

STATEMENT

by

**Prof. Dr. Monika Popova**  
/New Bulgarian University/

Competition for the position „**Associate Professor (Docent)**“

field of University education 8. Arts,  
8.2. Fine Art

**„Visual composition, shape and color in design“**

by

**Dr. Ivanka Dimitrova Dobreva - Dragostinova, Chief Assistant**

Ivanka Dimitrova Dobreva-Dragostinova is a graduate of the National Academy of Arts, Applied Arts Department, "Children's Environment Design" section. She has a pedagogical qualification from High School for Arts and Crafts - Sofia.

Her expertise is in the field of: children's environment design, sustainable and product design; teaching activity; research and expert activity.

Honors and awards 2001 - "Open Society" Foundation Award and the Interuniversity Fund for a diploma thesis on the topic "Exterior playground facilities in Plovdiv Oncology Hospital".

Doctor of Arts and Fine Arts, August 05, 2004, National Academy of Arts. Topic: "Children's health design. Interior design for children's medical care institutions"

Head of significant projects between 2011 - 2021.

- 2011 – 2021 - she was an organizer and moderator of a number of seminars, exhibitions, workshops, etc.

- Head of projects with students' participation, financed by the Curricula Fund of the Basic Training Department and Bachelor's Department.

- Managing the project "120 anniversary of the artist Dobri Dobrev 1898-1973", the project was realized with the support of the Culture Fund of the Municipality of Sliven, "E. Mirolio" Ltd., New Bulgarian University, National Art Gallery, the Bulgarian Cultural Institute in Prague and the artist's family.

– UniArt Gallery, NBU, "Christmas Past-Present-Future" project, with the support of the Curricula Fund of the Basic Training Department and Bachelor's Department.

- Head of the project "Old Sliven - advertisement booklet of Dobri Dobrev's works". The project was financed by the Municipality Culture Fund and "Dimitar Dobrovich Art Gallery" - Sliven.
- Developing and managing the implementation of the design project "Blue Rooms" - the first friendly rooms for interrogation of children who have been victims of violence - Pazardzhik, Shumen, Sofia – contracted by the "Institute for Social Activities and Practices".

The colleague Dragostinova has numerous publications and participations in conferences related to design in all directions.

Significant author's exhibitions:

- Fine Art 2021 – Author's exhibition „A Journey in Blue“, Varna, “YUKA” Gallery;
  - 2021 – Author's exhibition "Chergite", Osoitsa village, Asen Zlatarov School, Festival of Alternative Agriculture "Alter Agro",
  - 2020 - Author's exhibition „Reminiscences“ – Sofia, Music Center "Boris Hristov",
- She has participated in many public exhibitions with a social focus.

**The minimum points required in the indicators for the academic position of Associate professor (“Docent”) have been exceeded multiple times by the colleague Dragostinova.**

“21 IN BLUE” and “A JOURNEY IN BLUE” is the visual presentation of the topic "Visual composition, form and color in design" of Dr. Ivanka Dobрева-Dragostinova.

The extended summary contains 61 pages, 47 pages of text, 12 pages of illustrations and 2 pages with bibliography.

The summary describes the theoretical framework and realization process of the exhibitions "21 in Blue" and "A Journey in Blue", presenting the author's research and artistic pursuits on the borderline of design and visual arts.

It presents the methodological apparatus and the respective experimental part of the construction of two creative cycles, exploring the principles and possibilities of visual composition. There are 33 pencil sketches, 30 color compositions, and 41 graphic compositions included in the extended summary.

The creative project is aimed at in-depth research, revealing and viewing possibilities and laws of composition, drawing a parallel between visual arts and design. The process and the achieved result are based on two aspects. On the one hand are the theory of composition, form building and color science, and on the other - the method of lateral thinking

The greatest strength of the study is the theoretical research supported by the author's practical evidence. Uniting theory and practice by the author herself is the most valuable proof in such a work.

The colleague Dragostinova has created a series of paintings that are a visual formula for correctness, based on constant behaviors, but reflected through creative thinking. She has given wonderful examples of compositions that incorporate basic categories of form, line; the contrast as basic codependence between the elements of the composition and the color as a main factor.

The means of expression are highly decorative and to a great extent distanced from nature, but the applied compositional concepts are defined by the nature's patterns and structures. The effect of overcoming the color symbolics and impact of the blue range is purposefully sought and is part of the author's creative challenge.

The blue range effect is emblematic for this type of presentation of evidence. It remains, as an iconic piece of the main work, which appears to be like a wonderful creative play. The habilitation work has no analogue, due to its specifics related to the author's experiment, in which color plays a major role, in spite of the classical behaviors of the compositional construction. We are presented with a complex analysis of the aesthetic construction of a square's space where pictures-formulas are built!

The entire work is a great aid for professionals and also for people starting out on the path of building a visual image into a compositional structure, regardless of whether it falls into a two-dimensional or three-dimensional scheme.

At the end, I give my positive assessment on the habilitation thesis - "Visual composition, form and color in design" and I urge the academic jury to award the academic position of "Associate Professor" ("Docent") to Dr. Ivanka Dimitrova Dobрева-Dragostinova, Chief Assistant

June 30, 2023

Respectfully,  
Prof. Dr. Monika Popova