation committees for preparation of self-assessment reports. This is another proof of her academic engagement and professional attitude toward the quality of the programs and their content.

This administrative workload did not stop the applicant from developing her personal research-related objectives, closely related to her teaching activity. I am impressed by the quantitative dimensions of her research over the period under consideration, namely from the acquisition of the academic rank 'Associate Professor' to the current participation in the competition for 'Professor'. For this really short period, busy, as far as lecture and administrative workloads are concerned, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD managed to realize a truly impressive number of scientific publications: articles and papers, students' textbooks and handbooks, textbooks and school aids for fine arts training in primary stage of primary schools and kindergartens, as well as teacher's books for primary stage of primary schools and kindergartens.

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, a member of Plovdiv Artists Association, being a member of the Management Board of the Association in the period 2012-2014, and a member of 'Group Colour' - Bulgaria.

2. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

The creative and research work of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD clearly outline a logical sequence in the mastery and in-depth analysis of the methodology of teaching fine arts, studied through the prism of specific scientific paradigms, satisfying the needs of trainees and trainers, for students and teachers. The review of the applicant's teaching activity confirms that it is entirely related to the subject of the competition announced by Plovdiv University. It is also important to note that the applicant's scientific interests coincide with the field of the competition, which is a prerequisite for successful development of the respective area of education in the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

In the competition for 'Professor' Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD presented a total of 57 published works, 42 independent and 15 - in co-authorship. Four of these are independent books, 2 of which - monographs: DIAGNOSTIC OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHILD'S DRAWING. 'Veda Slovena - ZhG', Sofia, 2005; THE ART OF SEEING. 'Iztok-Zapad', Sofia, 2019; 40 scientific publications /30 independent; 10 - in co-authorship/.

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD works in the field of painting, drawing and decorative arts.

She participates in national and international exhibitions, and has two solo exhibitions.

The volume of scientific production complies with and even exceeds the relevant administrative requirements for participation in a competition for ‘Professor’ and outlines a theoretical and applied research in the field of methodology of teaching fine arts, which is of present interest.

I will turn your attention to the monograph ‘The Art of Seeing’, which, in my view, without neglecting the qualities of the other work, has an unquestionable scientific contribution. The monograph is a thorough and in-depth study of the phenomenon of ‘seeing’, viewed in different contexts, adding new aspects to the problem. New concepts of transcendence of vision and altered states of consciousness, including creativity, are proposed.

I have to admit that I find the whole study bold because of the provocative nature of the subject and I believe that Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD has managed *to break* some social stereotypes through her look into the relation between the creative and mystical state of consciousness. The monograph can be characterized as an interdisciplinary research because it addresses a problem through the prism of various theories and paradigms. I would allow myself to define the monograph as an attempt to ‘change the point of view’, as the author names one of the chapters in her study.

Contemporary lifestyle and cultural environment require creative personalities to switch dynamically between themes, formats, expressions, and materials, which is impossible without the so-called change of the point of view, without approaching or moving away from a given *problem* or object of contemplation. In this sense, the monograph has not only a scientific contribution, but it could be applied in practice, as a basis for building a system of exercises for changing the point of view in different subjects included in fine arts training. Exercises designed to keep alive the imagination of creative personalities and students in specialities in the field of fine arts, in particular.

The overall review of the scientific and artistic work presented by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD allows me to conclude that the author not only supplements a number of theoretical and applied aspects of methodological and pedagogical training but also develops new perspectives offering a ‘view beyond the boundaries’ of the ordinary perceptions and beliefs that correspond to the existing and expedient model.

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to express my deep conviction that the outlined real contributions in the creative and research works of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD, as well as her teaching activity, correspond to the area and professional field of the announced competition and I call on the honorable members the Scientific Jury to support the application and to propose to the Academic Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' to elect Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD for the academic position 'Professor' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory).

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This opinion is prepared by:
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