

# OPINION

by **Prof Blagomir Kirilov Papazov, 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 has been enrolled as a full-time doctoral student, state order at the Department of Fine Arts for a period of three years, starting from 20.12.2018 to 20.12.2021 (order RD 27-110 of 20.12.2018). By order RD-27-137 of 16. 12. 2022, she was discharged with the right of defense. Vanya Godzhelova has submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, in accordance with the state regulatory requirements, which cover the candidate's scientific, artistic and teaching work. The resulting dissertation consists of 238 pages. An abstract, an autobiography and three appendices are presented: I – surveys, lectures and an interview with an expert, II – imaging results and III – quantitative analysis of the imaging results. Vanya Godzhelova has fulfilled the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3 of Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and respectively according to Art. 24, para. 1 of the Regulations for the implementation of the DASRBA.

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

Vanya Godzhelova graduated in 2011 from the National Art School “Tsanko Lavrenov, Plovdiv, majoring in painting. In 2015, she graduated Pedagogy of Fine Art Education, at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", and in 2017 Master's program in Painting. Since 2016, she has been working as a Fine Art teacher, and since October 2023 she has been a lecturer at AMDFA. She has participated in scientific projects and art exhibitions, among which five are solo. She has three scholarly publications on the subject of the dissertation.

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

The dissertation work *Depicting emotional characteristics in portrait painting by students in art schools* is aimed at researching an actual problem for modern specialized art training in fine art. The art education in the secondary schools focuses on practical lessons with sketch assignments, in which the portrait is a priority. With the choice of the topic and with the development of the dissertation work, the candidate achieves a thorough refinement of specific tasks and teaching methods in art education. She skilfully applies experimental research, helping students reach deeper and more

analytical results in depicting emotional characteristics in portrait painting.

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

The selection of research methods used in the dissertation work is in accordance with the set goal, hypothesis and work tasks. In her work, Vanya Godzhelova successfully uses the following methods: didactic experiment (conducted in three stages - ascertaining, formative, conclusive), survey, interview with an expert, discussion, talk, lecture, demonstration and conference.

#### **5. Evaluation of the dissertation work – knowledge of the problem, content and structure according to the established norms, credibility, analytical approach, derived results**

As a trained artist and practicing arts teacher, Vanya Godzhelova demonstrates the necessary knowledge regarding the choice of the topic and the problems of the research. The dissertation consists of 167 pages, including an introduction, three chapters, summaries, conclusions, contributions and a conclusion, which shows structuring according to established academic norms. Three appendices are also presented. The bibliography includes 125 titles, of which 91 in Cyrillic, 12 in Latin and 22 Internet sources. The first chapter of the dissertation ("Theoretical formulation of the problem") examines the etymology and definition of the concept of portrait and its classifications in fine art. In the Second Chapter ("Formulation of the research"), Vanya Godzhelova presents the object, subject, goal, tasks and hypothesis of the research. The organization and methodology of the research are presented. A positive contribution of the author is the experimental curriculum of assignments and lectures related to the topic of the dissertation. The third chapter ("Analysis of the results of the experimental activity") analyzes the results obtained from the ascertaining stage of the research and offers a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the results from the practical activity of the incoming and outgoing diagnostics. In conclusion, it is found that the research was conducted consistently and didactically purposefully, in accordance with the set goals and objectives. The presented work is original and stands out with its integrity and multifacetedness, reflected through modern theoretical and applied methods, research activity, analyses and conclusions.

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

1. The author has developed an original experimental model for training in the school discipline Portrait, as part of the art education in art schools, aimed at building a system of knowledge, skills and attitudes among the students. As a result of the conducted experimental research, the author presents a training program on "Portrait" consisting of ninety classes. It contains a variety of lectures and art assignments, enriching the students' knowledge in various disciplines that have a lasting impact on the art of portraiture.

2. A working system of criteria and indicators has been created, which reliably reports the results of the trainees.

3. The dissertation contains an overview of the development of the portrait artistic tradition

during the various historical periods, which chronologically traces its development over the centuries and the influence it has on contemporary art.

4. The created Curriculum can be used in pedagogical activities and as part of various interest clubs to develop additional knowledge and skills among students. Individual tasks, lectures or methods from it can also be applied in the mandatory training in the general education school.

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

I recommend that the candidate revise the work in the form of a methodical guide. In this way, the ideas, the goal and the achieved results of the dissertation work will support the professional and creative growth of teachers in the field of plastic arts.

#### **8. Abstract**

The submitted abstract (44 pages) correctly reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

#### **9. Conclusion**

Having reviewed the materials presented in the competition and analysed their significance and the scientific-research and artistic-theoretical contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and **recommend** to the Scientific Jury to prepare a Report-proposal to the Faculty Council for **awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" to Vanya Milkova Godzhelova, candidate in the announced competition** in: scientific field: 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional filed: 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., Scientific specialty: 07.05.03. Methodology of Fine Art Education.

**Reviewer:**

Prof Blagomir Papazov, PhD

19. 02. 2024  
Varna