

## STATEMENT

by DPhD Alexander Metodiev Kanev - Professor in the Department  
"History of Philosophy" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

based on the materials submitted for participation in the competition

for the academic position of 'professor'

at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

in the field of higher education: 2. Humanities

professional field: 2.3. Philosophy

(Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, Metaphysics)

In the competition for 'professor,' announced in the State Gazette, issue 67 of August 4, 2023, and on the website of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the needs of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy, the only candidate participating is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Georgiev Kolev from the same department. Assoc. Prof. Kolev meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of 'professor.' The set of materials submitted by him on paper is in accordance with the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at Sofia University. Assoc. Prof. Kolev participates in the competition with two monographs: "Καρδιά. Philosophy of Feelings" (Sofia: East-West, 2023) and "Art as Phenomenal Being. Deduction of Categories" (Sofia: East-West, 2023), along with nine articles.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Georgiev Kolev was born on March 2, 1959, in Burgas. In 1986, he graduated in Philosophy from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a master's degree. Since 1987, he has been a philosophy lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." He defended his dissertation in 2011, titled "Being and Possibility. Attempt at Existential Anthropology." In 2013, Ivan Kolev was elected as

an associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the Department of Philosophy with following habilitation works: *Philosophical Anthropology, Idea, Genesis, Positions, and Being and Dwelling. Towards the Philosophy of Architecture*. From 2015 to 2023, he served as the head of the Department of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." Throughout his academic career, Assoc. Prof. Kolev has been highly engaged in promoting the public presence of philosophy and the development of the professional philosophy community. In 1988, he initiated the organization of the Olympiad in Philosophy, and since 2017, he has been the Chairman of the Board of the Bulgarian Philosophical Society. Recognition for his national and international contributions led to his election as a Steering Committee Member of FISP (International Federation of Philosophical Societies) in 2018.

Assoc. Prof. Kolev's research in the fields of Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, and Metaphysics is distinguished by high erudition and represents a significant contribution to philosophy in our country. Here, I will mainly focus on the two monographs with which he participates in the competition for professorship. "Art as Phenomenal Being. Deduction of Categories" offers an interesting perspective and numerous original observations on art as an ontological phenomenon. The monograph consists of an introduction, two chapters, conclusion, and bibliography, including titles in Bulgarian, English, German, and French. The main goal of the research is to present the "method by which categories defining art can be extracted" (p. 5). Kolev develops this method based on the studies of Paul Frankl. The first chapter ("Phenomenality and Categoriality") discusses the concepts of phenomenon and category. Definitions by Husserl and Heidegger are presented, as well as the historical development of conceptions of categories from Plato and Aristotle through Kant and Hegel to Heidegger and Nicolai Hartmann. This lays the groundwork for the deduction of the constitutive categories of art in the second chapter. This deduction is predicated on phenomenological observations of the intersubjective mode of the being of art, in which there are numerous participants with various roles: author, spectator, patron, collector, curator, connoisseur, critic, historian, typologist, theorist, aesthete, and metaphysician. Based on these roles, 12 categories are derived, in connection with which a definition of art is formulated.

The other monograph ("Καρδιά. Philosophy of Feelings") convincingly argues that the ability to feel "must be studied in its own right" and not be reductively thematized in

connection with sensory and intellectual abilities. The research provides a systematic view of the thematization of feelings in classical philosophical tradition. Assoc. Prof. Kolev argues that the vitalist tradition in the philosophy of feelings and its transcendental development in modern philosophy form the most productive conceptual framework for the study of feelings because they are capable of doing justice to their richness and relative autonomy of their existence. In this context, the idea of the "logic of the heart" - for cardiac anthropology – is developed. In my opinion, the monograph is an important contribution to philosophical anthropology.

I have no objections in substance to the main ideas argued by Ivan Kolev in the monographs and articles submitted for the competition. The reference to scientific contributions correctly reflects the candidate's achievements. I would recommend to Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kolev to systematically and comprehensively develop the presented theses in "Art as Phenomenal Being." The philosophy of feelings allows for more substantial engagement in interdisciplinary discussions.

I have no joint publications with Ivan Kolev.

Conclusion:

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Kolev has made a significant contribution to the public presence of philosophy in our country over the years. He has established himself as a leading expert in philosophical anthropology and the philosophy of art. He is an excellent teacher and enjoys the respect of the academic community. Based on the above-mentioned academic and scientific achievements of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Kolev, I confidently vote for his appointment to the academic position of professor in the professional field 2.3. Philosophy (Philosophical Anthropology, Philosophy of Art, Metaphysics).

Sofia, 03.11.2023

Prof. DPSc Alexander Kanev