

# STANDPOINT

by Assoc. Prof. Anna Ilcheva Tsolovska Ph. D. Scientific field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in  
..., Doctoral Program in "Teaching Methods in Fine Arts"

**FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES AND THE ARTS**

SOFIA UNIVERSITY

"ST. CLIMENT OHRIDSKI "

Dissertation on the topic of

## **“A model for the development of visual expression in learning in fine arts in grades 7 and 8 of education in secondary schools”**

by Elena Veselinova Panayotova

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Maya Veselinova Dimcheva PhD

**1. Dissertation Details** - Elena Panayotova graduate from the Sofia University" St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2000. Her biography shows that she has extensive experience as a teacher of fine arts, computer graphics and animation and information technology. She has began her career as an Art Teacher in 2000. Since 2018 she is a PhD student in the Department of Visual Arts at the Faculty of Educational Studies andTthe Arts, Sofia University “St. Cl. Ohridski. She and her students have participated in several national and international competitions in the field of Art and computer graphics and animation, from which they have won sever awards. She is co-author of a large number of textbooks and teaching aids of fine arts at "Pedagog 6" Publishing House in the period 2015/2019. She is a member of UBA. She has participated in exhibitions of the Advertising Design Section of UBA. She has worked in a team led by Prof. Georgi Petrov.

**2. Record of the doctoral degree** - No violations are made during the implementation of the dissertation.

**3. Record of the dissertation** - The dissertation is an authentic study with a clear, logical structure, correctly described studies and fully meets the requirements. Contains: introduction, three chapters, summary and conclusions, conclusion, contributions and bibliography (29 sources as books and 13 links). The work consists of 247 pages and an album application of 133 pages of visual material illustrating the author's research. The title of the dissertation fully corresponds to its content, the sequence of the individual chapters systematically revealing the subject of the analysis. The author's summary (37 pages) reflects the text of the dissertation. The aim of the dissertation is to create an effective, new pedagogical model for the development of visual expression in the 7th and 8th grade students, which is based on the interest generated in the study of highly attractive images and topics such as the connection between traditional works of art and contemporary interpretations of the image of "The Tree of Life" and "The Wheel of Life". The dissertation successfully proves that the model functions effectively in terms of enhancing students' knowledge and interest in art history, philosophical and cultural studies and reading, as well as the use of modern information technologies and the possibility of visual expression. This model provides clarity and easy

orientation. The main methods used in the study are descriptive, historical-chronological, inductive, the method of comparative analysis and analysis of reproductions.

4. "Scientific contributions": I fully agree with the contributions the doctoral student have stated:

1. From a visual-symbolic-emotional perspective, material related to the theme "The Circle of Life" was studied, selected and presented. The sources are mostly sought after in our cultural and historical heritage.

2. An analysis of the work of Vladimir Dimitrov - the Master in terms of the theme of "Eternal life" and the connection of people with nature is proposed. This is not done on its own. Here, the students can understand the mechanism for analyzing a work of art through a problem that creates interest in the author and relates their worldview to art. The iconic work of the Master was chosen, which is very stylized but with accessible visuals.

3. The need to educate students in the ideas of restoring nature and creating the conditions for harmony on Earth is noted.

4. One of the most important and captivating contributions of the dissertation is the proposed and tested pedagogical model for the development of visual expression of students in grades 7 and 8 in the classes of fine arts and information technology, focusing the students' attention on the correlations that can be discovered in the mythological and philosophical aspects by examining and interpreting works of art. Students' works made during the model validation period as well as processed statistical material of the results of the works, showing the effectiveness of the model in developing the students' visual expression are presented.

Contributions

5. "Publications and Participations in Scientific Forums" - The PhD student submits seven publications, published in specialized publications, which are on the topic of the dissertation and are sufficient to cover the requirements. There are also ten conference presentations, based on the same topic.

6. "Conclusion":

I believe that the dissertation submitted for review fully meets the requirements and I give it a general positive assessment. I propose to the doctoral student Elena Veselinova Panayotova to be given the educational and scientific PhD degree in the scientific field 1.3. Pedagogy of Education in ..., Doctoral Program in "Teaching Methods in Fine Arts"

Assoc. Prof. Anna Tzolovska PhD (signature)

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