

PEER REVIEW

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Todorov Tsvetkov

regarding the materials submitted in connection with the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" under Higher education field 8. "Arts", Professional field 8.2. "Fine Art", specialty "Sculpture"

Reason for presenting the opinion – participation in the composition of a scientific jury, according to Order PД-27-066 dated 05.09.2022 of the Rector of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

1. Data of the competition:

Only one candidate – Dr. Rusen Georgiev Doykov, participates in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts for occupation of the academic position "**Associate Professor**" under Higher education field 8. "Arts", Professional field 8.2. "Fine Art", specialty "Sculpture".

The competition announcement was published in State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022.

The procedure is in accordance with the requirements of the state and university normative documents regarding the occupation of academic positions.

2. Biographical data of the candidate:

Rusen Doykov was born in 1974. In 2003, he defended his Bachelor's degree in Sculpture at the National Academy of Arts, and in 2005 he graduated with a Master's degree in the same specialty in the class of Prof. Krum Damyanov. In 2011, Rusen Doykov successfully defended a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic "*Some Aspects of the Perception of Time in Sculpture*".

In the period from 2011 until 2014, the candidate was a part-time lecturer of Sculpture, Composition and Painting at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts.

At the same time, from 2011 until 2019, he was a teacher of Sculpture, Painting and Composition at Tsanko Lavrenov National Art High School in Plovdiv. From 2015 to date, he has been a lecturer of Sculpture at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Rusen Doykov's solo exhibitions, as well as his participation in numerous collective events, testify to an author with an established plastic position and indisputable capacity.

3. Characteristics of the activity of the candidate:

The submitted materials for participation in the competition for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" cover the minimum national scientometric criteria and meet all the requirements specified in the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as in the Regulations of Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv.

As the main part of the materials related to the artistic and creative activity of Rusen Doykov, two solo exhibitions have been attached - in the A Cube Contemporary Gallery, in 2019 and in the Kris Gallery, in 2022. The works presented in the exhibitions are a kind of research on the perception of the sculptural form in the process of author-audience communication.

The way in which the metal plates are tied in the sculptural compositions from the "Colors" cycle, as well as the use of color as a means of impact, are completely subordinated to the principle of free association (as defined by Doykov himself), which is also a prerequisite for the spontaneous interpretation of the works in their perception by the viewer.

The principle of formation is different in the works "One" and "Five", part of the exhibition in the Kris Gallery, as well as in the other compositions from the cycle "Five Metal Sculptures". The form is the result of the development of spatial elements possessing strict geometry. In this case, the fractal nature of the compositions is a kind of moderator, guiding the viewer's consciousness in the process of form perception.

Along with the materials for the competition, Rusen Doykov also includes five participations in group exhibitions, including two participations in the biennial for contemporary Bulgarian art in the Petko Zadgorski Gallery in Burgas in 2020 and 2022 (both with a nomination for sculpture), as well as participation in the exhibition "Shared Spaces" within the framework of the Plovdiv National Autumn Exhibitions in 2022.

Attached to the submitted materials is the regional award for sculpture in 2016, awarded to him by Allianz-Bulgaria, together with the Plovdiv City Art Gallery and the Society of Plovdiv Artists, which is proof of the author's creative potential.

The book *"Time and Sculpture – Aspects of Perception"* is proposed as part of the habilitation materials related to the research activity of Rusen Doykov. From a scientific point of view, the research is of interest given the perspective in which the problem of the relationship of the category of time to the process of perception of the sculptural work is posed. To a large extent, the edition supports the author's searches, demonstrated in the works of the presented cycles. The main focus of the text is centered on the problem of art and its perception, and in particular the relation of time to the process of perception of a given sculptural work. The category of time in terms of astronomy, perception, and the time recreated by the work are affected.

Special attention in the book is given to hypersculpture and hypervision as phenomena in the sphere of the sculpture of the 20th century.

The substantial volume of scientific literature used as the basis of the study makes the book a valuable source of information.

Also listed are four citations in scientific publications and one review on the occasion of Rusen Doykov's exhibition at the Kris Gallery, with author Natasha Noeva, published in the bulletin of the Union of Bulgarian Artists, Issue 2 of 2022.

The candidate was an active participant in the international art fest "Svetlina", held in 2017 in Golden Sands, as well as the international educational project "Wet Fresco", held in 2018 at Tsanko Lavrenov National Art High School in Plovdiv. He successfully led the workshop "Geometry as a Form-Forming Principle in Sculpture" at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, as well as the workshop "Abstract Sculpture" at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. Such forms of exchange of knowledge and skills undoubtedly enrich the learning process, especially in the field of fine arts.

In conclusion, given the materials presented, I believe that the candidate meets the national requirements for participation in the competition announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. His qualities as an author and a proven lecturer give me reason to propose to the respected Scientific Jury to award Dr. Rusen Georgiev Doykov the academic position of "Associate Professor" under Higher education field 8. "Arts", Professional field 8.2. "Fine Arts", specialty "Sculpture". I will vote "FOR" with conviction.

Sofia

02.11.2022

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