

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Christina Georgieva Savova, Ph.D.

Full-time lecturer and Head of the Department of Design, New Bulgarian University,
8.2 Fine Arts

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position
of "Associate Professor" of the New Bulgarian University, Sofia
in the field of higher education 8. Arts
professional field 8.2 Fine arts (Interior Design)

The "Associate Professor" competition was announced in the State Gazette, **SG 15/14.02.2023**, for the needs of the Department of Design as the only candidate participating in **Ch. Assistant Prof. Ivanka Dimitrova Dobрева-Dragostinova, Ph.D.**, New Bulgarian University.

I. Research (creative) activity and results

Ch. Assist. -Prof. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, Ph.D., began her creative career in 1992 at the Secondary Art Education School of Applied Arts in Sofia and continued her development at the National Academy of Arts, where in 2003, she graduated with a degree in "Design of Children's Environment." In 2009, she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on "Design for Children's Health. Design for the Interior of Preventive and treatment facilities for Children" at the National Academy of Arts.

Since 2011, she has been a full-time teacher at the New Bulgarian University in the programs - BP "Interior Design," MP "Spatial Design," and MP "Product Design for the Interior." Until now, there has been an award from the Open Society Foundation and the Interuniversity Fund for a thesis on the topic "Exterior play facilities in the Plovdiv Oncology Hospital," 2001, seven solo and two international exhibitions, two project guides, and numerous participations in exhibitions, projects, installations (26).

For habilitation work, Ch. assistant professor Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova summarizes creative activity, including an artistic creation titled "Visual Composition, form, and Color in Design." It describes the theoretical framework and methodology of realizing the exhibitions "21 in Blue" and "Journey in Blue," presenting the author's research and artistic pursuits at the border between design and visual arts. It gives the methodological apparatus and the associated experimental part of constructing two creative cycles, exploring the principles and possibilities of visual composition.

In addition to the essential theoretical justifications for improving teaching, Ch. Assistant professor Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova presents a practical example for researching variations of possibilities related to knowledge and perception of different points of view and application of tools characteristic of other areas of exhibition and advertising design.

Along with it, numerous participations in exhibitions dedicated to various topics and in conferences and biennales (over 30) dedicated to packaging, education, creative practices, etc., are presented. She is the author of over thirty author publications and one monograph ("AB of sustainable design." Sofia: NBU, 2017) dedicated to design.

In artistic circles, Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova is known for her design searches, in which the form is modeled in one exhibition through various materials and old practices, which is a distinctive feature of her work.

The list of presented research and creative performances of the candidate comprehensively covers her creative activity, awards, and honors, participation in seminars and lectures, and organizing and participating in projects. The list is presented in a neat and logical sequence.

Those presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, materials for the competition, as well as his research, creative and academic-learning activities meet the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for the occupation of the academic position of "associate professor," according to the requirements of Law on the evaluation of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

II. Teaching and learning activities

Ch. Assist. -Prof. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, Ph.D., is active in her teaching activities, involving students in numerous projects and encouraging their participation in various creative performances and projects. She has been actively teaching since 2008 in the

programs at NBU, and since 2011 she has been a full-time teacher. She successfully participated in national and university projects, workshops, and competitions, such as the participation of students from BP "Interior Design," MP "Spatial Design," and MP "Product Design for the Interior."

III. Administrative and public activity

The organizational commitment of Ch. Assist. – Prof. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, Ph.D., participates in the departmental council and updates bachelor's and master's programs at the "Design" department.

The applicant's public activity should include her assistance and participation in promoting design in Bulgaria. Her involvement in exhibitions dedicated to this theme speaks for this.

IV. Personal impressions of the candidate

My favorable impressions are from Ch. assistant professor Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova as a colleague - teacher, a designer with a recognizable author's essence — creator, and a teacher with a positive attitude towards his teaching activity and students.

V. Opinions, recommendations, and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

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

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I express my **positive opinion** about the contributions to creativity and scientific research activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova, Ph.D., and her teaching activities correspond to the field and professional direction of the announced competition. I recommend that the esteemed members of the scientific jury support and vote positively for selecting **Assistant Professor Ivanka Dimitrova Dobрева-Dragostinova,**

Ph.D., in the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in professional direction **8.2. Fine art (visual composition, shape, and color in design)**.

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/Assoc. Prof. Christina Savova, Ph.D./