

## LETTER OF OPINION

by Prof. Svetoslav Angelov Kosev, Ph.D.,  
for artistic, research and academic activities

Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph.D.

on the occasion of a competition 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 in the State Gazette, No. 65 28. 07. 2023  
for the needs of the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts (FESA),  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski

### 1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CANDIDATE'S PUBLICATIONS

The candidate, Associate Professor Snezhina Biserova, a Ph.D has presented a remarkable number of exhibitions, establishing herself as an exceptionally productive and innovative artist in the field of graphic art. In her work from 2019-2023, which she proposes as a subject for habilitation, the artist commonly employs computer technologies to manipulate her own photographs in combination with drawing. The employment of distinct procedures in the creation of graphic artworks imparts the distinctive aesthetic of her style during the past two decades of her work.

### 2. EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

In terms of quantity, the applicant's publications much outnumber the minimal national standards outlined in the Academic Staff Development Act and related regulations. The artistic creation presented matches the competition profile – it is considerable in both volume and content. The number of prizes listed in section E makes an extremely good impression.

*Note: There is a discrepancy in the table of scientific indicators and the habilitation thesis provided for an opinion. In the table, section C – Indicator 3, points for habilitation thesis are not*

*indicated, but are filled in Indicator 4. Subsequently, it becomes clear that there is actually habilitation thesis in the sense specified in Indicator 3.*

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARTISTIC, RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITY OF THE CANDIDATE

Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph. D., the candidate for the academic position of "professor," has established a solid reputation in artistic circles, particularly in the field of graphics, on a national and global scale. The number of honors listed in the years 2019-2023, obtained in a variety of important national and international contests, attests to her status. Aside from that, her artistic activity revolves around the use of computer technology. She experimented hard with them, resulting in projects with wide variance. The special care given to the paper used for printing digital works, as well as the precise approach to numbering, is equally striking. The author's photography, which she creates with the aim of using images in graphic works, also demonstrates a professional attitude toward creative activity. Regarding her scientific activity, could be said that it is strongly tied to her printmaking interests. She methodically discusses the processes she employs, as well as the concept of the developed series of works. The academic activity of the candidate for the academic position of "professor" Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph. D. is marked by the same serious attitude. She shares her experience and experiments, which she initially encouraged students to as a longtime lecturer at the National School of Fine Arts "Iliya Petrov", Sofia and later with students from the National Academy of Arts and Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### 4. METHODS AND APPROACHES IN THE CANDIDATE'S WORK

Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph.D. employed her own technique to create the prints produced between 2019 and 2023, which she then proposed to be the foundation for the habilitation procedure. According to her own words, "The process of composing is entirely digital and integrates author's photography, drawn elements, and geometric shapes, all of them – transformed beyond recognition in the direction of deriving a specific metaphorical imagery, of a certain graphic problem, through the capabilities of the software, multilayer blended, beyond elementary collage." is the result of many years of experimentation and is, in this sense, methodically upgraded. This unifying thread of the series of works is composed of several different concepts.

## 5. TEACHING ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"

According to the biographical reference of Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph.D., she has been employed at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" on a permanent contract since 2017. Prior to that, she worked as a part-time lecturer at the same university starting in 2006. Through her dedicated teaching at Sofia University, she has established herself as an authoritative figure among her students, as demonstrated by the documented graduates in Appendix 11. The academic job reference from Sofia University indicates that the lecture occupancy throughout the period of 2017/2018 - 2021/2022 ranges from 537 to 912 hours per year, demonstrating a rather substantial workload.

## 6. MAIN CONTRIBUTIONS, ACCORDING TO PUBLICATIONS

The candidate for the academic position "professor" Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova, Ph.D. has pointed out three main groups of contributions – summarized technological, technical and artistic-aesthetic. The contributions are classified according to graphic series in which the author has used specific technological and compositional techniques. From a technological point of view, it can be summarized that emphasis is placed on the use of the Adobe Photoshop program as the main tool for processing author's photography, as well as drawing individual textures and compositional elements in the process of creating graphic works. As stated by the candidate "Displaying through the digital toolkit a categorically stated and recognizable, authentic, author's graphic language, providing enough free valencies, allowing the development and upgrading of artistic inventions without the risk of self-repetition." Another contribution is connected to the technique's continual upgrading and improvement throughout time and numerous experiments. Upgrading and developing a personal method and techniques built over the years in the use of digital software for the purposes of classical graphics, providing additional opportunities for expanding and enriching the pictorial register of graphic expression." From a conceptual point of view, the argumentation for the use of symmetry in part of the series, presented in the habilitation thesis *TRANSPOSITIONS /Metaphors of Transformed Reality/*, is particularly impressive. "Mirror symmetry is the principle embedded in the construction of spaces – a principle that also underlies the *Natura Sacra* series and which creates the suggestion of a powerful, irresistible pull and suction in cold, metaphysical space. The use of this artistic principle is the main plastic discovery that brings contribution." As a separate contribution is indicated the use of dry laser copying toner to obtain an enriched result that resembles various

classical graphic techniques. This technique was used both for the creation of personal projects and in the teaching practice of Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Biserova. Aside from the summary contributions, a number of specifics are also indicated in each of the graphic series displayed. In conclusion, I fully support all the arguments offered regarding the contributory character of the proposed habilitation work demonstrating the candidate's creativity.

#### 7. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

My personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Bisserova are that she is a very ethical and collegial teacher, willing to share her experience with both students and colleagues, committed to creativity, but willingly and uncompromisingly assumes the administrative duties with which she is charged.

#### 8. CRITICAL REMARKS, OPINIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CANDIDATE'S ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

I have no critical comments regarding the materials submitted to me for the preparation of an opinion, except for the discrepancy I noted above.

#### 9. REASONED CONCLUSION

Having become acquainted with the materials and works presented in the competition and on the basis of the analysis of their significance and the technological, technical and artistic-aesthetical contributions contained in them, I confirm that the achievements meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and The Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Kliment Ohridski".

In particular, the candidate meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism has been found in the works submitted to the competition.

I give my positive assessment of the application.

#### **II. General conclusion**

After getting acquainted with the materials and works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the technological, technical and artistic and aesthetic contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my positive assessment and recommend that the Scientific Jury

propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts (FESA) to choose Assoc. Prof. Snezhina Bisserova, Ph.D. to take 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 Faculty of Educational Sciences and the Arts (FESA), Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

20.11.2023

Prepared the review: .....

(Prof. Svetoslav Kosev, Ph.D.)

