

STATEMENT OF OPINION

Assoc. Prof. Milena Tasheva-Petrova, PhD

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regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 8.2, Fine Arts, Artistic Synthesis and Architecture major

Vladimir Petrov, PhD, a part-time tutor there since 2021, is the sole participating candidate in the competition for Associate Professor, announced in State Gazette issue 30/27.03.2026 and on the website of AMDFA Prof. Asen Diamandiev – Plovdiv¹, for the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts.

This Statement of Opinion has been prepared in execution of Rector's Order RD-27-130/Plovdiv, 26.05.2026, appointing the scientific jury to conduct the selection, and the resolution of the jury's first meeting, held on 05.06.2026.

1. Brief biographical data V. Petrov completed his secondary education with honors in the Architecture and Urban Planning specialty at the Vocational High School of Construction, Architecture and Geodesy in Plovdiv. He then built a solid academic foundation at UACEG (Sofia), where he successively earned his bachelor's (2013) and master's (2015) degrees in the Urban Development major, and in 2024 defended his doctoral degree in the scientific field Territorial and Landscape Planning and Urban Development, with a dissertation titled The Urban Silhouette: Factors and Influences in the Process of Urban Development. His education also includes a period of specialization at the Sorbonne in Paris (2011-2012) under the Erasmus+ program.

His professional development combines academic, administrative and practical work. Since 2026, he has been a researcher at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, while at the same time, since 2021, serving as a part-time tutor at AMDFA. Since 2022, he has held the position of chief specialist in the Research, Registers and National Documentary Archival Fund Directorate at NINCH.

During 2021-2022, he was chief expert in the Spatial Development Directorate of Plovdiv Municipality. He also has experience as a freelance designer and 3D visualizer (2017-2021), as well as in investor supervision and construction project management. Since 2013 V. Petrov has been actively engaged in the research, documentation and justification of status for numerous immovable cultural assets, architectural, urban and archaeological sites in Plovdiv, Sofia and other regions of the country, including First World War memorials, dolmens, ancient settlements and residential buildings of historical value. He leads an expert unit working on updating the protection regimes for the historic zone Philipopolis-Trimontium-Plovdiv, takes part in interdepartmental committees on the subject, and additionally conducts field expeditions to document sites and structures. Since 2014, Petrov has developed a variety of architectural-artistic projects and 3D visualizations, including several war memorials and monuments, interior and exterior design for residential and holiday properties, as well as participation in urban planning initiatives.

¹ <https://www.artacademyplovdiv.com/acad-career/konkurs-acad.html>

He is the author of publications and takes an active part in solo and group exhibitions. He is a member of the Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (2019) and of the Bulgarian National Committee of ICOMOS (2018), and since 2019 holds full design capacity license. He commands a wide range of technical skills, and speaks English and French.

2. General description of the materials submitted The candidate is participating in the competition with the following materials:

- List and evidence of realized original works in the field of art:
 - Title: Memorial to the Members of the 6th Bdin Infantry Division Who Fell in Battle in 1916, near the village of Kozloduytsi (Dobrich Province); genre/category: Monumental sculptural art, architectural-sculptural synthesis and landscape design
 - Title: Illustrations from Original Books; genre/category: Exhibition, Plovdiv Cultural Institute
 - Title: Pictograms; genre/category: Exhibition, Plovdiv Cultural Institute
 - Title: Portraits of Bulgarian Poets and Writers; genre/category: Solo exhibition
- Book published on the basis of the defended dissertation for the award of the PhD educational and scientific degree, titled Urban Metrics
- Three (3) solo publications in non-refereed, peer-reviewed journals: one in the AMDFA Yearbook, and two published conference papers from scientific conferences organized respectively by VSU L. Karavelov and UCTM
- List and evidence of participation in collective art presentations: two exhibitions
- List of noted citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes
- List and evidence of reviews of realized original works or creative presentations in specialized art publications
- List of supporting materials for the Candidate's teaching activity: three creative workshops, conducted in 2026

The materials submitted by the candidate do not duplicate those submitted for obtaining the educational and scientific PhD degree in 2024. The lists of materials are thorough and well structured.

3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

Data is presented for 8 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes in Bulgarian.

4. General overview of the candidate's records V. Petrov, PhD, is a specialist with an interdisciplinary profile, combining practical design work, research and teaching in the field of architecture, urban planning and the synthesis of the arts. V. Petrov, PhD, has built up considerable experience across different, predominantly interdisciplinary fields of professional practice for urbanists, and the topic of his dissertation is closely linked to his earlier theoretical and applied work and to his declared interest in cultural heritage, an interest given creative substance through practice. Subsequently, the topic of his dissertation and the resulting monograph become a point of intersection where his research interests, his work as an expert at a specialized institution, and his teaching of both narrow specialists in the technical sciences and the arts and practicing professionals all come together. V. Petrov, PhD, successfully weaves in, with a high level of competence, his interest and expertise in

information technology and mathematical modeling as well.

4.1. Educational and academic activity According to the attached summary for the 2025-2026 academic year, Vladimir Petrov's teaching load as a part-time tutor comes close to that mandatory for a full-time tutor, and covers a wide range of disciplines: Architecture, Computer Animation, Computer Design, Architecture and Artistic Analysis, and Virtual Reality, 3D Modeling and Animation.

