

## **OPINION**

**by Prof. Kirika Tagareva, PhD – Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv  
on the papers submitted for the Associate Professor competition  
at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**

in: University Education Area 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography)

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov participated as an applicant in the competition for Associate Professor announced in the State Gazette, issue 31 from April 11, 2025 and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education at the Faculty of Pedagogy.

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the applicant**

The competition conducting procedure has been complied with and aligns with the regulatory documents. The materials submitted by the applicant to participate in the competition have been prepared accurately in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv.

Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov, a part-time lecturer at the Aesthetic Education Department in Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv is the only applicant in the competition. Nikolay Radulov holds a PhD educational and scientific degree in Professional Field 1.3. Methodology of Fine Arts Education with the topic of the dissertation work Watercolor Technique and Professional Training of Students in the Pedagogy of Fine Arts Education major since 2015.

Dr. N. Radulov has worked as a cameraman and photojournalist and has also done pre-press and graphic design, video editing. He currently holds the position of a manager of Vreme 2001 newspaper OOD, Panagyurishte and as a lecturer at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

### **2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities**

Dr. Nikolay Radulov participated in the associate professor competition with 3 published papers: two monographs and one article. The monographs are *The Watercolor Technique. New Approaches in Teaching Fine Arts at the University* and *The Portrait – from Painting to Photography*. The article is dedicated to new approaches in teaching watercolor technique to students in pedagogy.

ical and creative university majors. All publications represent the independent work of Dr. Radulov. In addition, the applicant, Dr. Radulov, has 19 created short proprietary products in the field of arts and 17 supporting creative performances. He has also participated in a collective product. The publication activity and creative performances in the field of arts by Dr. Nikolay Radulov are sufficient for him to occupy the position of Associate Professor.

The main research presented by Dr. Nikolay Radulov is: *The Portrait - from Painting to Photography*, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2025, ISBN 978-619-281-043-6. The work represents an independent scientific study and reaches results that differ from conventional knowledge about the portrait genre. Pursuant to a theoretical and historical analysis, the connections between the portrait in painting and photography are discussed. An emphasis is placed on the role of modern digital media as a tool for establishing the connection between the two visual arts. The first part of the monograph is dedicated to an analysis of the portrait in history and painting, and the second part - to photography and portrait. Based on a comparative analysis between a contemporary artistic photographic portrait and a painted portrait, points of contact between the two arts are outlined - composition, light, color, narrative. A valuable contribution to the work is the presented proprietary model for creating a photographic portrait based on a painted portrait, presenting the ideological and creative motives and technical aspects of the work. The habilitation work demonstrates excellent knowledge of the subject by Dr. Nikolay Radulov and skillful use of modern scientific knowledge in the field of portraiture, painting and photography.

The other monograph by Dr. N. Radulov is *The Watercolor Technique. New Approaches in Teaching Fine Arts at the University*, Paisii Hilendarski University Publishing House, Plovdiv, 2024, ISBN 978-619-281-001-6, 172 pages. It is dedicated to the fine art education of future pedagogical specialists in the process of teaching the watercolor technique. The monograph contains three parts, logically and meaningfully connected to each other. The first part examines the watercolor technique as part of fine art, the second studies the watercolor technique in the light of modern didactic requirements in fine art education and the third part presents new approaches to teaching the watercolor technique in a university environment. In this third part, valuable methodological models of training in three main watercolor techniques have been developed: wet on dry, wet in wet and drawing with watercolor pencils. In addition, ten educational performances are described in the paper which are a component of the methodological scheme proposed in the monograph. A new element in the proposed methodology is the inclusion of the educational video in teaching. The application of the proprietary methodology for teaching students in fine arts through the application of the scientific methods of experiment and inquiry has been empirically proven.

The article *New Approaches to Teaching Watercolor Techniques to Students in Pedagogical and Creative Majors* presents modern new teaching methods at the university with the application of digital technologies, mixed reality, educational videos. Dr. N. Radulov has developed original educational videos in fine arts education which is a valuable contribution to increasing the effectiveness of education for students in pedagogical majors.

*Evaluation of the applicant's personal contribution*

Dr. N. Radulov has attached an author's reference of the contributions in the works he submitted for review. I agree with the defined contributions in the field of fine arts. I believe that the formulated contributions and obtained results are a personal merit of Dr. Nikolay Radulov.

**3. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks. I recommend that Dr. Nikolay Radulov continue his research and teaching activities in the field of fine arts, graphic design and photography.

I did not find any texts that could be defined as plagiarism and I have not received any indications of such during the period of my work on the opinion.

**CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov meet all the requirements set forth in the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for the Academic Staff Development at the University of Plovdiv.

Having reviewed the materials and scientific papers submitted in the competition and having analyzed their significance and the scientific, applied scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** evaluation and recommend to the Scientific Board to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Dr. Nikolay Dobrev Radulov to the academic position of Associate Professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the University Education Area 8. Arts, Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphic Design and Photography).

July 16, 2025

Signature: .....

Plovdiv

Prof. Kirika Tagareva, PhD