

OPINION

on the scientific works and educational activities
of Assistant Mariana Todorova Dafova PhD, presented for participation in a competition
for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor
in a professional field: 8.2. Fine Art
specialty Photography
promulgated in SG No. 63/25.07.2023
for the needs of AMDGA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv,
Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Applied Arts

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This opinion was prepared on the basis of documents received for a competition announced by AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv (SG No. 63/25.07.2023) and on the academy's website for the needs of the Department of Applied Arts. The documents presented in relation to the competition fully comply with the legal requirements and the regulations of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev". The procedure was followed correctly and no violations were committed.

For participation in the competition, documents were submitted by Assistant Mariana Todorova Dafova PhD. From the attached table of scientometric indicators, it is clear that Mariana Dafova meets the legally required number of points in each group.

Information about candidate

Mariana Dafova graduated from AMDFA, specialty Photography in 2006. She actively works in the field of graphic design and photography. Dafova's creative biography is full of participation in numerous public exhibitions in the country and abroad. There are six solo photography exhibitions. Her curatorial and coordination work is very impressive. In 2018, she was the curator and coordinator of the student exhibition "Living Plovdiv" as part of the "Plovdiv for the Young" project, Balabanova House. In 2019, Dafova is the curator of the student exhibition FACE(LESS) with participants third-year Photography students. The exhibition is on display in the Mexican Art Gallery, in the Old Plovdiv.

Mariana Dafova has defended her doctoral degree in photography in the professional field Fine Arts at AMDFA "Prof. Asen Diamandiev". In 2022, Dafova published a book based on the defended dissertation work.

Description and assessment of the candidate's teaching activity.

Mariana Dafova has extensive teaching experience. At the moment, she teaches History of Photography and Applied Photography at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Applied Arts at AMDFA. She has developed the curricula for the following disciplines:

- History of Photography
- The photographic art of the 20th and 21st centuries
- Applied Photography
- Management and Presentation

The programs are adapted to majors in Painting, Sculpture, Graphics, at the Bachelor's and Master's programs. Mariana Dafova works actively with the students and provides methodical guidance to the young artists for participation in numerous exhibitions and competitions.

General description of the scientific and artistic works.

Mariana Dafova presents for discussion artistic and creative production from six solo exhibitions realized in the period 2009 - 2021.

- 2021 – Solo exhibition within the International Photographic Meetings, Plovdiv, titled *Mom, how are you, mom*, 16-31 October, opening October 17, 12 p.m., Old Plovdiv, Hindlyan House, Basement
- 2017 – Solo exhibition *We Were Here*; 5-16 December at the Boris Hristov House of Culture, opening 5 December at 6 p.m
- 2012 – Solo exhibition *Plovdiv - through My Heart* in BARAKA space; 11 – 30 May.
- 2012 – Solo exhibition - *Hvoyna in Four Seasons*, the village of Hvoyna – 26 July, 11 a.m., N. Y. Vapatsarov Community Center, Hvoyna
- 2009 – Solo exhibition *My Big Friends* at TRAKART Gallery, International Photographic Meetings, Plovdiv; 16-30 October.

The mentioned exhibitions testify to the high professional qualities of the candidate, and are proof of her active creative work in the field of contemporary photography. In Dafova's solo exhibitions, the original solutions for the materials and techniques used make a strong impression. The space in the galleries where the exhibitions are held is an active mediator between the configurations of the photographic images and the viewer's eye. The use of an installation and spatial approach in the arrangement of the works in the physical environment is a convincing proof of Mariana Dafova's qualities as both a photographer and a contemporary-minded artist. As an achievement, I can point to the works from the exhibition *Mom, how are you, mom*. With them, the modern digital technologies of photography and printing on various media are treated in a brilliant way to achieve a high emotional and aesthetic impact.

Contributions

We can confidently say that the abovementioned exhibitions are a contribution to the problem of searching for and establishing a new dimension in the art of photography. Mariana Dafova overcomes the documentary and descriptive functions of photography to transform the technical situation of the photographic work into an artistic phenomenon. She successfully applies in her artistic practice the

theoretical aspects of the study of ideas about time in photography and the transformation of objects in space.

CONCLUSION

I present to the members of the Honorable Scientific Jury my affirmative assessment of the candidacy of Mariana Todorova Dafova PhD in the competition for the academic position Associate Professor in scientific field 8. Art, professional field 8.2 Fine Art, AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv.

20. 10. 2023

Prof Atanas Totlyakov, PhD