

## PEER REVIEW

by

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mladen Ivanov Mladenov**

under a procedure for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor”, Higher education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.2. “Fine Arts” (Sculpture), announced by Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, Fine Arts Department Competition published in State Gazette, Issue 52 dated 05.07.2022

### 1. Data of the competition:

A competition for occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” under Professional field 8.2. “Fine Arts”, Higher education field 8. “Arts”, scientific specialty – SCULPTURE has been announced for the needs of the Fine Arts Department at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Sv. Sv. Kiril I Metodiy Veliko Tarnovo University. Only one candidate submitted his documents for the competition – **Rusen Georgiev Doykov**, who is a part-time lecturer at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. The competition was announced in State Gazette, Issue 52/05.07.2022. A Scientific Jury was appointed by Order No ПД-27-066-05.02.2020 of the Rector of the Veliko Tarnovo University to hold a competition for occupation of the academic position “**Associate Professor**” under Higher education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.2. “Fine Arts”, specialty – **Sculpture**.

The first meeting was held according to the dates specified in the competition procedure. The normative requirements for present and absent participation and voting were met. A Chairman and recorder of the Scientific Jury were elected, the reviewers were determined, and the members who should prepare opinions were selected. The date of the second and final meeting was fixed – 02.12.2022. After reviewing the documentation on the procedures of the competition, I declare that **no violations were committed** during their implementation.

### 2. Data of the candidate:

Rusen Georgiev Doykov was born on 14.03.1974 in the City of Asenovgrad. In 2003, he graduated from Nikolay Pavlovich National Academy of Arts, with a specialty in “Sculpture”. From 2004 to 2005, he acquired his Master’s degree under Prof. Krum Damyanov. In 2011, Dr. Doykov defended his thesis before the Higher Attestation Commission on the topic “*Some Aspects of the Perception of Time in Sculpture*”. During the period from 2015 to today, he has been a part-time lecturer of Sculpture at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. From 2011 to 2014, he was a part-time lecturer of

Sculpture, Composition and Painting at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. Rusen Doykov is a prominent author working in the field of Bulgarian contemporary sculpture. He has been a member of the Union of Bulgarian Artists since 2016 in the "Sculpture" section. The presented creative biography is saturated with participations of an international and national nature, as well as organization of group and solo performances. The quality, value and credibility of the described performances and works are presented by the attached publications, citations, and reviews of leading art critics and cultural experts. Rusen Doykov has submitted a certificate of compliance with the required minimum scientometric indicators by groups for the academic position "**Associate Professor**", in which it is clear that he has gained the required number of points.

### **3. Description of the scientific work:**

In the competition for occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" Rusen Georgiev Doykov participates with a habilitation thesis, represented by three cycles of sculptures:

#### **"Colors", "5 Metal Sculptures" and "Variations Cube"**

**Rusen Doykov** offers a new vision regarding the modern plastic form, which according to his conceptual and aesthetic formulations is a composite of color, shape, space, movement, and time. In a unique way, he performs psychological analyzes on processes related to various subjective time perceptions, leading to the stimulation of individual associative states. This feature is embedded in the title of the series of sculptures with the title "Flowers". He rethinks the meaning of the individual elements of the conceptual construction of the idea, achieving a dematerialization through which he offers a new reading of the problem of sculpture as matter.

He lays down new points of reference, both philosophical and practical realizations of the plastic objects included in the habilitation thesis.

Color is reformulated as an element with a different function than that of painting. In fact, the synesthetic states in which the viewer is placed, looking at the works of Rusen Doykov, remodels his ideas about contemporary sculpture. Doykov's habilitation thesis is distinguished by a clear creative argumentation, representing the interrelationship between inner freedom and his indisputable intellectual and creative qualities.

In all three cycles of sculptures he uses impressive technical skills combined with professional knowledge of materials and their plastic characteristics.

These qualities are a sign of competence and responsibility towards the realization of one's creative projects.

Rusen Georgiev Doykov is an author with impeccable authority as a person and creator, actively participating in the processes determining the development of Bulgarian contemporary art.

#### 4. Scientific contributions:

The contributions indicated by the candidate – Rusen Doykov, are proof of the main thesis of the habilitation thesis presented for discussion, which is why I fully agree with them. Through the presented works, Doykov presents his artistic strategy, focused on the presence of the minimalist expression in sculpture.

- The conceptual framework includes topics from the fields of art theory, psychology and philosophy.

- Constructive and plastic organization of the form, representing the connection of separate planes with the participation of associative representations of space and time.

- Reconstruction of cubic space by defragmenting states of geometric nature.

- The abstract form as an intermediary between the viewer and the real image in the presence of time as a factor for making sense of the creative idea.

- Alleviation of the technological burden of the metal and its dematerialization through the use of color on the surface.

As a conclusion to the essential contributions of Rusen Doykov, aimed at discovering other horizons denoting the new plastic culture, I will quote Robert Morris “Simplicity of form does not necessarily mean simplicity of experience”.

#### 5. Teaching activity:

Rusen Doykov’s teaching work began in 2011 as a part-time lecturer at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, where he taught Sculpture, Composition and Painting until 2014. During the period 2011-2019, he was a teacher of Sculpture, Composition and Painting at Tsanko Lavrenov National Art High School in Plovdiv. From 2015 to date, he has been teaching Sculpture at Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University. As a teacher, Doykov goes through the various educational levels, which is an indisputable experience of the candidate for the occupation of the position of Associate Professor.

#### 6. Conclusion:

I believe that the habilitation thesis presented by Rusen Doykov is an author’s product and fully meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. After the presentation of my opinion on the qualities of the candidate and his activities as a creator, teacher and researcher, highlighting the contributions of his work to the modern aesthetic process, I express my **positive assessment** to the respected members of the Scientific Jury. I recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Fine Arts to award **Dr. Rusen Georgiev Doykov** the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” at Prof. Asen Diamandiev Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts – Plovdiv, under Higher education field 8. “Arts”, Professional field 8.2. “Fine Arts”, specialty – **Sculpture**.

05.11.2022  
City of Veliko Tarnovo

Peer review prepared by: .....  
/ASSOC. PROF. DR. MLADEN MLADENOV/