

OPINION

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regarding the materials presented by Mariana Todorova Dafova, for participation in a competition for the academic position Associate Professor in field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.2 Fine Arts, specialty Photography, for the needs of the Faculty of Fine Arts of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv

In the current competition for the academic position Associate Professor, announced on 25.07.2023 in State Gazette No. 62, there is only one candidate, namely – Assistant Mariana Dafova, PhD, a full-time lecturer at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv. In her capacity as a participant in the competition and in accordance with the scientometric indicators laid down in the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act. Dafova presents a complete set of documents, supported by evidentiary material for scientific, creative and teaching work. The self-completed table by Dafova with the minimum required points by group of indicators for the various scientific and academic positions in professional fields, in accordance with the Regulations of DASRBA, shows that the candidate has more than the minimum required points. Considering this fact, it can be summarized that Mariana Dafova, PhD, meets the minimum national requirements of the DASRBA and those of the AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" – Plovdiv for participation in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, having submitted, correctly and on time, the necessary evidentiary materials and documents for the purpose.

Mariana Dafova completed a two-year master's course in Photography in 2006 at AMTII - Plovdiv. In 2021, he defended a successful doctoral degree in photography in professional direction 8.2. Art. Her dissertation, *Time and Transformation in Photography*, is a study (index A1) that traces the relationship between time and objects in the context of the historical transformative processes associated with the development of the medium. Dafova focuses on the interpretations of these problems in the field of the photographic art. Based on her dissertation, in 2022, the publishing house Intel Design published a book with the same title (index D7).

The candidate Mariana Dafova works actively in the field of the photographic art and takes an active part in numerous exhibitions in the country and abroad. The more significant, which are presented as independent author's projects in the field of arts in the period 2009 - 2021, are the following exhibitions (index B4):

- *My Big Friends*, International Photographic Meetings, Plovdiv, 2009.
- *Hvoyna in Four Seasons*, village of Hvoyna, community center "N. Y. Vaptsarov", 2012
- *Plovdiv - Through my Heart*, open space BARAKA, 2021.

- *We Were Here*, Boris Hristov House of Culture, Plovdiv, 2017.
- *Mom, how are you, Mom*, International Photographic Meetings, Plovdiv, 2021.

Mariana Dafova is involved a wide range of activities in her scientific and teaching professional career. She is currently teaching History of Photography and Applied Photography at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Applied Arts at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev". She has a number of publications in scientific journals, among which is her article *The Modern Visual Concept in Photography* (index D9) is particularly interesting, in which she addresses the problem of various challenges in teaching photography. She demonstrated significant experience as a manager of artistic projects – she curated the Black and White Evening project at the Blue School (index E24), organized a workshop on studio portraiture with the photography club of Language High School Plovdiv, and also with students from the Scenography specialty at AMDFA on the topic: "Stage costume in the photography studio" (index E28).

Mariana Dafova diligently submits evidentiary material regarding citations in monographs, reviews in scientific publications, collective volumes, etc. According to this index (D17), the candidate covers the required number of citations and meets the requirements of the scientometric indexes laid down in DASRBA.

Conclusion:

Having reviewed the submitted materials for the competition, I believe that Mariana Dafova's candidacy is in accordance with the nature of the competition and the specific requirements for occupying the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education 8. Arts, professional field 8.2. Fine Arts (Photography) for the needs of the Faculty of Fine Arts of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" - Plovdiv, published in the State Gazette, No. 62 on July 25, 2023. The rich plastic culture, the active scientific-creative and teaching work, and last but not least, the wide creative range that Dafova convincingly demonstrates through her presentation in the competition, give me serious reason to assume that in her person AMDFA will meet a teacher who is not only capable of building on students' knowledge of photography, but also expanding their creative possibilities for expression in the broad field of contemporary visual arts and design.

I give a positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to support the candidacy of Mariana Todorova Dafova.

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/ Assoc. Prof Alexander Gyoshev, PhD /