

POSITION
BY ASSOC. PROF. DSC. ALEXANDER KUYUMDZHIEV

IN A COMPETITION

for holding the academic position of professor in the Scientific area 8. Arts.
Professional field 8.1. Theory of Arts, scientific specialty "Art History and Fine Arts" (fine arts and synthesis with architecture), according to the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of USEA "Lyuben Karavelov", Article 63, items 14, 15 and 65, par. 3, announced in State Newspaper no. 37, May 7, 2021

Assoc. Prof. Blagovesta Ivanova is the only candidate at the USEA "Lyuben Karavelov" in the competition for the academic position "professor". She has fulfilled the national minimum requirements several times and has been admitted by the scientific jury to participate in the competition.

Blagovesta Ivanova has presented numerous publications that relate to the scientific field announced in the competition. The main habilitation work (B-3), entitled "Ivanova, Bl. Monasterial and Settlement temples of the Diocese of Sofia. Observation, condition, analysis, accessibility 2015 - 2017 Sofia, 2018", is a publication of USEA "Lyuben Karavelov". Besides that, the candidate points to an additional monograph (B-6) – "Trapko Vassilev and the Permanent Art Gallery. 110 years since its creation. Paradigm, 2020", and one chapter of a monograph co-authored (G-15), 6 studies (G-11) and 33 articles (G-8, 9, 11), a full set of citations (D-16, 17, 18), as well as reviews of its publications (D-19) were presented for the competition.

The mentioned researches were published after the habilitation of B. Ivanova for an Associate Professor and do not repeat the works from her previous competitions. This is explicitly confirmed by a special list of all publications related to her competition for Associated Professor, as well as her dissertations for "Doctor" and "Doctor of Science" degrees. This competition includes a number of other materials of various kinds, described in the documentation, which successfully complement the main ones and do not need to be specifically discussed here.

The presence of large numbers of publications in the editions referenced and indexed in world-famous databases, as well as the large number of articles and studies from specialized magazines

in the field of arts, some of which are in a foreign language is impressive. It is also important to note the thematic and genre diversity of the presented materials, which cover different fields of art and range from strictly scientific publications to those related to the teaching activities of the candidate, as well as texts in the field of museology, cultural heritage and comparative studies. The presented materials by B. Ivanova successfully declare her interdisciplinary knowledge and diverse of the thematic interests. Undoubtedly, she has an impressive scientific production, covering various fields of science, which corresponds to her reputation as a leading scientist in Revival and Modern Bulgarian art. Assoc. Prof. B. Ivanova is also one of the significant researchers of architecture, studied from the point of view of art history.

The monographic work is a comprehensive study of the temples of the Sofia eparchy. It covers a wide time range and focuses mainly on the synthesis between the architecture and painting. The changes that took place in the architectural decisions of the churches from the Late Middle Ages, during the Revival and even until the XXI century are traced. In this way a detailed section of the used architectural types was made and fundamental conclusions were drawn about the changes in the style of church constructions over the several centuries and the change of different socio-political conditions, tastes and conditions. An important part here is the attention focused to the architectural type of church construction after the Liberation. The sections devoted to the depiction of the architectural environment in the fresco decoration of the churches, as well as their synchronization with the manuals on painting, are also contributing. Particularly interesting and in some places very indicative is the analysis of the current state of a number of monuments, the result of restoration interventions in them or of new renovations carried out under the various European programs. In total, the presentation in the monograph of 64 monuments from the Sofia Diocese undoubtedly represents a significant contribution not only in the study of architecture, but also from historical, art and social points of view.

Over 30 years of work of Blagovesta Ivanova as a curator at the National Gallery is reflected in various materials presented for the competition. First of all, it should be emphasized that she has curated over 70 specialized exhibitions. Against this background, the seven mentioned (I am referring to those in the group selection) do not seem modest, but very precisely selected, once because of the requirements of the competition and the second because of their scientific value. Here we should mention the retrospective exhibition about the talented artist, art critic and poet

Dimitar Arnaudov. It presents his early works, including paintings and drawings from the time before his studies at the Academy of Arts, as well as the works by the author from various galleries in the country. D. Arnaudov's doctorate "The Artist and the Work" is also presented - an unprecedented book for its time. It is obligatory to point out that the candidate is not just a participant in the organization of these exhibitions, but the author of their concepts and accompanying publications, supervisor and inevitably – the direct performer, as everyone who knows this subject knows very well the difficulties and challenges of the museum exhibition activity.

The various scientific interests of the candidate are balanced in the materials of the competition. Particular attention should be paid to the publications related to the study of portrait painting and to Bulgarian artists in general from the second half of the 19th to the end of the 20th century, in which field the candidate is a renowned specialist. A significant number of publications presented in the competition are dedicated to this topic (G-9: 1, 2; G-11: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6), and perhaps only those related to the study of various aspects of architecture outnumber them. The impressive contribution of the candidate in the study of the church "St. Stefan" in Istanbul and the architectural complex at the Golden Horn in general is also duly reflected in the publications dealing with the historical context, construction, participants and architectural features of the church. (Articles G-8: 1, 2; G-9: 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 27). Another area related to the work of B. Ivanova in the National Gallery are the materials on museology, to which separate texts are also dedicated. We should not miss the scientific works and exhibitions related to leading figures of our Revival art, such as Nikolai Pavlovich (G-14: 1), as well as thematic studies related to the various aspects of the history of Sofia (for example, G- 9: 3, 8, 10, 20). There are articles related to graphics, Revival painters, as well as those related to the active teaching activities of the candidate at USEA "Lyuben Karavelov", dating back to 2005.

An important part of the work of any researcher is the study of archival information, which allows to discover new and truly original information for science. In this regard, the monograph on the gallery of Trapko Vassilev can be mentioned, in which a new source material is exhibited, both for its creator and for the functioning of the gallery as a center of artistic life after 1910. Similar is the work on the creative works from the collection of A. Kerezov, which allows to supplement the

biographies of some artists, as well as the study of Lion Bridge and Eagle Bridge, which lists important documents for the assignment of work to foreign companies (G-9 : 5).

B. Ivanova's contributions to the study of our architectural heritage are too many to be mentioned here separately. They cover all aspects of the study of architectural features and extend from the Middle Ages to the present days and are reflected in almost all materials submitted for the competition. Naturally, they must be taken into account as the basis on which B. Ivanova's application to acquire the academic position of "professor" lies at USEA "Lyuben Karavelov" and fully meet his profile, scientific and pedagogical goals.

An important part of the candidate's presentation is the academic expert activity developed by her and especially that of the last years, in which B. Ivanova is a member and chairman of the expert commission for Humanities at the Research Fund. Essential for the competition is the management and participation in research projects, among which the candidate has indicated goals 8. To this must be added her activities as an editor of magazines, participation in organizing committees of international conferences, etc., which together show the impressive professional biography of B. Ivanova and her active role in modern science.

The documentation attached to the competition fully meets the requirements of the law. The same can be said for the formal requirements for the candidate herself. As far as her professional and scientific qualities are concerned, I think that her research output undoubtedly meets the criteria for the post of "professor". This gives me full reason to convincingly vote for Blagovesta Ivanova to take the academic position of "professor" at USEA "Lyuben Karavelov" and to allow myself to call on other colleagues from the scientific jury of the competition to do the same.

Sofia

August 2, 2021

Signature:

(Alexander Kuyumdzhiev)