

REVIEW

by

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Concerning: materials submitted for participation in competition for acquiring an academic position “Associate Professor”, field of Higher education: 1.Pedagogical Sciences, Professional direction. 1.3. Pedagogy of... (Methodology of teaching Fine arts).

Competition data

In the competition for "Associate professor" published in Darjaven Vestnik issue № 30/15.04.2022 for the needs of Shumen University "Konstantin Preslavski", Faculty of Education, is applying Lecturer **Dr. Kamen Marius Theofilov**, who is the only candidate. The candidate has submitted all necessary papers for participation in the competition, a sufficient number of scientific papers published after the materials used for the defence of his Doctor's degree, therefore on the strength of ZRASRB he is entitled to participate in the competition. In a "Declaration of authorship" he declares that all scientific works presented for the competition for the academic position "Associate professor" are his own author's works and in no way infringes somebody else's copyright. All through his works he has correctly marked the sources where he referred to quotations or somebody else's works.

Having reviewed the papers, I find no violation whatsoever of the competition for "Associate professor" procedure's rules.

Candidate's date

Lecturer Dr. Kamen Teofilov was born on 01.10.1975, in Shumen. In 2002 he graduates with a degree in “Pedagogy of teaching Fine Arts” at the University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavski". In the period 2002 – 2005 he works as a Fine arts teacher in the following Shumen's schools: High School of Telecommunications, High School of Building and Architecture, VIth Primary School, IInd Primary School, High School “Ioan Ekzarh Balgarski”. Since 2013 he has been employed as a specialist – Technical and informational services in the Department of “Visual Arts, Theory and Methodology” at University of Shumen. In 2017, after a successfully passed competition, he was appointed as an assistant at Department of “Visual Arts, Theory and Methodology” at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen. He is currently a lecturer in the Department of “Technological Education, Entrepreneurship and Visual Arts” of PF.

In 2018, Lect. Kamen Teofilov, acquires a Doctor's degree in the field of Higher education: 1.Pedagogical Sciences, Professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of the teaching of...., doctoral program "Methodology of teaching Fine arts". The subject matter of the dissertation work: "Enhancing creativity of students from 5th and 6th grade through digital processing of photographic images while teaching Fine arts".

Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov works in the field of digital graphics, artistic photography, graphic design, drawing, painting. He possesses technical skills and competencies to work with: Microsoft Office, Photoshop, site administration, graphic design, photography; he also has knowledge in the field of theory and methodology of Fine art, creation of texts in artistic and publicist style. He actively participates in the scientific projects of university departments "VITM" and TOPVI" at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen: national projects – students' practicum – Stage 2. Project funded under OP "Human Resources Development", co-financed by the European Social Fund. Academic Mentor (2021); in international projects – project "MODEN-A: MODERNization in partnership through digitization of the Academic Ecosystem" BG05M2OP001-2.016-0018 B: National University of Arts, Bucharest, Romania/ National University of Arts Bucharest, Romania (2021).

Description of scientific papers

It is apparent from the attached papers and materials that the research submitted by Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov meets the requirements of the Law on The Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Rules of Application of the ZRASRB and the respective regulations of "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen. The candidate for the competition, fulfils the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para 2 and 3 of the ZRASRB for the academic position "Associate Professor". The quantitative ucometric indicators of the presented materials satisfy and exceed (by 30 points) the requirements of the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In the competition for "Associate professor" Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov participates with 10 scientific publications, which are presented after the acquisition of the Doctor's degree, and which are distributed in the following typology: **Monograph – 3 separate; Articles – 7 separate**, published in collections and yearbooks in the country.

In general, the scientific production by the candidate and the production of applied science is related to the theoretical and methodological preparation, formed through the teaching of both university graduates and students in the lower secondary stage of general education.

All works in the list, submitted by Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov, are published and are directly related to the Subject matter of the announced competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty – "Methodology of teaching Fine arts". They were created between 2014 and 2022 and testify to a very fruitful publishing activity of the candidate.

