

## OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Tanya Ivanova Borisova, Ph.D.

for participation in a competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor", announced by Thrace University Stara Zagora in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in ... (Methodology of training in fine arts), published in the "State Gazette", issue 24/25.03.2022.

with candidate associate professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva

Associate Professor Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva graduated from the specialty "Pedagogy of Fine Art Education" (sculpture) at Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". Since 2002, he has been a teacher of Fine Art Teaching Methodology at the Faculty of Education of Thrace University. She defended her doctoral degree, and since 2013 she is an "associate professor" in the same scientific field and professional direction.

Associate Professor Ani Zlateva participated in the competition with a habilitation thesis "Interactive art activities in an informal environment" (AI Thrace University, 2022, 283 p.), a monograph "How to read children's drawings" drawings", University of Malta Press, 2019, 182 p.), co-author in two Books for the teacher, two Methodical Guides and two Knowledge Books (3 and 4 group of kindergarten, ed. "Bulvest 2000"), four articles , published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases, seven articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review (of which four in foreign editions) and one chapter of a collective monograph. There are a total of 28 citations, of which 7 in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases, 9 citations in monographs and

collective volumes with scientific review, 12 citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

Associate Professor Dr. Ani Zlateva participated in 12 university, national and international projects, as well as realized 27 artistic projects in the country and abroad. From the presented reference, it is clear that the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "professor" have been met.

In the habilitation thesis "Interactive activities with art in an informal environment", Assoc. Dr. Zlateva presents her long-standing views on the role of visual arts in non-formal education, as well as basic principles for learning in an informal environment.

For me, her main contribution is in the monograph "How to read children's drawings" ("How to read children's drawings"), published in English and distributed in many universities in the European space. The most important indicators that characterize the pictorial process and how it serves as a basis for determining the stages in the development of children's drawing are also indicated. The competence of the author, as well as the personal contribution to the leading theories and practices in modern pedagogy, cannot be doubted.

1. I know Prof. Zlateva as a dedicated colleague, an outstanding professional and a profound creator. I fully agree with the scientific contributions she noted and will only comment on some of the main ones:
2. An in-depth overview and analysis of extracurricular and extracurricular activities was made, looking for the connection with the community center activity;
3. The diversity of the interactive forms of pedagogical interaction in visual arts activities in the various forms of application of informal learning in electronic and online environments was investigated;

4. In a theoretical-applied plan, the basic principles of learning in an informal environment and the practices and approaches applicable to this type of learning, in the conditions of modern educational and cultural trends, are presented and clarified;
5. The pictorial process is considered as revealing the two important dimensions of child development - intellectual and emotional;
6. All articles are innovative and based on "design thinking" as a trend in education;
7. Practices of applying art in the learning process for children with specific learning difficulties, in the various educational fields, are described, which contribute to the activation of visual perceptions, as well as the specifics of the participation of visual-spatial and pictorial memory;
8. Data are presented on how the good achievements of children and students in the field of various types of art positively affect their self-esteem and support their success in studies.

In the presented scientific production, a tangible upgrade has been achieved in the foundations of the methodology of teaching fine arts in preschool age and primary stage, in the context of current problems and trends, in harmony with the development of modern education, in accordance with the Act on preschool and school education currently in force, the European qualification framework and the European reference framework. It is proof of Associate Professor Zlateva's skills to analyze, predict and anticipate scientific thought in the direction of art and its importance for the harmonious development of the personality of the child and the young student.

Her talent as an artist, the magical appeal of her aesthetics, as well as her enviable communication skills with students, colleagues and public institutions are left aside.

## **CONCLUSION:**

I undoubtedly give a positive assessment of the scientific production of Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva. Fulfillment of the minimum requirements for awarding the academic position "professor" is available; an indisputable scientific production and an indisputable talent. I strongly suggest to the Honorable Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy to elect for the academic position "Professor" Assoc. Dr. Ani Dimova Zlateva in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in... (Methodology of fine art training) for the needs of the Pedagogical Faculty of Thrace University - Stara Zagora.

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