

summary

PhD N. Stoyanova has submitted for review a habilitation dissertation, three monographs and 12 articles.

Her dissertation, entitled *Adornments and grimaces*, contains 377 pages of text, of which 42 pages of bibliography and appendices.

Focusing on a period rather complex in terms of politics, societal and cultural attitudes, the book highlights numerous aspects of the topic. It consists of 7 chapters in two main sections. The first section builds up theoretical support while surveying cultural phenomena from the interwar period from the perspective of their contemporaries. It draws lines of distinction between concepts such as fashion, modernity, modernist, thus achieving not only clarity of both observation and interpretation, but also finding possibilities for creating own conception as well.

Adornments and grimaces formulates as its main goal the interpretation of fashion as a problem seen through the lens of a “human” as an element of perception of the world in attempts to overcome the trauma of the war experience and find its own angle of observation directed at an idea of the self, devoid of completeness. As a phenomenon tied to processes of urbanization and looked upon as an expression of discontinuity, fashion is not seen at the level of objectification – in clothes, jewelry, furniture etc. The dissertation competently and consistently aims at presenting analyzed texts and cultural products against the backdrop of European culture of the era between the First and the Second world wars.

Part of the book’s special merit is the author’s ability to formulate observations and findings with precision and finesse.

The articles and monographs clearly delineate the applicant’s main areas of scholarly interest and demonstrate her aptitude to research as well as analytical skills.