

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefka Ilieva Popova

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**Associate Professor at the Department of Fine Arts at the Faculty of Fine Arts
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Assen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv**

of the materials submitted for the competition
for the academic position of **Associate Professor**
of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski University

field of higher education 8. Arts

professional field: 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography)

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette No. 31 of 11.04.2025 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education of the "Faculty of Education", as a candidate participates

Nikolay Dobrev Radulov

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By order № **RD- 22-1330. As of 10.06.2025** of the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" (PU) I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of the competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at PU in the field of higher education 8. 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography), announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Education.

A single candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

- **Nikolay Dobrev Radulov** - lecturer-at-law of Paisii Hilendarski University, Faculty of Education, Department of Aesthetic Education

The set of paper materials submitted by Nikolay Dobrev Radulov **is in** accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of PU, and includes the following documents:

- application form to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- European CV;
- a university degree with a Master's qualification
- a diploma for the degree of Doctor of Education and Science
- list of scientific works;
- scientific works (copies of publications);
- list of citations;
- reference to compliance with the minimum national requirements;
- annotations of the materials referred to in Article 65 of the PRASPA;
- self-assessment of contributions;
- declaration of originality and reliability of the attached documents;
- certificate of length of service;
- documentation of academic work;
- research work, artistic activity;
- The candidate Nikolay Dobrev Radulov has attached a total of 2 scientific works and 1 arti-

cle. **Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts "Prof. Asen Diamandiev - Plovdiv in 2010. In 2015 she acquired the educational and scientific degree "DOCTOR" in Methodology of Art Education. Since 2017 he has taken part in national scientific and artistic projects, as a lecturer in a number of high schools and associations. She realized two solo exhibitions- painting in 2010 in the town of. Plovdiv and Plovdiv. Panagyurishte. As a member of the Society of Plovdiv Artists regularly participates in exhibitions - general and annual of the Society. Some other realized artistic projects are for example the overall artwork of the anniversary album "The work of Dimitar Popov", artwork and illustrations of the poetry collection "On the white wasteland" with the author Dimitar Dunekov and prepress, cover design of the poetry collection "Sparks of love", and others. The biography also mentions a number of photo exhibitions in which the candidate took part.

From 2015 to 2016 academic year he was a lecturer at the Academy of Music Dance and Fine Arts - Plovdiv, and from 2022 to the present time he is a lecturer at the Paisii Hilendarski University, Faculty of Education, Department of Aesthetic Education.

2. General description of the candidate's activity

Dr. *Nikolay Radulov* has been a lecturer at Paisii Hilendarski University since 2022, and for the purposes of the competition he has attached a reference of classroom and extracurricular employment for the academic years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 in the amount of 958 hours, which

indicates a constant teaching and pedagogical activity of the candidate. The disciplines he teaches are: methodology of art education in the primary stage of primary education, composition, plastic anatomy, design of periodicals, artistic photography, respectively in the majors "Graphic Design and Advertising" and "Pedagogy of Art Education".

In the enclosed compliance report, the candidate presents one monograph and a published book based on a defended dissertation :

1. ***"The Portrait - from Painting to Photography"***, University Press "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-043-6. 176 pp.

2. ***"The Technique of Watercolour. New approaches in the teaching of fine arts Art at the University"***, University Publishing House "Paisii Hilendarski", Plovdiv, 2024, ISBN 978-619-281-001-6, 172 pp.

Articles published in scientific journals, refereed and peer-reviewed are one per fight:

1. ***"New approaches in teaching watercolor technique to students in pedagogical and creative specialties"***, Pedagogy journal, under print

Contributions:

Several components are brought to the fore in the presented research papers, which are fertile ground for new ideas and explorations.

The monograph **Portrait - From Painting to Photography** by Nikolai Radulov examines the development of portraiture as a genre in art, tracing the transition from painting to photography. The author analyses the historical, psychological and artistic aspects of portraiture, focusing on the interrelation between the two arts. The main aim of the study is, by tracing the evolution of the portrait genre, to clarify how pictorial principles **are transferred and adapted to** photography. The space , the composition, the symbols, the formal and plastic construction and the means of expression are key. The artist demonstrates the contrived reality through his conception and subordinating the material to the idea. According to Dr. Radulov , photography , as a visual medium is rapidly "adopting" the portrait genre.

The study is both theoretical-historical and practical-applied in nature, aimed at artists, photographers, students and teachers of fine arts. The text is logically structured in two main chapters containing both theoretical analysis and practical examples. The presentation is clear, scientifically sound and accessible. The literature used is up-to-date.

On the scientific value of the monograph **'The Technique of Watercolour. New Approaches in University Art Education'**, Nikolai Radulov presents an in-depth study focusing on the technique of watercolour, considered in its historical, technological and didactic aspects. The subject

matter is topical and significant, both in the context of fine arts education in a university setting and in relation to contemporary challenges facing the fine arts.

The author focuses on its establishment as an independent painting practice. The proposed text demonstrates a high degree of interdisciplinarity, incorporating historical, technological and pedagogical perspectives.

A significant contribution of the work is the inclusion of interactive methods, multimedia, and mixed reality (MR) in the teaching process. Particular attention should be paid to the developed methodology for the creation and use of **educational videos** - detailed in content and structure.

I believe that the presented two monographic works, as well as the accompanying article, **are a significant scientific contribution to** the field of visual arts and art education.

Citations

The candidate, in his/her reference, presents one citation in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review, as well as 14 reviews of realized authorial products or creative appearances in specialized publications in the field of arts.

Artistic activity:

Dr. Nikolai Radulov demonstrates an extremely broad and active artistic and creative activity, characterized by genre diversity and public engagement. His work encompasses painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture, book design, film and multimedia productions. There is an independent artistic activity, with 2 solo exhibitions in art spaces such as Boviel Gallery - Plovdiv and History Museum - Panagyurishte.

A sculptural project of a monumental nature - a marble figure on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Panagyur colonies has been created.

He has participated in many collective events:

- A number of exhibitions of the Society of Plovdiv Artists (2015-2019), plein-air and municipal art events, which shows active integration in the artistic circles.
- Presentation in photography exhibitions, which also testify skills in photography.

Dr. Radulov is the author of a number of art **book and album layouts**, combining **graphic design**, illustration and prepress.

The work presented fully meets the criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of Fine Arts.

CONCLUSION

The candidate in the competition has presented a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used in the defence of the PhD. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied contributions. His theoretical developments have practical applicability, some

of them being directly oriented towards teaching work. The scientific and teaching qualification of Dr. Nikolay Radulov is undoubted.

The results achieved by the candidate in teaching and scientific research activities fully comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the "Faculty of Education", adopted in conjunction with the Regulations of the PU for the implementation of the Law on Pedagogy.

After familiarization with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions contained in them, I find it justified to give my **positive assessment** and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of "Faculty of Pedagogy" for the election of Dr. r. Nikolay Radulov to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in: field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field .8.2. Art (Graphic Design and Photography)

25. 07 2025 г.

Opinion:

Assoc. Prof. Stefka Ilieva Popova