

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Zora Georgieva Yanakieva, Paisii Hilendarski University

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position **"Associate Professor"** at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in: field of higher education 8. Arts; professional field 8.2. Fine Arts in the scientific specialty - Graphic Design and Photography

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 of 11.04.2025 and in internet page of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the needs of Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy, as a candidate participates.

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov

1. General presentation of the received materials

By Order No. RD - 22-1330 of 10.06.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski University, 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. Arts, professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography), announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Education.

The only candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition:

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov, full professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Education.

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

- Application form to the Rector for admission to the competition;
- CV in European format;
- Higher education diploma with Master's degree with an annex (original and copy) or a notarised copy;
- Diploma of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science (original and copy) or notarised copy;
- List of scientific works;
- Research papers (copies of publications);
- List of citations;
- Reference of compliance with minimum national and additional faculty requirements;
- Annotations of the materials under Article 65 of the PRASPU in Bulgarian and foreign languages;
- Self-assessment of contributions;
- Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents;

- Certificate of work experience;
- Documents of academic work;
- Documents for research work;
- Documents relating to artistic activity;
- Documents in accordance with the additional requirements of the faculty concerned;
- Other documents.

The candidate Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov has attached a list of 8 scientific works in total, including 1 monograph, 1 book, 6 articles and reports, evidence of 3 realized authorial products in the field of arts and 35 participations in collective product. 2 scientific works are accepted for review, which are outside the dissertation and are taken into account in the final evaluation 1 monograph, 1 article, 3 realized authorial products in the field of arts and 35 participations in a collective product. There are 6 scientific works not reviewed for the dissertation, including 5 articles and reports and 1 book. The distribution of scientific works by relevant headings, in the country and abroad, is as follows 2 publications in the country.

Notes and comments on the documents: the certificate for the publication under print "New Approaches to Teaching the Technique of Watercolour to Students in the Pedagogical and Creative Studies" has been omitted. The content of the publication is fully reflected in the book "The Technique of Watercolour", which was completed after the dissertation and is accepted for peer review.

The candidate has submitted all the required documents for the competition. The materials for review - publications and creative performances of the candidate correspond to the minimum national requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor and correspond to the scientific specialty.

2. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Nikolay Radulov completed his higher education at AMTII, Sofia. He graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Pedagogy of Art Education with a professional qualification of art teacher in secondary general education. Two years later she obtained a Master's degree in the same professional field. In 2015 she defended the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty Methodology of Art Education.

In the period 2015-2016 he was a lecturer at AMTII, and from 2022 until now he has been teaching various disciplines in the pedagogical and artistic specialties at the Faculty of Pedagogy and the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Paisii Hilendarski University. Through his teaching activity at the university Nikolay Radulov acquired a rich academic experience. "Pedagogy

of Art Education", "Pedagogy of Art Education with Graphic Design", "Software Technologies and Design", "Graphic Design and Advertising".

The candidate for the competition is an established professional in the field of painting, graphic design and photography. For years since 2012 he has been working as: cameraman, photo reporter, video editing specialist, manager of a publishing and advertising company. Dr. Nikolay Radulov's experience includes: graphic design; pre-press preparation; creating articles for periodicals; shooting and digital photo processing; developing and implementing a strategy for promoting print media on social networks, working with analytical tools.

Since 2010 he has been a member of the Society of Plovdiv Artists. The list of the candidate's artistic appearances since 2002 is impressive. It shows both his systematic participation in the general art exhibitions of the Society, as well as his independent authorial realizations in the field of painting and sculpture, as well as other artistic and creative projects, tied to the issues of the announced competition.

For his outstanding achievements Nikolay Radulov received two awards.

