

OPINION

by Associate Prof. Dr. Ivo Nikolaev Popov,
full-time lecturer at the New Bulgarian University,
8.2 Fine art

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of
Associate Professor at the New Bulgarian University, Sofia
in the field of higher education 8. Arts,
Professional field of study 8.2 Fine arts
(Visual composition, form and color in design)

In the competition for Associate Professor, announced in the State Gazette SG
15/14.02.2023 for the requirements of the Design Department, Assistant Professor Dr.
Ivanka Dimitrova Dobрева-Dragostinova, New Bulgarian University, was the only candidate
to participate.

I. Research (creative) activity and results

Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova was born on 03.10.1978. She began her creative itinerary in 1997 at the St. Luka National High School for the Applied Arts, Sofia and continued her development at the Applied Faculty of the National Academy of Sciences, where in 2003 she graduated with a master's degree in Design of Children's Environment. She was awarded her doctor's degree in "Art studies and visual arts" 08.05.2004 from the National Academy of Arts with the topic "Design for children's health. Design for the interior of preventive and treatment facilities for children".

In 2001 she received an award from the Open Society Foundation and the Interuniversity Fund for a diploma thesis on "Exterior facilities for play in the Plovdiv Oncology Hospital".

For her habilitation work Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova presented an extended resume with creative activity, entitled "21 IN BLUE" and "JOURNEY IN BLUE". It consists of 61 pages, of which 47 pages are text, 12 pages illustrations and 2 pages bibliography. It describes the theoretical framework and realization process of the exhibitions "21 in Blue" and "Journey in Blue", presenting the author's research and artistic pursuits in the border area between design and the visual arts. It presents the methodological apparatus and the related experimental section for the construction of two creative cycles, exploring the principles and possibilities of visual composition. The extended summary includes 33 pencil sketches, 30 color compositions, 41 graphic compositions.

The materials presented by Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova for the competition, as well as her research, creative and academic-educational activities meet the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for filling the academic position of Associate Professor, in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation, and the requirements of the NBU. In the scientometric table, with a total of 570 points required, scientific-creative production and materials for participation in the competition are presented, amounting to a total of 2320 points. They exceed the minimum national requirements and the NBU requirements by 1750 points. This gives me a definite reason to state that the candidate Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, meets the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of the ZRASRB and those of the NBU for participation in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. The list of research and creative performances of the candidate comprehensively covers her creative activity, awards and

honors, participation in seminars and lectures, organization and participation in projects. The list is presented in a neat and logical sequence.

There are 28 publications related to her habilitation work in specialized publications in the field of the arts (and the technical sciences and industry), 5 solo exhibitions and 17 participations in joint exhibitions.

II. Learning and teaching activity

Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, is very committed to her teaching activities, involving students in numerous projects and encouraging their participation in various creative performances. She has been actively teaching since 2005 in the programs at the NBU, and since 2011 she has been a full-time teacher at the New Bulgarian University in the programs BP "Interior Design", MB "Spatial Design" and MP "Product Design for the Interior". She has successfully participated in national projects, workshops, creative workshops and competitions with the participation of students from BP "Interior Design" and MB "Spatial Design".

She has successfully managed a number of projects financed by the Curriculum Fund at the FBO and BF of the NBU. She led the project "120 years since the birth of the artist Dobri Dobrev 1898-1973". This project was supported by the municipal fund "Culture" Sliven, "E. Miroglia EAD, New Bulgarian University, National Art Gallery, Bulgarian Cultural Institute Prague and the artist's family.

III. Administrative and public activities

Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, participated in the creation and updating of the MP "Spatial Design" and the MP "Interior Product Design" at the NBU.

She has been a member of the FBO Faculty Council since the fall semester of the 2017/2018 academic year; co-founder and member of the "Art Circle Impulsi" Association; member of the Color Group "Bulgaria"; co-founder and member of the Chamber of Bulgarian Designers; member of the NTS for Textiles, Clothing and Leather.

IV. Personal impressions of the candidate

I can express my personal positive impressions of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova as a colleague – a teacher and designer with a highly recognizable author's handwriting and creative potential with a positive attitude towards her teaching activity, dedicated to her work with the students of BP "Interior Design", MP "Spatial Design" and MP "Product design for the interior" at the NBU.

V. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the candidate's activities and achievements

I have no critical remarks about the candidate's overall performance. I recommend her to continue her teaching and creative activities in the same professional spirit and with the same inspiring enthusiasm.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to express my positive opinion about the contributions in creativity and scientific research of Assistant Prof. Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, as well as about her teaching activities, which correspond to the field of study and professional direction of the announced competition. I recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to

unanimously support and vote positively for the selection of Assistant Professor Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 8.2. Fine Art (Visual composition, form and color in design).

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