

## OPINION

**by Associate Professor Dr. Metodi Ivanov Angelov**  
**Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”**

Regarding the materials submitted for the competition  
for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**”  
**at Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”**

in: Higher Education Field 8. Arts

Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography)

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced in 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 at the Faculty of Education, the applicant is **Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov**.

### **1. General overview of the procedure and the candidate**

#### ***Subject***

By Order ПД-22-1330 dated 10.06.2025, issued by the Rector of Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” (PU), I was appointed as an internal member of the academic committee for the competition for the position of Associate Professor at PU in Higher Education Field 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography). At the first remote meeting of the committee, I was assigned to prepare an evaluation report.

**Only one candidate submitted application documents: Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov.**

The set of documents submitted on paper by Dr. Radulov meets the requirements of the university's academic development regulations. It includes all required materials. The candidate submitted a list of **8** scientific works, including **2** monographs and **6** articles, one of which is in a peer-reviewed journal. **Three** works that are outside the doctoral dissertation are accepted for review and evaluation. The remaining **5** works, which are part of the dissertation, are not reviewed. The candidate meets both the national minimum requirements and the additional ones set by the Faculty of Education for participation in this academic competition.

### ***Brief biography of the candidate***

Nikolay Radulov was born in 1978. He completed both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in "Art Education" at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. In 2015, he earned his PhD in the methodology of art education at the same institution.

From 2012 to 2015, Dr. Radulov worked in areas related to graphic design and photography, including layout for journals, prepress preparation, photojournalism, image editing, and developing a media promotion strategy on social networks using analytical tools. In 2018, he worked in video editing for "Oborishte" Ltd. in Panagyurishte. Since 2018, he has been managing "Vreme 2001" Ltd., a publishing and advertising company. He also works as a freelancer. Since 2018, he has been a part-time lecturer at the Department of Aesthetic Education.

## **2. General description of the candidate's work**

### ***Evaluation of artistic and creative activity***

Nikolay Radulov has taken part in various individual and group exhibitions in painting, drawing, book design, photography, and video production. He won the "Artist of the Year" award from Panagyurishte Municipality in 2013 and first prize in the "Best Video Production" category at the international music contest "Voice of Aphrodite," Cyprus 2022, for the video clip "Bicycle." He is currently active in the fields of photography and video. Since 2022, he has been the creative director of a photography competition for the best fireworks photo at the International Fireworks Festival in Panagyurishte. Throughout his career, he has experimented with different types of art, including mural painting and sculpture. This helps him understand the different tools and techniques in visual arts. His professional work, as shown in his CV, is strongly related to graphic design and photography, which demand both artistic sense and creative approach – in areas like book layout, prepress, journal design, photo and video shooting/editing. His practical experience and wide artistic output are a major advantage for the position.

### ***Evaluation of scientific work***

The monograph presented by Nikolay Radulov, titled "The Portrait from Painting to Photography", is a theoretical study focused on one of the fundamental genres in visual arts. The topic of the portrait – exploring the human form and the expression of personality – remains timeless. The role and significance of portraiture in two related, yet very different art forms such as painting and photography is still relevant today. The main body of the monograph is structured into two parts, followed by a Summary and Conclusions, a Final Section, References, and an Appendix. The total length is

128 pages. The author cites 74 sources in total, including 44 in Cyrillic, 17 in Latin, and 13 from online resources. In the first part, the author thoroughly examines the historical development of portrait painting, exploring key moments, styles, and artists. He also offers a classification of portrait types based on various criteria. Section 1.5, “Psychological and Formal-Plastic Construction of the Painted Portrait”, summarizes the main techniques and expressive tools used to create impact in portrait painting.

The second part focuses on the portrait in photography, again explored in a historical context. While some parts of the monograph read more like a textbook and lack a strong research direction, others – such as the sections on Pictorialism (1885–1915) and Modernism (1910–1950) – reflect the author’s own critical perspective on artistic movements and photographic approaches. In “Analysis of the Artistic Image in Photographic Portraiture”, Radulov outlines the key creative tools and techniques used by different photographers to construct expressive portraits and enhance their emotional impact. The author’s approach is especially interesting and original in the section titled “Comparative Analysis of Painted Portraits and Artistic Photographic Portraits”, where he explores parallels between similar works across the two mediums. The monograph demonstrates strong qualities and contributions, particularly in the parts dedicated to comparative analysis.

The second monograph “The Technique of Watercolor. New Approaches in Art Education at University Level” presents Dr. Radulov as a scholar with strong interest in teaching art. Its main contributions are in Chapters 2 and 3, where he explores the integration of modern tools in art education, especially watercolor. The publication submitted by the candidate is based on this monograph.

### ***Critical remarks and recommendations***

Some sections in both monographs are written in a textbook style and lack analytical or research focus. Regarding the structure of the main monograph, subsections 1.4 “Nature and Types of Portraits” and 2.2 “Nature and Types of Photography” should be moved to the beginning of their respective chapters for better logical flow.

### ***Assessment of personal contribution***

I believe that the results presented by Dr. Nikolay Radulov are the result of his own work and personal contribution.

### 3. Personal impressions

I know Dr. Radulov as a colleague and artistic photographer. He strikes me as a quiet, modest, and respectful person who maintains good relationships. In photography, he is a master with strong creative achievements.

### Conclusion

The achievements and activities described above in the fields of artistic and creative work, as well as in graphic design and photography, together with the candidate's academic contributions, position Dr. Nikolay Radulov as a suitable candidate for the announced position.

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Radulov meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the regulations for its implementation, and the internal rules of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski." The results achieved by Dr. Radulov in his creative and research work comply with both the national minimum criteria and the additional requirements set by the Faculty of Education in accordance with the university's regulations. The candidate's work demonstrates original scientific and applied contributions. His theoretical studies have practical value, and some are directly applicable to teaching. After reviewing the materials and scientific publications submitted for the competition, and after analyzing their relevance and the scientific, applied, and practical contributions they contain, I find it reasonable to give a positive assessment. I recommend that the Academic Committee prepare a formal report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Education proposing the **appointment of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov** to the academic position of **Associate Professor** at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" in the field of Fine Arts, Professional Field 8.2: Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography).

30.07.2025 г.

Prepared by: .....

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metodiy Angelov