

# OPINION

**by Prof. Lyubomir Ivanov Karadzhov, PhD,  
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regarding the participation of Daniela Todorova Markova in a competition,  
announced by Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for occupation of  
the academic position 'Professor'  
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 page 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 Department of Aesthetic Education within the Faculty of Pedagogy, participates as a candidate.

## **General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate**

One candidate submitted documents for participation in the procedure for 'Professor', announced by Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in State Gazette No 96/20.11.2018 - Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD. The proposal for the opening of the procedure is of Prof. Biser Damyanov, Doctor of Art Studies, made on meeting of the Department Council and described in Record No. 3/22.11.2017. On 9 Oct 2018 The Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy within Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' decided to announce a competition for the academic position 'Professor' in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts, Scientific Speciality: 'Painting and Colour Theory'. On 15 October 2018, with Record No. 30, the Academic Council of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' adopted a resolution confirming the decisions of the Department Council and of the Faculty Council. The announcement is published in State Gazette No 96 of 20 November 2018.

The set of materials presented by the Department of Aesthetic Education of the Faculty of Pedagogy complies with the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. The list includes, generally, administrative papers; papers proving the applicant's research, artistic and

creative activity, as well as a second review of the main monographic work 'The Art of Seeing'.

The candidate in the competition Daniela Todorova Markova was born on 27 Aug 1961. In 1981, she graduated from the Secondary Specialized School of Arts 'Tsanko Lavrenov', as an artist-performer with specialty 'Fine Arts'. In 1987, Daniela Markova graduated from the National Academy of Arts 'Nikolay Pavlovich', as a Master of Fine Arts with a Teaching Qualification. In 1999, she defended a thesis on Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts). In 1987, she became a part-time Lecturer in 'Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts', the next year she became an Assistant, in 1993 she became Senior Assistant, and in 1994 she became Head Assistant in Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts. In 2003 she was habilitated and became an Associate Professor in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts). She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Plovdiv Artists Association, 'Group Colour' - Bulgaria. She noted in her curriculum vitae that she has a good command in Russian, English and Italian language. My personal impressions are not particularly rich, as we have known each other for a short time, but from my contacts with Daniela Markova I can say that she is a conscientious and well-meaning person with in-depth thinking and desire for development in the scientific and teaching career.

### **Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity**

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD has a rich and diverse educational and pedagogical activity. She teaches the academic courses 'Painting', 'Colour Theory', 'Painting and Colour Theory', 'Painting Activities and Techniques', 'Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts for Students with Special Educational Needs' and other courses in Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. The colleague presents a document for academic workload in the branch of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in the town of Kardzhali, as well, where she has been teaching 'Methodology of Fine Arts' since the academic year 2012/2013 until now. She has conducted seminars and has hold practical classes, she has been a member of state examination committees, has supervised course works and diploma theses of students from Bachelor's degree programs, has participated in committees for implementation of accreditation procedures, which are listed and provided in the papers. She has read lectures in Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, Poland, under the Erasmus program.

Her work with students has many aspects, including organization of student exhibitions in

Trakart in 2013, in Plovdiv Gallery in 2016, preparation of 30 visual materials for students in order to support the work of teachers in different educational fields in 2018, as well as scientific counseling of a student for participation in the Seventh Student Scientific Forum, held on 11 May 2018.

For this competition, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD presented a list of 55 students, who she supervised in the period from 2003 until now. For the period 2003-2019, the colleague provided a list of many developed curricula in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', in the branch of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Kardzhali and in the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv. These include curricula for 'Painting', 'Colour Theory', 'Painting and Colour Theory', 'Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts for Students with Special Educational Needs', 'Art Technologies for Special Educational Needs', 'Drawing and Decoupage', 'Painting Activities and Techniques', 'Constructive Drawing', etc. for the needs of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'. For the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts she developed a curriculum for Art Therapy in the Master's program 'Music Therapy' at the Faculty of Music Pedagogy, as well as a specialized Art Therapy course 'Introduction to History and Theory of Fine Arts and Art Therapy' at the Department of Languages and Specialized Training of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts 'Prof. Asen Diamandiev'.

