

## REVIEW

by Prof Laura Ivanova Dimitrova, DA on competition for  
awarding academic position Assistant Professor at  
Field of higher education 8. Arts  
Professional field: 8. 2. Fine Arts  
(Clothing Design)

Faculty of Fine Arts, Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv

The competition is announced in SG 59 / 26.07.2019

In the competition for awarding academic position Associate Professor in professional field 8.2 Fine Arts (Clothing Design), there is one participant – Dr Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova.

She graduates the National High School of Stage and Film Design, Plovdiv.

In 2004 she receives a Master's degree in Textile from the National Academy of Art.

From 2004 until 2006 she is a teacher at the Professional High School of Applied Arts “Dechko Uzunov”, Kazanlak.

In 2006 she is co-founder of the group and fashion brand CHOCOLATE.

Since 2009 she has been a lecturer at Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv.

She works in the field of textile and fashion design.

From 2006 to 2018, she has numerous solo appearances in the field of fashion, as well as participations in the prestigious exhibitions MODEPALAST in Vienna and Reed and BLICKFANG in Munich.

She also participates in the events of the conceptual design platform of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation - Sofia, as well as of Stoyna Krastanova Foundation – Plovdiv, and is part of their organizational teams.

In 2018 Dinka Kasabova defends her doctoral dissertation on the topic *The garment under the influence of space*, at New Bulgarian University.

She is Chief Assistant Professor at Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv”, and teaches Clothing Design, Textile Decoration and Fashion History in the major Clothing Design.

She has participated in numerous group exhibitions related to textile and fashion in Bulgaria and abroad, as only in the last two years she participated in the following exhibitions: International Exhibition “Mini-Textile-2019”, Sofia, organized by the Textile Section of the Union of Bulgarian Artists in Sofia Press Gallery, fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection “Shape of Sands”, presented at the showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2019; students and teachers exhibition “Continuity and Contemporary”, PLOVEDIV Gallery, 2019; joint exhibition “Teachers and Students”, Balabanova House, Plovdiv, 2018; fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection “Melting Like Chocolate”, showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2018; fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection “Flower Power”, showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2018.

She also present a fashion show under the FUSION FASHION project in a team with the fashion designer Nelly Miteva at the COLIBANTAN Gallery of African Art, Barcelona, 2019; conceptual design exhibition under the project "+7 HOURS", Sklad, Plovdiv, 2019 in a team with the fashion designer Nelly Miteva, the project is part of the program "Focus: Japanese Culture" of Plovdiv 2019 Foundation; participates in the general textile exhibition “Nettle creations” within the framework the festival “Text Fest”, AMDFA, gallery space of the Green School, Plovdiv, 2019.

She also organizes and leads many practical activities (workshops) in the field of artistic textiles and fashion.

She has a series of publications dedicated to the art of textile and fashion in referenced and specialist editions in the country.

In 2018, she participates as a lecturer at the Textile and the City Festival and presents her own technique for creating a digital sketch. The technique involves a individual approach to digital effects, combined with author drawings.

In the period 2018 – 2019 she prepares a solo exhibition which she presents during the Night of Museums and Galleries.

As part of this habilitation work, she presents her work as a costume designer for Racho Stoyanov's *Masters* staged at Drama Theatre "Nevena Kokanova", Dupnitsa, which premiered on May 21, 2019. The production is part of the theatre's cultural calendar on the occasion of 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first theatre production in the same city. The performance was also presented during the holiday of the town of Dupnitsa, later becoming part of the cultural calendar of the Bulgarian Army Theatre in Sofia.

The habilitation work also includes the *Immersion* project, which begins with a long process of water testing. The research was followed by the creation of original textile objects. Materials and related techniques have been selected to convey the “touch” to the water. As a result of working on this project, Dinka Kasabova realized a conceptual exhibition of the same name, presenting the garment as a mirror of the human soul and a “factor that can determine a person's identity”, which, in addition to utilitarian purpose, can also be an expression of emotions and serve as a means of communication. “The garment becomes a 'transmitter of feelings' and 'enters into a series of situations', in which water 'it takes on abstract forms' and leads to unfamiliar, surprising states. Dinka Kasabova actively participates in the activity of the Department of Applied Arts of the Faculty of Fine Arts at AMDFA.

She prepares the syllabuses for the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Design; Textile Decoration in bachelor's and master's programmes; Bachelor's programme in Fashion History; Master's programme in Material Studies.

Assists in updating the curriculum for the specialty Clothing Design, and the creation of the new disciplines Material Studies and PR and Advertising, updates the program in the discipline Design and Modelling, works on the creation of the program in the new discipline History of Accessories within the Master's program.

Dinka Kasabova participates in the Examination Committees during the admission and state exams at AMDFA; supervises the students' academic achievements through routine checks and the annual exams; advises applicants; supervisor of graduates.

She is the author of the following scientific works: *The garment under the influence of space, Interior and Textile Design in the 1960's, Fashion, Textile and Technology, Fashion Influenced by the Cinema Space and the Media, Hippie Subculture - A New Space of Opportunities, Ancient Textile Techniques – Shibori.*

She presented papers at two international scientific conferences: International Science Conference “Science Education and Innovation in the Arts”, AMDFA, Plovdiv, 2017 and International Scientific Conference "Fashion, Textiles and Technology", TexTailor Expo, Plovdiv, 2018.

Her art contributions can be summarized as follows: cultural exchange; preservation and promotion of the Bulgarian fabric and costume; building sustainable relationships through cultural cooperation; promotion of ancient textile techniques; promoting the idea of “sustainable fashion” by creating art products and hosting events; enriching the cultural life

of the city of Plovdiv, Sofia and other cities in Bulgaria through organization and participation in exhibitions, festivals and fashion shows.

Of great importance in the research work of Dinka Kasabova is the book *The garment under the influence of space*, which presents the latest trends in fashion design and outlines opportunities and directions for development in the future.

Considering all of the above written about the candidate in this competition, her successful participations in the field of textile art and fashion, and her equally successful teaching career, I strongly suggest that the distinguished scientific jury elects Dr Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova, Associate Professor in higher education field 8. Arts, professional field: 8. 2. Fine Arts (Clothing Design), for the needs of the Department of Applied Arts, the Faculty of Fine Arts, AMDFA, Plovdiv.

12.11.2019

Prof Laura Dimitrova, D.A.