

LETTER OF OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dobrin Yordanov Atanasov, Ph.D.,
member of a scientific jury under a procedure for occupying an academic
position "professor" in Field of Higher Education 8. Art Professional Area 8.2.
Fine arts (Graphics and technologies)

The competition was announced for the needs of the Visual Arts Department,
Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts,
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski

The competition was promulgated in the State Gazette issue no. 65 28. 07. 2023

The competition procedure adheres precisely to the criteria outlined in the
regulatory framework governing the tenure of academic positions. One candidate
was present: Associate Prof. Snezhina Koleva Biserova, Ph.D.

The provided documentation demonstrates that the candidate is highly
accomplished artistically and possesses a strong commitment to teaching. The
presented scientific data satisfies the necessary requirements.

I. Basic information about the candidate:

Education:

1981 – Iliya Petrov High School of fine Arts, Sofia (currently Iliya Petrov
National High School of Fine Arts).

1988 – Master of Graphics, Higher Institute of Fine Arts "Nikolay
Pavlovich" (currently National Academy of Arts)

2004 – Doctor of Art Studies and Fine Arts, specialty Graphics – National
Academy of Arts, issued by the Higher Attestation Commission.

Qualification:

Artist – graphics, classical and digital techniques.

2005 - 2023 – Innovative methods in the fields of intaglio printmaking techniques (specifically, toner intaglio, which combines autographic and transfer practices), surface printmaking techniques (silgraphy), and hybrid printmaking techniques (unique combinations of digital and traditional printmaking techniques) The previously mentioned techniques are incorporated into the artist's pedagogical and creative practices.

1989 – Higher Institute of Fine Arts “Nikolay Pavlovich” – Pedagogical Qualification (Pedagogy, Methodology of Fine Arts, and Pedagogical Practice).

Expertise Development:

1991-2017 – Drawing and printmaking lecturer at the National School of Fine Arts "Iliya Petrov" in Sofia.

2000 – Certificate for the attainment of a fifth professional qualification degree from the Central Institute for the Improvement of Teachers in Sofia.

2002 – Certificate for the attainment of a fourth professional qualification degree, issued by the Department for Information and Improvement of Teachers in Sofia.

From 2006 to 2017 she was a part-time lecturer in graphics and technology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"– FESA, "Fine Arts" specialty.

Since 2006 (and currently) – Part-time lecturer in graphics at the National Academy of Art – specialty "Book, illustration, printed graphics".

2017 – Senior Assistant Professor of "Graphics and Technologies" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – FESA, the Visual Arts Department, Sofia.

2020 – Associate Professor of "Graphics and Technologies and Graphic Design" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – FESA, the Visual Arts Department.

Other appearances:

2004 – for the first time in Bulgaria she introduces the Siligraphy technique in the educational process on graphics in the National School of Fine Arts "Acad. Iliya Petrov", Sofia.

2005 – she organizes and conducts the first summer workshop on Siligraphy at the National School of Fine Arts "Acad. Iliya Petrov" with students from the National Academy of Arts.

She is the author of two monographs and has lots of publications, public lectures, workshop guides and master classes related to graphics and graphic technologies.

She has participated in nearly 100 international exhibitions and has had about 50 appearances in single, national and group exhibitions.

She received 25 awards from art forums and competitions, the majority of which were held abroad, as well as 5 awards for her teaching activities.

She was involved in 18 scientific and artistic projects, some of which she led.

II. Data related to the habilitation thesis:

The habilitation thesis, titled "Transpositions/metaphors of the transformed reality /," showcases visual and factual proof of the candidate's contributions and the creative methodology employed by the author. The work consists of a total of 216 pages, with 30 pages dedicated to the text portion and an astonishing 176 pages dedicated to a portfolio containing a substantial number of visual resources. The portfolio comprises four primary areas that encompass various aspects of this competition related to graphics and technology.

The initial section comprises six graphic cycles. The general focus of Assoc. Prof. Biserova's creative interest is digital graphics, which she has defined and developed over the past decade. This interest is situated within the current trends of digital technologies in contemporary graphic art.

The second section showcases five graphic series created using relief, intaglio, and surface printing techniques. These series incorporate digital technology in the design composition and image transfer to the printed plates.

The third section comprises a bibliophile edition and two artist's books created and completed using the digital printing technique.

The fourth section is devoted to the genre "Ex libris"/bookplate/, which occupies an important place in the creative work of the candidate, especially in recent years. The portfolio includes 15 bookplates that have been created using digital graphic techniques, with one of them being produced using siligraphy.

III. Teaching activities:

Based on the provided documents and my personal observations, I can assert with confidence that Assoc. Prof. Biserova possesses extraordinary pedagogical abilities and demonstrates a remarkable level of commitment in her work with students.

IV. Contributions:

The candidate has given a very detailed reference to the contributory nature of the original works included in the competition for Professor of Graphics and Technology. The contributions are divided into three groups:

I. Generalized technological, technical, and artistic contributions of graphic works submitted for participation in the competition.

II. Specific contribution aspects for each of the graphic series, artist's books and bookplates included in the habilitation thesis, discussed by section.

III. Contributions in the field of theory and practice of artistic training in "Graphics and Technologies". Because of the volume, it is not acceptable to list all the specific contributions here, but I completely recognize them.

Conclusion:

Conclusion: Considering all the information presented regarding the candidate and her unquestionably noteworthy accomplishments in the field of graphic art, I highly recommend to the renowned scientific jury that Snezhina Koleva Biserova be chosen for the academic position of "Professor" in the Field of Higher Education. 8. Art, Professional area 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphics and Technologies) for the needs of the Visual Arts Department of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".



Member of a scientific jury:

Assoc. Prof. Dobrin Atanasov, Ph.D.

12. 09. 2023