

OPINION

on the artistic and academic achievements of Dr Dinka Zhorova Yakimova - Kasabova in connection with her application in the competition for associate professor in professional field 8.2 Fine Arts, specialty Clothing Design, announced by Academy of Dance Music and Fine Art, Plovdiv.

I. Information about the applicant and the competition

Dinka Yakimova-Kasabova is a graduate of the National High School of Stage and Film Design, Plovdiv, and has Master's degree in Textile from the National Academy of Arts, Sofia (2004). Since 2009 she is Assistant Professor at AMDFA "Asen Diamandiev", and teaches Clothing Design, Textile Decoration and Fashion History. In 2018, Dinka Kasabova defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic *The garment under the influence of space* at New Bulgarian University.

Dr. Kasabova is an active figure in the fashion design in Bulgaria. She has numerous solo and group participations in fashion shows in Bulgaria and abroad, such as at the MODEPALAST Forum in Vienna and Reed, BLICKFANG in Munich. She is part of the team of Conceptual Design Platform of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation - Sofia and Stoyan Krustanova Foundation - Plovdiv. Co-founder of CHOCOLATE – creative group and fashion brand (2006).

The competition for Associate Professor in Clothing Design, professional field 8.2, was announced in the State Gazette No. 59/ 26.07.2019. Assistant Professor Dr Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova is the only candidate who has submitted documents in it. The procedural requirements are adhered to. The candidate's documents are in order. Dr. Kasabova's work undoubtedly meet the national requirements for the position. The evidence report thereof is detailed and correctly prepared, while its content fully corresponds to the candidate's actual contribution.

II. Description of Dr Dinka Kasabova's work

Group A Criteria – Dinka Kasabova has eloquently defended her dissertation thesis *The garment under the influence of space*. The research is of particular importance, as it is a rare combination of scientific research and the author's sharing of practical experience in the field

of fashion design. This is a rather complex subject, because – in defining the ideas of space – it requires, to a certain extent, a phenomenological approach that relates to the purely functional aspects of fashion design. With the help of appropriate body of literature, however, and thanks to her own efforts and insight, Dinka Kasabova successfully tackles the challenge of this difficult task.

Group B Criteria – This section includes two activities: costume design in the production of *Masters* by Racho Stoyanov (Drama Theatre "Nevena Kokanova", Dupnitsa, 21.05.2019, director Nadia Asenova), and the solo exhibition *Immersion* at Art Gallery Andromeda, including textile installation and drawings (opened 09.09.2019). Dr Kasabova's costumes in *Masters* are executed with the idea of mutual exchange of traditional and contemporary, as well as with insightful understanding of stage acting and directorial invention. In addition, in my opinion, the emphasizing of the romantic line of play with the costumes silhouettes, is designed and executed in very original way. Similar to the romantic archetypal stylistics is the exhibition *Immersion*, in which the water, garment and the body are interpreted as independent spheres, which, however, find places of mutual touch in the moments when man opens to the world.

Group B Criteria – This group first includes the monograph based on the dissertation. Now in the form of a book, the work of Dr Dinka Kasabova is a valuable guide for students, researchers and those interested in the problems of fashion from different fields and with different creative experiences.

This section also includes four scientific articles: *Fashion, Textiles and Technology, Sustainable Fashion, Ancient Textile Techniques - Shibori* and *Fast and Slow Fashion*. They are highly informative, have the ability to stir interest in the unknown and the curious, to engage in the aptly outlined perspectives of a cultural history, revised from the perspective of the traditions of clothing, but also from the futuristic visions of its possible development. Eight participations in collective exhibition projects complement the above observations. Here I would mention the three fashion design exhibitions with a capsule fashion collection – *Flower Power* (June 2018), *Melting like chocolate* (December 2018) and *Shape of Sands* (June 2019), and the joint exhibitions of teachers and students (Balabanova House, 07.06. – 30.06. 2018 and Gallery PLOVEDIV - Plovdiv, 22.03.2019).

Group D Criteria include four citations in scientific publications. The articles *Fashion, Textiles and Technology* is cited two times, while *Hippie Subculture - A New Space of*

Opportunities, and *Sustainable fashion or Smart Clothes*, are cited once. In addition to this, there are two reviews for artistic work: a review by Prof Dr Emilia Konstantinova entitled *Continuity and Contemporary* for the two workshops and an art exhibition organized by the candidate with the participation Clothing Design students, and Dr Krassimira Krasanova's text with the self-explanatory title: *The recreation of the Bulgarian spirit in the costume designs of Dr. Dinka Kasabova*.

Within the scope of **Group E Criteria**, are mentioned participations in national and international scientific, educational and artistic projects: Dr. Kasabova is part of the management team of Stoyana Krustanova Foundation for the project Textile and City (20.04.2019 – 20.06.2019.), as well as in the management team under the FUSION FASHION project of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation (30.05.2019, COLIBANTAN Gallery of African Art - Barcelona). Part of the same group are different workshops and public lectures organized by Dr Dinka Kasabova – all of which have taken place over the last year and a half. With the exception of the public lecture titled Digital Fashion Sketch within the Textiles and the City Festival, these are creative workshops, conceived and conducted with students of AMDFA”Prof Asen Diamandiev”. I find this an extremely useful form of teaching in the arts education, as Dr Kasabova is a conscious and active participant in these working meetings organized as workshops.

III. Conclusion

To the undisputed scientific and artistic contributions to the diverse activities of Dr Dinka Kasabova, I would like to add my excellent impressions from the candidate's teaching work: she always approaches the teaching process with responsibility, using her full potential and dedication. Therefore, based on Dr Kasabova's excellent achievements (as scientist, educator and artist), I propose that the distinguished scientific jury award her the scientific title of Associate Professor and I vote with conviction “in favour”.

Prof Dr Galina Lardeva

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