

LETTER OF OPINION

by Prof. Laura Ivanova Dimitrova, DSc,
member of the Scientific Jury on the procedure for occupation
of the academic position Professor in
Higher Education Field 8. Arts,
Professional Area 8.2. Fine Art, (Graphics and Technologies)
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts
The Visual Arts Department

In the competition for the academic position of "professor" in the Field of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Graphics and Technologies) participated one candidate – Assoc. Dr. Snezhina Koleva Biserova. The competition was announced for the needs of the Visual Arts Department of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at Sofia University.

So far, the competition method has fully complied with state and university standards.

Snezhina Bisserova is a graduate of the Iliya Petrov High School of Fine Arts, Sofia (currently Iliya Petrov National High School of Fine Arts), 1981.

In 1988 she acquired a master's degree in graphics from the Nikolai Pavlovich Institute of Arts (currently the National Academy of Arts).

In 1989 she completed the course in Pedagogy, Methodology of Fine Arts and Pedagogical Practice at the Nikolai Pavlovich Institute of Arts (currently the National Academy of Arts).

In 2007 she defended her dissertation at the National Academy of Arts.

In the period 1991 - 2017 Snezhina Biserova was a teacher of drawing and graphics at the National High School of Fine Arts "Iliya Petrov", 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.

In 2017, she won a competition and held the academic position of Senior Assistant in "Graphics and Technologies" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – FESA, the Visual Arts Department.

In 2020, she won a competition and until now holds the academic position of Associate Professor of Graphics and Technologies and Graphic Design at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" – FESA, the Visual Arts Department.

Snezhina Biserova is a member of the Union of Bulgarian Artists, the International Association of Art at UNESCO (IAA/AIAP) and the National Association of Italian Engravers.

She is an established and prominent artist in the field of contemporary printmaking. It impresses the list of her numerous and prestigious artistic appearances and awards in the field. For example, only for the period 2019 - 2023, the exhibitions with the participation of Snezhina Biserova are 114, of which three solo exhibitions, and for the period 2021 - 2023, she has been awarded the following prizes: First prize in the "Graphics" section of the National Exhibition of Fine Arts – Sliven, Bulgaria, 2021; First prize for ex libris in the thematic section "Earth" from the international exhibition "Ex libris" – Apatine, Serbia, 2021; Honorary mention and diploma from the Fifth International Ex libris Competition – Istanbul, Turkey, 2022; First prize from "Primo Premio Arte Grafica Digitale LIBRO D'ARTISTA 22" – Vygonza (Padua), Italy /The competition is organized annually by the National Association of Italian Engravers /, 2022; First prize from "Primo Premio Arte Grafica Digitale EX LIBRIS 22" – Vygonza (Padua), Italy /The competition is organized annually by the National Association of Italian Engravers /, 2022; First prize from "Primo Premio SENIOR Grafica Digitale 22" – Vygonza (Padua), Italy /The competition is organized annually by the National Association of Italian Engravers/, 2022; First prize from "Primo Premio SENIOR Grafica Italiana 22" – Vygonza (Padua), Italy /The competition is organized annually by the National Association of Italian Engravers/, 2022; International award "Leonardo da Vinci – universal artist" – for artistic merit – from the EFFETTO ARTE Foundation, Italy, 2023.

Snezhina Biserova is the author of the monograph "Silligraphy – a Waterless Technique for Surface Printing" and has written several scientific works in the field of contemporary art. Her scientific contributions and artistic achievements have received numerous citations and undergone rigorous peer assessment. Associate Professor Biserova is a prolific author, manager, and participant in several artistic projects, which have been carried out through the Scientific Research Fund of Sofia University, as well as national and international art projects.

The habilitation thesis she submits in this competition focuses on the topic of "Transpositions /metaphors of transformed reality/" and encompasses a series of graphic works.

- "NATURA SACRA" – 24 works designed digitally and realized in the digital printing technique (CGD) using pigment inks on approved digital printing cardboard. Fotospeed Studio XPRESSION Smooth 300 g/m²;

- "DEHUMANIZED SPACES", a collection of two somewhat separate print series created between 2020 and 2022. All works are produced with pigment inks on certified cardboard using digital printing technology (CGD). Fotospeed Studio XPRESSION Smooth 300 g/m², 100% Cotton, 83.5 x 112 cm graphic sheet format;

- The graphic series "STONES", inspired by Boris Hristov's poetry, consisting of 24 prints created in digital graphics with a format of 50 × 50 cm. The series is produced in limited edition with pigment inks on certified cardboard for digital printing Fotospeed High White Smooth 315 g/m²;

- "CORA'S WINDOW" includes 7 prints in the aquatint (manual printer-transfer) technique. It is based on photographs taken by the author;

- "THE FOURTH WALL" graphic series includes five graphic sheets. The compositions are based on the author's photography, which has been digitally transformed using graphic software. They were created by hand using the transfer aquatint technique, which was reinforced and enhanced with a dry point and mezzotint.

- "DEDICATED TO OCTAVIO PAZ" (2019 - 2022) includes nine graphic sheets with a format of 40 x 65 cm, implemented in intaglio printing techniques - aquatint / hand-transfer /, dry point, mezzotint;

- The artist's book "CORONA FUTURE"
- The artist's book "East Meets West"
- A collection of 15 exlibris.

The volume, content, quality, and aesthetics of the habilitation thesis are all remarkable. Snezhina Biserova's habilitation thesis confirms her undeniable and outstanding achievements as an artist in the field of graphics - both conceptually and in terms of technique and technology competence.

I completely agree with the highlighted, detailed, and properly presented contributions of habilitation thesis by Assoc. Prof. Bisserova.

Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova's teaching activity at Sofia University in the specialties "Fine Arts" and "Graphic Design" is dedicated to the disciplines of Graphics and Technologies, Graphic Design, Siligraphy, Artistic Illustration, Scientific and Photo Illustration, and Experimental Graphics. She has written programs and updates in these fields. She has made

a substantial contribution to the adoption of the author's novel methodologies and non-toxic practices in the application of traditional graphic techniques in graphics and technology education. Initiates and utilizes personalized methodologies and authoring techniques in the use of applied graphic software in the subjects she teaches. Assoc. Prof. Biserova is a capable, demanding, and motivating educator, as proven by the outcomes of her work and the numerous honors received by her students.

Conclusion

Considering everything that has already been said about the competition participant, her high creative achievements, the quality of her teaching work, and her valuable contributions to the field of contemporary graphics, I strongly recommend Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Koleva Bisserova, PhD for the academic position of Professor in the Field of Higher Education 8. Arts, Professional field 8. 2. Fine Arts (Graphics and Technologies) for the needs of the Visual Arts Department of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

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