

## **OPINION**

*by Assoc. Prof. Ralitsa Stefanova, PhD on the dissertation work of  
the candidate for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"*

*Milena Ivanova Nacheva*

Milena Nacheva presents her dissertation on "Patternmaking and draping in fashion design" for the defense of the educational and scientific degree "PhD". Scientific supervisor is Prof. Emilia Panayotova, PhD. The dissertation contains: introduction, six chapters, reference to the contributions and applicability of the results, bibliography and has a total volume of 230 pages, included a total of 96 images supporting the theoretical study.

The abstract corresponds to the content of the thesis. There is a publication on the topic of the thesis. The object of the research is construction in all its forms and applications, as well as the involvement of patternmaking and draping in the design process and different approaches in the creative process.

The main research thesis relies on the notion that the construction is not only a physical "carrier" of the design idea, but also an integral part of the design. The thesis is clearly constructed in terms of content and the titles of the individual chapters clearly define the direction of the research. The introduction sets out the main research thesis, which considers design as a constituent part of design and a tool for generating ideas. The actuality of the topic is discussed and the rationale for its choice

is provided. The aims and objectives of the research work, the object and subject of the research and methodology are stated. Basic terms used in the thesis are clarified.

The approach of historical research is chosen in the work, the analysis of literature sources is made, the methods of work in the field of the developed problem of different organizations, fashion brands, independent designers and platforms for fashion design are studied and analyzed. An analysis and comparison are made in several of the aspects of the problem under consideration, based on data, texts and images as well as on practical trials of drafting techniques from established patternmaking systems. An important aspect of the methodology is the reference to Nacheva's personal practical experience in which she has studied, analyzed and experimented with the principles of patternmaking and draping.

The relevance of the problem is based on the notion that the role of the fashion designer encompasses a much wider range of skills and knowledge than is necessary for the creative process itself. Fashion design is a multidisciplinary process that brings together aspects such as conceptualization, fashion illustration, patternmaking and draping, technological knowledge and skills, styling and presentation.

The aim of this dissertation is to examine all applications of patternmaking and draping in the design and creative process. To prove that they play an important role in the look, design and good fit of the product, which in turn has a bearing on the quality and success of the design product as a commercial product. To

show that they are key participants in the technical process but are also a tool in the creative process. At the most, the aim is to prove that the construction is part of the design. The ways to achieve this goal are clearly outlined.

The dissertation is useful because it provides a comprehensive view of the design process defining the complex role of patternmaking and draping. The significance of the topic is based on the fact that it is topical, and addresses a current problem related to the creative process, the different approaches that designers apply and how patternmaking is involved in them. It is significant because it is the first theoretical study in Bulgaria focusing on patternmaking as an active participant in the creative process and a generator of ideas. This is also one of the contributions of the thesis. An extensive analysis of the role of construction in the fashion business and fashion product creation is made, various aspects of patternmaking and draping are explored and a new insight into the complexity of their application is given. For the first time, construction is considered as a component of the design and not only as a carrier of the idea; an in-depth comparative analysis of two popular patternmaking systems, M. Müller & Sohn and ESMOD, is made. The research can contribute to the rethinking of teaching practices in Bulgaria in the direction of encouraging students to deepen their skills in the field of patternmaking and draping in order to apply them skillfully in the creative process.

**In conclusion, it can be well-grounded said that we have**

**before us a work containing a significant factuality, which is correct and valuable as a scientific interpretation.**

**Therefore, I confidently propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award Milena Ivanova Nacheva the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor".**

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Assoc. Prof. Ralitsa Stefanova, PhD