In 2026, the Candidate conducted three creative workshops with university students and fellow experts from NINCH: Composing the Urban Silhouette in the Context of the Planned and the Spontaneous (field: architecture and art), with students in the Architecture major; Architectural Surveying of Building Exteriors (field: architecture and art), with students in the Mural Painting major at AMDFA; Contemporary Methods in the Aestheticization and Composition of the Urban Environment (field: architecture, art and cultural heritage preservation), with experts from NINCH.

The workshop themes and the materials presented for them provide evidence of the Candidate's skill in finding individual approaches and conveying research information in an accessible and engaging way, in stimulating and supporting skill development while involving different target groups within formal and non-formal education, all while valorizing and further developing his own acquired knowledge.

4.2. Academic and applied scientific activity The materials presented convincingly illustrate a varied creative output covering a wide range of competencies, with high professional results achieved on topics that follow a single research line in urban-planning interpretation: sacred geometry, computational methods and visual analysis. The submitted materials and declared experience also demonstrate not only professional design skills (spanning the entire creative process, from documentation and surveying, through argumentation and defense of an idea and its conceptualization, to conceptual and technical design of a building and its interior, 3D visualization, project administration, and promotion of the realized site or creative product), but also creative skills in the field of artistic synthesis and specific skills in conducting research and preparing documentation for immovable cultural assets.

4.3. Contributions I hold in high regard Vladimir Petrov's ability and skill in working on topics that call for an interdisciplinary approach. The candidate demonstrates strong skill in combining and applying information and tools from different professional fields (such as mathematics and analytic geometry, parametric modeling, graphic design). As his main research contribution, I would single out the development of the original method Urban Metrics, which, building on the thesis that the aesthetic characteristics of an environment can be translated into the language of network topology and cellular automation, offers a new approach to studying, preserving and interpreting urban morphology. The approach is interesting and innovative, in that it points to the realistic prospect of tangible heritage being viewed and used as an information code, one with the potential to generate objective scenarios for urban development. In the publication Theory of View, the candidate presents an original geometric method for analyzing and preserving visual connections within the urban environment, and derives a formula for calculating the maximum permissible building height within the bounds of a line of sight. Valuable here is the idea that preserving visual contact between the observer and urban objects is an act of humanistic formation, and

that “empty” space is structurally significant to the wholeness of the city. In the publication *Theological Aesthetics and the Geometric Construction Ad Quadratum in the Context of Opus Francigenum*, the candidate treats architectural geometry not as a technical end in itself, but as an “*ontological bridge between Created and Uncreated Being*”. An original contribution lies in linking Benoit Mandelbrot's fractal theory with the medieval Ad quadratum system, demonstrated through a concrete geometric analysis of the plan of Chartres Cathedral, where “*the pre-choir square is treated as a bearer of architectonic unity and spiritual symbolism*”.

In support of the significance of this original work, 2 reviews in specialized publications are also presented. The candidate's realized original works in the field of art (the memorial complex and 3 solo exhibitions) show an authentic distinctiveness and recognition of the author.

The memorial complex is registered in the National Register of War Memorials of Bulgaria, and the Candidate has been awarded the Vasil Levski, 150 Years of Immortality commemorative medal by the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria.

5. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution The materials submitted for the competition document the candidate's unmistakable personal contribution and distinctive individuality. The main publications of which the candidate is sole author stand as evidence of his high level of erudition; the creative workshops he has conducted attest to a unique, yet at the same time consistent (given the candidate's creative biography) combination of themes, delivery approaches and target groups of trainees; his solo exhibitions (especially Pictograms and Portraits of Bulgarian Poets and Writers) express an authorial synergy between graphic technique, abstraction and minimalism (and for Pictograms I would add a philosophical interpretation as well).

6. Critical remarks I would recommend that the Candidate seek opportunities for future publications in journals that are refereed and indexed in internationally recognized databases, and that he more actively share his creative pursuits and research findings in a foreign language before an international audience.

7. Personal impressions I have known Vladimir Petrov, PhD, as a student, as a graduating student in the Urban Development major, and as a doctoral candidate in the Department of Urban Planning, someone who takes his studies, personal development and professional growth seriously. My observations give me grounds to state that he is disciplined, responsible and ethical, a lecturer held in high regard by colleagues and students, with strong research potential. As a teaching assistant, guest lecturer and part-time assistant at the department, he shares his experience and in-depth knowledge of his subject readily, and in an engaging and original way. I had the honor of serving as a member of the scientific jury for the award of his educational and scientific PhD degree. I note with satisfaction that both recommendations I made in my opinion on his dissertation have been fulfilled: a monograph based on the dissertation has been published, and its results and approach have been further developed and applied in teaching, specialized at UACEG and within ongoing professional training at NINCH. I wish him continued, undiminished interest in the overall process of understanding cultural heritage and its valorization, that he continue to conceptualize and reconsider the interplay between identity and urban transformation, that he continue to develop his stated interest in the theoretical and philosophical aspects of the built

environment, and that he continue contributing to the introduction of innovative approaches based on information technology and mathematical modeling in research, teaching and practice.

8. Conclusion: Given everything set out above, and the fact that the Candidate fully meets the minimum national requirements as well as those of DASRBAct and AMDFA for the academic position of Associate Professor in the relevant professional field, I am fully convinced in proposing that Vladimir Petrov, PhD, be elected Associate Professor in professional field 8.2, Fine Arts, Artistic Synthesis and Architecture major.

Member of the SJ:

Digitally signed by MILENA ILIYCHEVA TASHEVA-PETROVA

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