The main rehabilitation work of the candidate's scientific production is the monograph "**A digital photo story while teaching Fine arts.(7th grade)**", Shumen: "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2022, p. 207, ISBN - 978-619-201-576-3. This monographic work offers opportunities to work on yet unexplored product in teaching Fine arts – a digital photo story. The emphasis in the book is on the syncretism between the digital and communication competences of the students in 7th grade, activated in the creation of a digital photo story.

The chapter 1 looks at visual and speech forms in creation of a photo story, the resources of a photo image, speech forms and synthetic visual forms. The approaches in the organization of the composition of the photographic image and the organization of the color environment of the photographic image through digital retouching have been explored.

In chapter 2, the emphasis is the technological aspects of working on digital photo storytelling - familiarization with photo narratives as a genre, photography and selection of photo images - from a photo to text or vice versa. The opportunities for digital unification of image and text, digital retouching through Photoshop software and preparation and presentation of digital photo storytelling are presented. Up-to-date methodology has been created and approved in the preparation of students for the creation of a photo story.

In chapter 3 is proposed a project for exploring a digital photo storytelling while teaching 7th grade students Fine arts. The syncretism between communication and digital competences, formed through verbal and visual tasks, has been examined. Determined is the place of the photo narrative in the plan for didactic work of the teacher of Fine arts and illustrating the technological model for studying digital photo storytelling through a system of lessons.

The monographic work impresses with the quality of development in the theoretic and artistic terms and the intelligently served scientific information from a linguistic point of view, with rich visual material from photographic images and author's digital drawings.

The monograph "Photography in teaching Fine arts", "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2021, p.115, ISBN - 978-619-201-530-5 focuses on the theoretical and technological sides and dimensions of photographic art. The theoretical concepts in the monograph work are motivated by the need to expand the knowledge of photography as kind of visual art and its role in shaping and documenting its avant-garde manifestations. Through the information on the ways of compositional construction in photography, the aim is to expand the visual-imaging of adolescents. The skills students will acquire through this type of activity can also be applied in practical artwork to themes such as landscape, figurative and non-figurative composition. The text is illustrated by numerous documentary and author's photographs which contribute to its easier absorption.

Chapter 1 provides a historical overview of the evolution of photography in the context of Fine arts. Space has been made for the emergence and development of photography, the interaction between the arts and digital photography technology.

Chapter 2 explores the basic principles of composing and ratios in compositional construction in photography.

The monograph is addressed to students, future Fine arts teachers, as well as to all who are interested in the issues of photography and contemporary visual art forms.

Especially useful for the art practice in school is the monographic work "**Situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment**". Shumen: "Konstantin Preslavski" University 2021, p.107, ISBN - 978-619-201-531-2. The monograph offers ideas for working on some new, unexplored aspects of the school subject - Fine Arts, in the lower secondary stage: digital photography and graphical processing of raster

images through a software program. Theoretical productions are motivated by the possibilities of inter-mental connections for locating a student's drawing in a digital environment.

Chapter 1 examines the teacher's preparation for positioning a drawing in a digital environment and analyzes the curriculum in Fine Arts and IT in 6th grade.

In Chapter 2 is presented a basic technological toolkit for graphical processing with Photoshop software, the types of raster and vector images, the main file formats.

In Chapter 3 are presented practical activities of positioning a drawing in a digital environment. Methodological variants and diagnostic procedures for organizing the situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment in the 6th grade have been studied.

The submitted articles for the competition (7 pcs.) from the scientific production of Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov are published in non-referenced journals with scientific review and in edited collective volumes. These include topics which reveal some problems of artistic education and highlight new aspects of school and Higher education in this area.

1. Approaches to pedagogical interaction in teaching Fine arts – In: Yearbook of the University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavski", T. XXV D, Shumen: "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2021, p. 411 – 416, ISSN 1314 – 6769.