3. General description of the applicant's activity

Evaluation of teaching activity

From the made reference about the lecture employment of Dr. Nikolay Radulov is evident his pedagogical activity and workload as a lecturer with a wide range of disciplines from different professional fields. The candidate's work includes conducting classes in Plastic Anatomy, Composition, Methods of Teaching Fine Arts for the Primary Stage of Art, Design of Periodicals, Computer Applications in Graphic Design, Computer Applications in Graphic Design - III hrs. Art Photography, Theory of Art Education, Software for Graphic Design. In the training of students applies modern interactive methods, tools and approaches; computer products and technologies to motivate teachers and to enhance the educational quality - multimedia presentations, educational videos, various software programs and applications.

For the needs of the specialties "Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education" and "Graphic Design with Advertising" the candidate develops a curriculum in the discipline of Art Photography, organizes and supervises the creative performances of students presented at a photographic exhibition, which gives me grounds for evaluating the pedagogical activity of the candidate with high marks.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and artistic activity

Evaluation of the scientific activity

Dr. Nikolay Radulov applied in the announced competition for "Associate Professor" with 2 scientific publications. The scientific works are distributed as follows: habilitation thesis - monograph (indicator C); 1 article submitted for printing in a refereed and indexed publication in the world database (Scopus); 3 author's products in the field of arts (indicator C); 19 short author's products in the field of arts; 17 contributions to a collective product in the field of arts (indicator D). A list of 1 citation in a peer-reviewed collective volume, 2 reviews of realized author products in specialized arts and culture journals, and 12 reviews of realized author products in periodicals (indicator E); 2 participations in a national educational project; 2 participations in a workshop or workshop in the arts (indicator F).

The candidate's scientific production related to the topic of the competition includes:

1. Monograph "The Portrait - from Painting to Photography" (University of Economics "P. Hilendarski", 2025, 134 pp.). The study brings to attention a new, topical and underdeveloped problem of portraiture as an artistic genre in need of a timely solution. Stepping on the aesthetic norms of painting, with its own means and principles through light and color, photography presents a new level of exploration of the artistic image, conditioned by the possibilities of technology.

The work is theoretical and historical and highlights important issues in the study of portraiture in painting and photography. The structure is logically well laid out with an introduction, two chapters, summaries and conclusions, a conclusion, references and appendices.

Chapter One grounds the historical emergence and development of portraiture in the visual arts and its distinctive features highlighted in a historical context for each era with new meaning and understanding of the genre. It defines the nature and types of portraiture, as well as the interpretation of portraiture in terms of the emotional-psychological state of the artistic image, with a view to the formal-plastic construction that also allows a deeper penetration into human identity.

The emphasis in chapter two is on photography (emergence, development and types of photography) and the pictorial principles of portrait making, which highlights the proximity between the two arts (painting and photography), the formation of the portrait and the types of portraiture in art photography as a media genre with its own principles and regularities generated by the specifics of technology. The comparative approach in analyzing works and masters of classical portrait painting (Rembrandt's Self-Portrait, Johannes Vermeer's The Girl with the Pearl Earring) with the works of significant artist photographers (Chris Knight's photographic portrait, an analogue of Jamie Wood-Binendijk's The Girl with the Pearl Earring), highlights the similarities, differences and advantages between traditional and media art forms. This part of the work presents an original exam-

ple of creating an artistic photographic portrait based on a pictorial portrait, clarifying the conceptual, creative and technical aspects as distinct stages in the overall process.

The work is a successful attempt at theoretical clarification of the problems posed, the style of presentation of which is clear and accessible, with a convincing set-up and justification. The main directions of the research, in terms of classical means, new technologies that expand the possibilities of creative expression are proved. The subject matter is suitable for professionals, students and amateurs with an interest in the visual arts, particularly painting and art photography.

2. The following is the publication "New Approaches to Teaching Watercolor Technique to Students in Education and the Creative Arts." The emphasis is on technologies in teaching students in the pedagogical and artistic specialties, including for the specialty of Graphic Design with Advertising. A key point is the use of educational videos, which are an author's development with teaching material in line with the requirements of the curriculum for the specific specialty.

