

## **REVIEW**

by

**Prof Mariana Mincheva Garmidolova, PhD**

of a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"

**Professional field** 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy on....

**Doctoral program:** Methodology of Fine Arts Education

**With author:** Vanya Milkova Godzhelova,

**Title:** Depicting emotional characteristics in portrait painting by students in art schools

**Academic supervisor:** Prof Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD

### **1. General presentation of the procedure and the materials received for review**

Vanya Godzhelova was admitted as a full-time doctoral student, state order in doctoral program Methodology of Fine Arts Education at the Department of Fine Arts of AMDFA, Plovdiv, Order No RD – 27-110 of 20.12.2018 for a period of study of three years, starting from 20.12.2018 to 20.12.2021. She was discharged with the right to defend her dissertation with Order No. RD-27-137 from 16.12.2022.

The materials submitted for the defense include: a dissertation and three articles that are related to the topic of the dissertation. One of the articles is currently in print.

### **2. Brief biographical information for the candidate**

Vanya Godzhelova graduated Painting at Tsanko Lavrenov National Art School, Plovdiv. She worked as a teacher, and in 2023 she was admitted to AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Plovdiv. In the period 2019-2023, she participated in six projects, two of which were abroad. She has held five solo exhibitions, four of them in Plovdiv and one in Karlovo. She was awarded three prizes for participation in competitions in the field of fine art.

### **3. Relevance of the topic**

The focus of the dissertation is on the portrait genre. The interest is provoked in connection with the creative and destructive role of man in reality and the aspiration of the modern artists to capture and seal the moments in which this essence is manifested. The fact is that the digital age, in addition to the positives it brings, also has a negative impact on students' ability to keep their attention on a particular task. And as the candidate points out, this has its negative consequences on the idea of reflecting the emotional state of the model in the sketch. Thus, the ability to depict a psychological characteristic of the portrait subject becomes a difficult task. Overcoming this phenomenon could be compensated in the educational process through the development of empathy, self-awareness and emotional intelligence. Penetration into the individuality of the portraits requires the acquisition of countless skills that could be

formed through training sketches. These facts determine the relevance of the scientific problem and the choice of the topic of the dissertation work.

#### **4. Expediency of the research methods used to achieve the set goals**

The dissertation demonstrates the candidate's ability to analyze scientific literature from various fields of the human knowledge - history, history of art, psychology. A large volume of literary sources was used, which were competently commented, while observing the logic of an exposition. The analysis of fine arts curricula combined with practical experience provides a depth of analytical approach in researching the scientific problem.

During the experimental work, the following research methods were used: didactic experiment, survey, interview with an expert. Their application is expedient given the goals and tasks in the practical part of the dissertation.

The teaching methods used in the experimental activity include lecture, talk, discussion, demonstration, conference. Their use is dictated by the very nature of the didactic experiment in the conditions of school education.

#### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation work**

The content of the dissertation clearly shows that the author has thoroughly studied the topic of research theoretically and practically. Structurally, the scientific work contains an introduction, three chapters, contributions, conclusion, bibliography. The volume is 167 pages and another 71 pages of appendix, in which the incoming and outgoing survey, the lectures and the obtained results are presented. 92 literary sources in Cyrillic, 11 in Latin and 22 internet literary sources in Cyrillic and Latin are cited.

#### **6. Contribution and significance of the thesis and the relevant publications**

The contributions of the dissertation that I would outline are as follows:

- The dissertation offers and successfully tests a study program on Portraits, which covers 90 study hours and contains a variety of activities. The set of different types of tasks provides integrity in the study of the subject of the portrait.
- A system of criteria and indicators has been created to report the results of the students' achievements.
- The created curriculum on the subject of "Portrait" can be applied in the mandatory education of the students, and individual fragments of it – can be used in the elective disciplines.

#### **7. Critical remarks and recommendations**

My critical remarks relate to:

- Punctuation and spelling errors.

- Need to clarify the terms used.
- Need to clearly differentiate research methods from teaching methods.
- I recommend that the obtained results according to criteria and indicators should not be presented in the appendix, but in the third chapter, as a natural part of the analysis of the experimental activity and proof of the scientific hypothesis.

## **8. Abstract**

The abstract is sufficient in size, and its layout is according to the requirements. It presents the content of the individual chapters. But only 4 pages are dedicated to the theoretical part, and the focus is entirely on the experiment, which leads to dissonance. The conclusion must also be reviewed, as in its current version it is more of an introduction to the experimental part and not a conclusion of the dissertation.

## **9. Conclusion**

Vanya Godzhelova's dissertation and the materials submitted with it meet the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for its implementation.

My overall impression after reading the dissertation and the supporting publications is very good. This gives me the reason to give my **positive assessment** and **to recommend** to the Scientific Jury **to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Vanya Milkova Godzhelova in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field: 1.3. Teaching Pedagogy on..., scientific specialty: Methodology of Fine Art Education.**

02.03.2024  
Veliko Tarnovo

Signature:  
(Mariana Garmidolova)