The article investigates the main approaches of pedagogical interaction in teaching Fine arts: individual, differentiated, integral, and the impact they have on the development of visual and analytical skills of students.

2. Semantic expression through the means of photography in teaching Fine arts in 5th and 6th grade at Secondary school – ISSN 2367-5721 (online), JOURNAL HOMEPAGE: WWW.SOCIOBRAINS.COM Publisher: SMART IDEAS – WISE DECISIONS, Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria ISSUE 71, JULY 2020, pp. 32 – 36.

The article systematizes specialized information about the history of photography and the changes that occur as a result of its appearance, development, interaction with other types of arts, its transformation into a vital and functional element of everyday life.

3. Main ways of creating a composition of a student's drawing – In: Yearbook of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", vol. XXIV D. Shumen: University Publishing House "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2020, ISSN 1314 – 6769, p. 1. 461 – 466.

The article considers the composition as one of the main components of analysis in the pedagogical diagnosis of the educational activity of the students. It is pointed out that the major problem in the compilation of the student drawing is the organization of its composition. This includes: the interactions of the elements, the contrast of the colors and their impact on the student's mind.

4. Metamorphoses of aesthetic perception. – B: Round table of the PF at University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavski" on the topic: "Aesthetic values and upbringing" (09.04.2016). Shumen: "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2016, ISBN 978-619-201-100-0, p. 1. 130 – 136.

The article explores questions about stereotypical perceptions of certain aesthetic concepts - beautiful and ugly, good and bad. Links with mental, physical and

metaphysical facts and theories are sought, certain conclusions are drawn about the "transience" and "timelessness" of aesthetic perception in terms of time factor.

5. Transformation of the traditional concepts concerning the "quality of art" with regard to the "time" factor. – In: "Art and life". Jubilee collection of reports from the International Scientific Conference in honor of the 85th anniversary of Prof. Dr.Sc.(Econ.) Valentin Angelov. Veliko Tarnovo: "St.Cyril and St.Methodius" University, 2015, 139–143.

The article analyzes some "peculiar" aspects of human behavior in terms of the perception of the "beautiful", which from an aesthetic concept is transformed into a material one. These tendencies lead to blurring and mixing up aesthetic and moral criteria.

6. For some interdependencies between avant-garde art and alternative forms of teaching Fine arts. – In: Compendium of scientific papers from the traveling seminar Edirne – Çeşme – Izmir – Edirne (04.05.2015 – 09.05.2015) "Innovations in Education", University of Shumen, "Faber" Publishing House, Veliko Tarnovo, 2015, p. 136 – 141. ISBN 978-619-00-0265-9.

The article examines and systematizes some leading concepts in the development of Fine art and focuses on interactive forms of learning. These forms can be adapted for teaching of Fine arts through: Fine arts activities in situations, group and game forms of work, digitally positioned tasks, etc.

7. For some dependencies between expressive natures and expressive design. – In: Yearbook of the University of Shumen "Konstantin Preslavski", Volume XVIII D. Shumen: "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen, 2014, ISSN 1314 – 6769, p. 1. 337 – 341.

The article focuses on certain iconic expressive artworks through a historical perspective. It seeks a link between the expression of the painting and various factors which can be at play: the worldview of the author, the time in which he/she lives, the historical and economic situation, the financial situation and the internal or external motivators for the creative act.

The monographs and articles of the author help hugely to get university graduates involved into the process of teaching Fine arts, encourage them to apply innovative ideas and methods tailored to the opportunities and interests of school pupils. That is especially important for the graduates' future professional-pedagogical work, also for teachers at a Secondary school, as well as for Higher education's lecturers.

The presented scientific work is a result of the author's long-standing creative and teaching practice, covering and exploring a wide interdisciplinary territory. Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov boasts good possession of in-depth professional-pedagogical competence and theoretical training, demonstrating skills to bind information from the field of theory and methodology of Fine arts, photography, information and digital technologies, pedagogy and psychology.

