

LETTER OF OPINION

by **Prof. Buyan Yordanov Filchev**,
Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Subject: holding a competition for the academic position of “Professor” in Professional field 8. 2. Fine Arts – “Sculpture and Art Constructions ” announced by Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in State Gazette No. 63 / 30.07.2021 with a single candidate **Assoc. Prof. Anna Iltcheva Tzolovska PhD**

According to the Regulations of the Sofia University and Order of the Rector of Sofia University and as a member of the scientific jury I present my written opinion on the qualities of the candidate and the evaluation of her production, which participates in the above procedure, based on Art. 4 and Art. 25 of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The documents and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Anna Iltcheva Tzolovska PhD comply with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". From the presented documentation it is evident that the candidate has a rich and diverse teaching, publishing, as well as significant artistic activity.

My assessment of the candidate is in the following areas:

I. General characteristics and professional biography of the candidate

2011 - Associate Professor of Fine Arts /Sculpture and Art Constructions/ at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Department of Visual Arts, Sofia

2010-2016 Lecturer in 2D Computer Design, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, CorelDRAW and Web Design Methodology at New Bulgarian University, Sofia

From the detailed examination of the documentation the tendency for the purposeful achievement by Anna Tzolovska of the respective titles and degrees in the academic hierarchy of the institution, where it is realized professionally, is evident.

II. Educational, research and artistic applied activity of the candidate:

1. Learning activity:

a. Has the required pedagogical employment for the academic years 2015-2020 /7. Artefacts/; shares her teaching experience and communicates well with her colleagues; prepares new lecture courses.

b. There is the required number of publications for the specified period /10A.AllPublicationsList/

c. Supervisor of students in bachelor's and master's programs, jury member of examination commissions.

2. Research activity:

- a. Participant and leader in academic projects, including lecturers, doctoral students, students and masters. /11.AuthorsSummary(1)/
- b. She has scientific and creative interests, publications and appearances in the fields: art education, contemporary art, graphics, sculpture, cultural management. Covers the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" /12.CompletionMinRequirements/.
- c. She has renewed and updated the existing curricula.

3. Artistic activity:

- a. No. 2958 - Union of Bulgarian Artists (UBA).
C366-18 - Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques, UNESCO.
- b. The candidate Assoc. Prof. Anna Ilcheva Tzolovska PhD has proposed a list of numerous artistic activities, participations and awards in the last five years. / 15.Artefacts / 1.CV/

III. Habilitation thesis

/16.JointNumberedPublications/

The habilitation thesis contains 116 pages and a cover entitled "ANNA TZOLOVSKA. Foundations of creative reality." In fact, this is the theme of the habilitation thesis "Foundations of creative reality. Wanderings. Balances. Meditation. The Garden", based on four realized exhibitions in the period from 2011 to 2021. In these exhibitions the plastic searches and the artistic concepts of the author are clearly outlined. In the works of these manifestations, the spirit of the experiment is felt in its expressive unrestrainedness, but at the same time consciously inserted into the "three-dimensional space, the two-dimensional plane and the multidimensional mental spaces". This is also the territory where the author wants and succeeds in fully realizing her artistic and intellectual experiences. At first glance, incompatible arts, with strongly represented and difficult to learn techniques and technologies do not bother or hinder the author, but rather allow her to mutually enrich and concretize her artistic handwriting and style. The author herself considers the way, the non-traditional way of creating the final product, which consists in the fact that initially a plastic three-dimensional object is created, which is subsequently shot with also non-standard technology and finally transformed into two-dimensional digital graphics. This approach follows its own creative logic and leads the author to new and different techniques that would not appear in a speculative way. It can be said that in this case the artist is both a legislator and a strict executor of the creative method provoked by her. In fact, the end product is not the finalization of the cycle of successive steps, but the process itself, which gives options for new and sometimes unexpected metamorphoses, leading to new plastic suggestions.

Here is the place to say that in one opinion it is not possible and it is not necessary to make a detailed analysis of the habilitation thesis presented by the candidate, but it can be noted its high quality and versatility. Sufficient works are presented in terms of volume and quality, all from the main four exhibitions and from the additional collection of work and including

the work made by students under her guidance in the atelier of "Sculpture". The second layer of the habilitation is the author's text, which in itself is a quality product of another nature, but also forms an integral part of the whole work. The text is well structured, gives a lot of information and introduces us to the author's creative environment. It shows us another quality of the author, namely that the art of writing is also part of her creative and intellectual capabilities. Something similar, but with a different context, can be said for the texts to the works themselves.

"My Wanderings Are Out of the Context of Wandering" is a truly complete ensemble that includes too many compositional elements and materials, /ceramics, steel, iron, neon and ice lights, plastic/ a complex mix of philosophical teachings, characteristic accents from the global plasma of mass culture. However, here the eclecticism is curbed by a strong sense of style and artistic measure and therefore the works are not illustrative.

In "Balances", we find ourselves in a completely different world, in which the structural elements are connected both technically and compositionally. The objects are self-sufficient and make sense of the space, bringing artistic balance.

"Total meditation" are "series" or, as the author prefers to define them rather as "cycles", performed in the technique of warm blown glass blown into free ceramic forms. Flesh as a form of earth and energy as a glass balloon - a dualistic philosophy that comes from ancient times, but turned into a contemporary plastique language aesthetics, which fascinates with its conciseness, but not devoid of specificity and symbolic impact. The graphic two-dimensional equivalents are also very interesting with their variable approach.

"The Garden", as the author's latest appearance, seems to be a logical result and a kind of synthesis of all earlier developments, but with its own clear concept. It includes the special attention to detail and the desired contrast between the materials - cast iron and glass fusing. The theme of the "Garden of Eden" is not a way to escape from the real contemporary materiality, but a search for points of reference at the genetic level in the creative nature of the artist.

IV. Contributions:

The listed contributions are systematized and well illustrated with visual evidence /
14. Contributions /

In terms of content, the publications of Assoc. Prof. Anna Iltcheva Tzolovska PhD reflect the current problems of pedagogy and methodology of teaching fine arts, especially in the field of education at universities.

There is a purposeful expansion of the professional and creative growth of the candidate, to which many other activities contribute - authorial and collective development of research projects and active organizational and creative participation in national and international projects. Her overall contribution as an artist in contemporary Bulgarian art is related to the development of sculpture, graphics and conceptual forms in art, as well as constant

experimentation with new materials and surprising combinations with them. Anna Tzolovska has a significant role in their organization, theorizing, implementation, teaching and promotion both on homeland and abroad.

The main contribution, however, is the very fact of her work, which has its own recognizable and distinctive style.

In conclusion, having in mind the above positive assessments of the teaching, publishing and creative activities of the candidate, I express in writing my **positive opinion** on her candidacy in the competition and propose Assoc. Prof. Anna Ilcheva Tzolovska PhD to be awarded the academic position of "Professor" in professional field 8.2. Fine arts (Sculpture and Art Constructions).

29.11.2021г.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized, abstract shape.

Jury member: Prof. Buyan Yordanov Filchev