

R E V I E W

by

Prof. Dr. Peter Kanchev Tzanev

lecturer

at

National Academy of Arts, Sofia

about

A competition for the academic position of “Professor”

Area of Higher Education 8. Art, Professional field 8. 2.
Visual Arts
(Art ceramics)

New Bulgarian University

Fine Arts Department,

with a single candidate

Associate Professor Monika Petrova Popova Ph.D

I. Candidate details:

Associate Professor Monika Popova Ph.D

Education:

1996 - Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics. National Academy of Arts, Sofia

Academic positions held:

2010 - Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts at NBU.

2001 - Assistant, Department of Fine Arts at NBU.

Teaching work

In his teaching practice, he has conducted lectures and exercises in the academic programs: "Graphic Design" and "Plastic Arts".

II. Data on the habilitation work submitted by the candidate:

Habilitation work:

MONIKA POPOVA - EXHIBITIONS 2014-2019.

The habilitation work is a monograph of Monika Popova, which contains her works from the period 2014-2019, presented in her solo exhibitions, as well as her texts and texts by various authors on her art.

III. Data for the artistic and creative activity of the candidate:

The following are attached:

Reference to the citations with a complete bibliographic description of the quoted and quoting publications / respectively of reviews and reviewed publications /

Indicators related to learning activities.

Research-related indicators:

Indicators related to the creation of works of art.

IV. Scientific contributions:

I summarized the scientific contributions of the materials presented by Monika Popova, commenting on the presented exhibition projects:

1. "Maximum degree of pain", at the "Industrial" Gallery, Sofia, (2015)
2. "Sieve", at the "Rayko Alexiev" Gallery, (2016)
3. "1 + 1 = 1 + 1", at the Shipka 6 Gallery, (2017)
4. "Drawings before going to bed", at the "Art Alley" Gallery, Sofia,
5. "Upper layer points", at the "Red Dot" Gallery, Sofia, (2019)

In my opinion, the exhibition "Maximum degree of pain" was one of the most important events in the creative career of Monika Popova. The indisputable creative contributions of the artist in this direction are related to the development of an original expressive artistic language. The works from the exhibition "Maximum degree of pain" were a kind of culmination and synthesis of many years of work on plastic and thematic accumulations associated with deep symbolic meanings and psychological constellations. The result was a powerful symbolic system of homogeneous images that build an archetypal fabric of symbolic messages showing a passage through the "technical space of the transcendental" in the sense of Bernard Stiegler. An artistic reduction that uses art media as a prosthesis that shortens distances but increases the limits and possibilities of passing through the aesthetic experience.

The exhibition "Sieve" at the gallery "Rayko Alexiev" can be defined as a performative installation. It was made up of 500 kitchen sieves, 30 of which were embroidered. Metal sieves were presented at the gallery space as objects and symbols of everyday life, home and woman. At the same time, this geometry of control was provoked by an intimate phenomenology of time, which Monika Popova animated through the

performative power of the action, closed in the sequence of painting and further accentuated in its unusual location.

The exhibition "1 + 1 = 1 + 1" at the Gallery of Contemporary Art at Shipka 6, was a project in which Monika Popova debated with texts and ideas by Ivan Kulekov. The drives in photographs, collages, embroideries, drawings and ceramic vessels socialized emotions and desires, which postponed the possibilities for generalizations and imposed a special rhythm of fabulous collaboration between text and image.

The exhibition "Drawings before going to bed" at the Art Alley Gallery showed the great mastery of Monika Popova as an original painter. The pictographic nature of the graphic scenes draws the viewer into a world of everyday care and rituals, in which every gesture, posture or movement is woven into a full-fledged life frame, filled with tenderness and unintentional virtuosity.

The exhibition "Upper layer points" presented six large-scale paintings, which were worked in two layers. In the words of Monika Popova: "One layer was created on the basis of the pictogram and depicted human states and images resembling huge hieroglyphic signs, and the second or upper layer of points was diametrically different from the lower and was a punctuation of different colored points, which were the same size and shape.... If in the lower layer we have points characteristic of my work drama, the upper layer obscures it." The project was built on this bipolar provocation, which turned the painting into a reflective machine representing the multilayered human consciousness.

V. Evaluation of the materials submitted in the competition:

The materials submitted in the competition fully meet the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Monika Popova's creative biography contains a large number of participations in prestigious national and foreign art forums.

The name of Monika Popova is associated with numerous successful events and innovative strategies in the field of cultural policy and art education.

VI. Conclusion:

The materials presented by Monika Popova on the announced competition for the academic position of "Professor" are based on in-depth knowledge and practical skills in the field of theory and practice of fine arts.

In her scientific and creative development, Monika Popova has achieved a result which is original and respectable with its conceptual persuasiveness and innovative aesthetic characteristics.

In conclusion, I believe that the materials submitted in the competition meet the requirements for obtaining the academic position of "Professor" by Associate Professor Dr. Monika Popova.

Sofia

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/Prof. Dr. Peter Kanchev Tzanev/