Contributions in the field of science

The scientific contributions made by the author reflect the results of the research scientific production in a wide range. The proposed topics in scientific developments have a pronounced theoretic-methodological and practical nature:

1. The author's work in the sphere of science is based on in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills in the field of pedagogy, psychology, theory and methodology of teaching Fine arts, artistic education, photography and digital technologies. The relevance and importance of his scientific work is aimed at the digital technologies, rapidly entering into the daily life of adolescents and the formation of a "digital competence" in them in the process of teaching Fine arts as well as upbringing them;

2. An extensive review of specialized literature (the monograph "Photography in teaching Fine arts" has been carried out, highlighting the basis of theoretical analysis, the undeniable role of photography in the context of contemporary forms of Fine arts as a major and important stage in the artist's creative act. The analysis of facts and ideas unambiguously shows the interaction between photography and other types of Fine arts, as well as the usefulness of the programmes processing digital image accompanying the creation of innovative works;

3. The monograph "Photography in teaching Fine arts" studies the basic principles of composing and ratios in compositional construction in photography, offering different ways in composing the photographic frame, which students can also apply to the standard types of artistic arts;

4. In accordance with the requirements of the Fine art curricula of the Ministry Of Education And Science, the researched issue, as part of author's scientific work, is aimed at the formation of "digital competence" on the part of students from the lower Secondary stages, which is supposed to be achieved through digital processing of photographic images. Very well-founded is the use of Photoshop software program in order to achieve effectiveness of the application of digital processing of photo images while teaching Fine arts.

5. An author's methodological model (the monograph "Situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment" has been developed and approbated by digital processing of photographic images, which is based on the territory and practice of teaching Fine arts, which is applicable to the interests and needs of the students. The stages, which the digital processing of photo image is going through, are presented and analyzed; awareness of the essence of the art-creative process – from the design to the realization of the work; the creation of educational strategies for their teaching by a Fine arts teacher. Proposed is an provisional didactic structure of a lesson in "Situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment."

6. The scientific work (the monograph "Situation of a student's drawing in a digital environment") provides basic knowledge on the methodology for creation of digital projects by the students, in accordance with the current tendencies and conditions in the development of modern art education. A specific system of criteria, indicators and measuring tools for evaluating students' works, realized through Photoshop software program, has been designed. This system is applicable to the interests and needs of students, provoking in them a desire to experiment, stimulating their creative and associative and artistic thinking;

7. In the monograph work "A digital photo story in teaching Fine arts (7th grade students)" is offered adapted theoretical information about the genre Digital photo storytelling and along with this is presented a technological model for its teaching in

the class of Fine arts. The technological model includes a system of thematic modules for the preparation and creation of digital photo storytelling by students;

8. Opportunities are offered to generate innovative and fascinating ways, themes and techniques of work, the author's digital project ("Digital photo story in teaching Fine arts (7th grade)" in order to encourage students' creative performance. The work on a photo story, realized by digital means, combines the interest in photography with students' experiences and excitements while using the social networks and sharing their impressions there;

9. The author's scientific publications enrich, in pedagogical and methodical way, the statement that in order to enhance the students' creativity while fulfilling creative and artistic tasks it is didactically justified the domination of digital technologies implemented by interactive methods as a more interesting and fun form of creativity;

10. The results of the research can be appropriate theoretical and informative basis and can provoke future studies in the field of teaching arts, which could serve as an example of updating the educational process in Fine arts, in terms of the formation of digital competences in students.