The scientific and applied research activity of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD is expressed, in the first place, in the authorship of two monographic works - 'Diagnostic Opportunities of the Child's Drawing', 'Veda Slovena', 2005 and 'The Art of Seeing', 'Iztok-Zapad' Publishing House, 2019, as the latter is cited as a major monographic work for this procedure.

The monograph 'The Art of Seeing' is devoted to the concept of subjectivity of artistic perception; reality, as well as world can be determined as such by the subjective observation of each viewer; building the image as a function of social and specific for every personality conditionalities. The scientific style corresponds to an intriguing artistic and illustrating invention. Exactly this invention makes the style more unconventional, provoking an inner controversy in the reader about the functions and the way of coexistence of the scientific style with a more elaborate analysis.

The concept of the book finds intersections with George Berkeley's philosophy of mind, where knowledge is a function of the psychic apparatus of the perceiving and 'experiencing man'. In this way, the message of the text puts an interdisciplinary challenge in the field of theory and philosophy of art and the psychology of its perception. The theoretical and artistic concept that 'to see', among

other things, means to be a (co) creator of the visible, is a basic line of this book, for the development of which, Daniela Markova has done conscientious work.

The study consists of 315 pages, which is significantly much more than the official requirements for monographs set out in the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. More than 200 scientific papers are commented on and cited in the work, and more than 30 of them are foreign language sources. From this point of view, I believe that the quantity and quality of the bibliography satisfies the developed theme.

In the documents for the competition Daniela Markova provides information about authorship on 'Methodological Aspects of Decoupage', University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2011; 'Colour Theory Handbook', University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski', 2018 and participation in the university 'Training Manual for State Examination in Methodology of Teaching in the Kindergarten and Primary Stage of Secondary School', University Publishing 'Paisii Hilendarski' (without indication of the year of issue).

Co-authorship books for the teacher in kindergartens and secondary schools (4 for kindergarten teachers and 2 for teachers in secondary school) are also presented. Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD participates in the competition with 40 articles, of which, according to her list, 30 are of her own and 10 in co-authorship. Three of them are published in English and 1 in Russian language in specialized editions. The colleague notes the participation in 21 international, national and regional scientific forums, conferences and seminars. A list proving participation in 13 projects characterizing the period from 2003 until the present is attached to the documentation. Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD was a participant in editorial boards, compiler of collections, author of reviews, and in this respect 9 facts were attached to the documentation. It should be noted that Assoc. Prof. Markova, PhD provides evidence of participation in scientific jury in one 'Professor' habilitation procedure, three 'Associate Professor' habilitation procedures, as well as in the juries of 10 doctoral theses defenses.

### **Recommendations**

As a recommendation, I would like to note that copies of the applicant's publications such as (eg. 'Training Manual for State Examination in Methodology of Teaching in the Kindergarten and Primary Stage of Secondary School'), where the pages of the applicant's own material are marked (250-259 p.) should be submitted, but the year of issue of the relevant training manual should be

available to make the information about it complete.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I can state that the papers and materials presented by the only candidate in the competition for ‘Professor’ at the Department of Aesthetic Education, Faculty of Pedagogy, Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ comply with the minimum national requirements, even significantly exceed some of them. I do not find the presence of plagiarism by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD in the submitted monograph, reviewed by Prof. Peter Tsanev, Doctor of Art Studies and Assoc. Prof. Yuri Yanakiev, PhD – ‘The Art of Seeing’. The documents submitted for the competition meet the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the Rules for its implementation.

The candidate in the competition submitted a significant number of scientific papers published after the materials used for the defense of the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’ and acquisition of the scientific rank ‘Associate Professor’. The theoretical and practical developments of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD in the main monographic work and other provided works have undoubted value and are directly oriented towards the scientific and educational activity. From this point of view, the scientific and teaching qualifications of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD, according to me, are unquestionable.

After studying the materials and scientific papers presented for the competition, and after analyzing their significance and their scientific and applied contributions, I find it absolutely reasonable 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 within Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ for the election of Daniela Todorova Markova for the academic position ‘Professor’ in Plovdiv University ‘Paisii Hilendarski’ in Professional Field ‘Painting and Colour Theory’.

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Plovdiv

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