Evaluation of artistic creation

Essential for the announced competition in professional field 8.2. Fine Arts is the artistic activity of the candidate. In terms of the professional field, it has a leading function. Dr. Nikolay Radulov presents an impressive amount of production in various fields of visual arts, which demonstrates his artistic appearances and activities as: artist, creator, graphic designer and photographer. The author's production includes:

1. Solo exhibitions. The *second* - "Painting, Drawing, Plastics" in the Historical Museum - Panagyurishte, May 2010; *the third* realization is of a sculpture project dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Panagyur colonies (One-figure composition, material - marble) 2011.

2. Participation in collective product in the field of art: *16 realizations*, including *1 exhibition* in the town of. Panagyurishte "Polychrome-monochrome - painting, graphics, drawing" in 2014; *5 appearances* - in the Annual Exhibitions of the Society of Plovdiv Artists for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019; *1 participation in the art project* and exhibition "Temptation" at the State Art Gallery in 2016; *2 presentations* in a joint art exhibition - in Plovdiv, Bulgaria; *1 participation in the art project* and exhibition "Temptation" in the State Art Gallery in 2016; *2 presentations* in a joint art exhibition - in Plovdiv, Bulgaria; *1 participation in the art exhibition* "Temptation" in the State Art Gallery in 2016; *2 presentations* in a joint art exhibition - in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Kuklen 2021 (painting and drawing) and Regional Ethnographic Museum, Plovdiv, June 2024 - "Inspirations"; *3 participations in plein air*. *4 photo exhibitions* - Panagyurishte History Museum 2016, University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia 2017, Strelcha History Museum 2019, and Pa-

nagyurishte Municipal Exhibition - "Sredna Gora Palitra" 2016 and "With the pulse of the artist" 2020. Kuklen 2021.

3.Short author's product in the field of art: *19 realizations*, of which *8 author's products* for the overall artwork and design of books, albums, poetry collections, brochures; *5 author's products* for cover design; *2 author's products* for a documentary film; *2 author's products* for a video; *1 sculpture sculpture* for a fountain - Panagyurishte, *1 appearance* as part of a team that painted the chapel "St. Mary of Life Source" Panagyurishte. 2014.

4. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate

The contributions of Dr. Nikolay Radulov are of a scientific and applied nature. They are the personal work of the candidate. Particularly noteworthy are the achievements that can be highlighted in the submitted monograph for habilitation:

1.The interrelations and the influence of painting on photography, and in particular on art photography, in terms of recreating a portrait by suggesting a certain artistic intention, have been theoretically studied and analysed.

2.The classification of the types of portraiture in terms of the visual arts and, in particular, art photography is completed.

3.The in-depth analysis of the development of the portrait during the different historical epochs, the change of its functions and stylistic views, enables the understanding of its strong influence in artistic photography and more specifically on the classical pictorial portrait in the work of significant contemporary artists.

4.The general principles, similarities and differences between the two visual arts are analyzed, highlighted and brought out in order to achieve the conceptual intent through the expressive means of painting and art photography, as well as through painting and photographic methods and means.

5. On the basis of own experience and creative activity, an author's example of creating an artistic photographic portrait on the basis of a painting portrait is given - both conceptual and creative as well as technical aspects of the work are clarified.

The quantitative indicators of the criteria for the academic post of associate professor are sufficiently representative for the announced competition in professional field 8.2. Fine Arts, with the required number of points well above the required. There is no plagiarism in the candidate's scientific production. All the materials presented are original and the contributions mentioned are his personal merit.

5. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks. As a recommendation, I would wish Dr. Nikolay Radulov to enrich his creative contributions in international appearances, as he definitely has potential.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Nikolay Radulov meet the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDA) and the Implementing Regulations of the ASDA.

After reading the materials and scientific works submitted in the competition, analyzing their significance and scientific and scientific-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 Education **for the election of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov to the academic position of Associate Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University** in: field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography).

16. 07. 2025 г.

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Zora Yanakieva