Teaching and lecturing activity

The educational and teaching activities of the applicant consist of holding lectures, conducting laboratory and term exercises in the disciplines – "Hospitalization", "Current pedagogical teaching practice", "Internship practice", "Theory and methodology of Fine arts teaching", "Methodology in Fine arts teaching", "Modern aspects of the teaching Fine arts", "Modern trends and approaches in the training and education of IT in DD and NEO", "Graphic design", "Photography", "Art photography", "Digital competence and digital creativity", etc. with students from POII, PUNUP, PUP, NUPCE, NUPCHE, POVI, IPO, IPNO classes, covering their Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

The good number of noted citations, in collective volumes with a scientific review (3 pcs.) and in unreferenced journals with scientific reviews (6 pcs.) published in specialized media, after acquiring a Doctor's degree, should serve as confirmation of the active and fruitful scientific researches carried out by Dr. Kamen Teofilov

The administrative and organizational assignments of the applicant in "Konstantin Preslavski" University is responsible and diverse: Member of committees at the Pedagogical Faculty of Shumen's University "Konstantin Preslavski" for conducting exam procedures – defence of a diploma paper (speciality POII-Bachelor and PKS Master); Member of the University's Quality Commission; Member of the FC of the PF at "Konstantin Preslavski" University; Quality Officer of department TOPVI; Member of a committee responsible for preparation of papers for accreditation of doctoral programs: field of Higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction: 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching... ; Member of the Committee on Intra-University Audit at PF at "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen; Member of a committee of the NAOA; Head of first year graduates, following the speciality POII, etc.

Lect. Kamen Teofilov possesses immense productivity in the field of art and great creative capacity. He has participated in good number of regional, national and international exhibitions. The most notable of them are: International exhibition

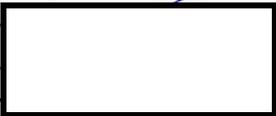
"PRINT MEET 2021" INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL GROUP EXHIBITION, TRAKIA UNIVERSITY, Fine Arts Faculty, 21 June - 30 June 2021; International Exhibition of T.C. IZMIR DEMOKRASI UNIVERSITY, Fine Arts Faculty, International Virtual Group Exhibition "Meeting with ART in the 101st year of the 19th may"(2020); Exhibition "Masters and Teachers", Art Salon of Radio Varna (2019); Exhibition of teachers and students from the Department of BPM, Thracian University, Edirne (2019); International exhibition "Small Format Graphics Salon. 5th edition, 21-20 May 2019, University Gallery, SHU; "Code Visual" Jubilee exhibition on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Department of VITM, Nikola Marinov University, Targovishte (2019); Solo exhibition "Elements" – Elena Karamihaylova Shumen, 22.10.2019; Exhibition of teachers and students from the Department of HPM at the National University of Arts - Bucharest, Romania (2018); Exhibition "Moment" at Pinelo Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey (2018); Exhibition of students and lecturers from specialty PII at Nikola Marinov University, Sofia, Bulgaria Targovishte (2017); Exhibition of students and lecturers from specialty PIS in 18th Dobrich (2017); Participation in the Spring Art Salon at Elena Karamihaylova University of Art, Sofia, Bulgaria Shumen (2017, 2018, 2019); Exhibition "Contemporary Shumen Artists" at Elena Karamihaylova 10th District Shumen (2017); Exhibition "Our sea "no" is knee-deep" of students and teachers in the House of Humor and Satire, Sofia. Gabrovo (2016) et al.

Lect. Dr. Kamen Teofilov has also designed numerous covers of monographs and books with fiction.

CONCLUSION

Taking into consideration the undeniable qualities of scientific production, which includes new topics and defines new aspects in education, expanding the range of issues in teaching Fine arts in Secondary school and Higher education, I strongly recommend to the Honorable scientific Jury to give a **positive assessment** on the application by proposing to the Lect. Dr. Kamen Marius Theophylov to be awarded the academic position "Associate Professor", field of Higher education: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional Direction 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching ... (Methodology of teaching Fine arts) for the needs of "Konstantin Preslavski" University of Shumen.

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Shumen

The review prepared by 
/Professor Dr. Dimitar Balkanski/