

OPINION

by Prof Antoaneta Angelova Ancheva, D.A.

member of the scientific jury in competition for academic position

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

8.2 Fine Arts /Clothing Design/

announced in State Gazette No 59/ 26.07.2019

by Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv

In the competition for Associate Professor in professional field 8.2 Fine Arts /Clothing Design/, for the needs of the Department of Applied Arts at the Faculty of Fine Arts of AMDFA “Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv, announced in the State Gazette No 59 dated 26.07.2019, and on the website of the Academy, one candidate appeared – Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova from the Department of Applied Arts of the same faculty.

Dinka Yakimova-Kasabova is a graduate of the National High School of Stage and Film Design, Plovdiv. In 1998 she is admitted in major Textile at the National Academy of Arts, Sofia, where in 2004 she receives a Master's degree in the same major. From 2004 until 2006 she is a teacher at the Professional High School of Applied Arts “Dechko Uzunov”, Kazanlak, and since 2009 she has been a lecturer at AMDFA “Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv.

In 2018, she defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic *The garment under the influence of space* at New Bulgarian University. The applicant is currently Chief Assistant Professor at AMDFA “Asen Diamandiev”, and teaches Clothing Design, Textile Decoration and Fashion History in the major Clothing Design.

Inseparable part of her teaching is Dinka Yakimova-Kasabova's artistic work. An active author, in the last decades she has been a regular contributor to the exhibitions of the Textile Section of the UBA, as well as to other exhibitions and forums dedicated to the art of textile and fashion design. Dinka Kasabova is a co-founder of the group and fashion brand CHOCOLATE /2006/. Mainly focused on fashion and textile design, her pursuits are in this direction. In the period from 2006 to 2018, Dinka Kasabova took part in a number of solo and group participations at the Fashion exhibitions – MODEPALAST in Vienna and Reed, BLICKFANG in Munich, etc. She also participates in the events and is part of the team of the conceptual design platform of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation - Sofia, as well as of Stoyna

Krastanova Foundation - Plovdiv. As evident from the included reference documents and the provided information about the exhibitions, projects, participations in conferences realized by the applicant, Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Yakimova-Kasabova has participated in:

Fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection "Flower Power", showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2018; fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection "Melting Like Chocolate", showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2018; joint exhibition "Teachers and Students", Balabanova House, Plovdiv, 2018; students and teachers exhibition "Continuity and Contemporary", PLOVEDIV Gallery, 2019; international exhibition "Mini-Textile-2019", Textile Section of the Union of Bulgarian Artists in Sofia Press Gallery - Sofia, 2019; fashion design exhibition with capsule fashion collection "Shape of Sands", showroom of Ivan Asen 22 Foundation, Sofia, 2019; Textile Exhibition "Nettle creations" within the festival "Text Fest" by Stoyana Krastanova Foundation, 2019; "+ 7 HOURS" a project of Conceptual Designers' Platform, IVAN ASEN 22 Foundation, etc. Dinka Kasabova is also costume designer of the theatre play *Masters* of Drama Theatre "Nevena Kokanova", Dupnitsa, 2019. She also had a solo exhibition *Immersion* - textile installation and drawings, Andromeda ART Gallery, Plovdiv, 2019. The candidate has published a book on the basis of her dissertation thesis for the award of a Doctoral Degree – *The garment under the influence of space*. She is also author of articles and reports on the textile and fashion design, has participated in projects and workshops.

According to the enclosed contribution report, Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Kasabova points to numerous habilitation materials in the following sections: 1. Artistic activity, 2. Cultural events, lectures, workshops, 3. Pedagogical and teaching-methodical activity, 4. Scientific and research activity. The overall activity of the candidate during the last year, including the publication based on her dissertation, is presented. In my opinion, the applicant could have narrowed the content of her habilitation work and the formulation of the contributions, which would only be of benefit to the candidate.

The main contributions that can be pointed out in the habilitation work in particular, but also which concern Dinka Kasabova's overall work, relate to her understanding of the textile and fashion design. She follows a complete creative line in which concept and realization are interrelated. In terms of the applied contributions, the artist practically solves the problems of the technological presentation of the ideas in her works. The contributions that can be attributed to her work as an artist, are her solutions in the costume designing, based on authentic elements of national costumes, for the play *Masters* by Racho Stoyanov, staged at Drama Theatre "Nevena Kokanova", Dupnitsa, directed by Nadia Asenova, as well as her

solo exhibition *Immersion* /within the Night of Museums and Galleries in Plovdiv/ - textile installation and drawings. The latter are a combination of author's drawings, photography and digital intervention. The installation itself is provoked by the reproduction and the modifications of the textile objects immersed in water. Nine participations in group exhibitions with textile and fashion design are also mentioned, which endorses Dinka Kasabova as an author who is equally well represented in the textile installation, costume design, fashion design, etc., and who has made name with her participation in forums in Bulgaria and abroad. It is also worth mentioning her creative workshops and joint events with the AMDFA students, promoting the art of textiles and focusing on various problems – production of accessories using authentic techniques, production of interior textiles with specific printing techniques, dying of specific materials, etc.

In addition to the habilitation work there are listed scientific articles that have been published in specialized scientific editions, as well as in the publications of AMDFA. It is noteworthy that Dinka Kasabova links directly her artistic work with texts, which is undoubtedly useful for students who study in major Clothing Design. I would mention the article *Fashion, Textiles and Technology* published in the e-journal “Online Magazine for Textiles, Clothing, Leather and Technology”, which examines the current trends and the latest methods in textile and fashion design towards eco-friendly and sustainable production. The publication *Sustainable Fashion* included in AMDFA Yearbook 2019, offering an analysis of the “life cycle” of the garment, also explores environmental issues and new technological mechanisms.

Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Kasabova successfully combines her active artistic work with her teaching. Since 2009 she has been a lecturer at AMDFA, currently teaching Design, Fashion History and Textile Decoration to students in major Clothing Design.

Considering the habilitation work, the artistic and academic activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova, PhD, I believe that as a candidate she meets the requirements of the competition. All this, together with her teaching gives me reason to propose to the distinguished scientific jury Chief Assistant Professor Dinka Zhorova Yakimova-Kasabova, PhD to be elected to the academic position of Assistant Professor in the professional field 8.2 Fine Arts /Clothing Design/ at AMDFA “Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv.

Date: 03.11.2019

Member of the Jury:

Prof Antoaneta Acheva, D.A.