

## **REVIEW**

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetanka Kostadinova Kolovska  
Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv

of dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “**Doctor**”  
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences  
Professional field 1.3 Teaching Pedagogy  
doctoral program: Methodology of Fine Arts Teaching

**Author:** Teodora Hristova Tsankova - part-time doctoral student at the Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts at AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev"- Plovdiv

**Title:** *Construction of space in landscape through colors as a means of expression by students in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade*

Scientific adviser: Prof Zora Yanakieva - AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv

### **1. General description of the provided materials**

As a member of the scientific jury, pursuant to Order RD-27-025 from 29.03.2022 of the Rector of AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv, I have received and I am familiar with the set of materials in connection with the procedure for the defense of a dissertation on **Construction of space in landscape through colors as a means of expression by students in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade**, for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of teaching in..., doctoral program Methodology of Fine Arts Teaching.

The author of the dissertation is Teodora Hristova Tsankova – a part-time doctoral student at the Fine Arts Department with supervisor Prof Zora Yanakieva from AMDFA “Prof Asen Diamandiev”, Plovdiv.

The materials presented by Teodora Tsankova are in accordance with the Regulations for development of the academic staff of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev” and include the necessary documents.

For the defense procedure the candidate has included four scientific publications related to the topic of the dissertation.

### **2. Relevance of the topic and expediency of the set goals and objectives**

The dissertation, presented by Teodora Tsankova, is a relevant scientific study on one of the contemporary problems in the field of visual theory and practice – the figurative construction of the landscape in terms of colours as means of expression. The relevance of the chosen topic is underlined by the importance of the problems of colour, which the author defines as “always relevant for the

process of fine arts”, especially in the XXI century with innovative solutions as “expression of ideas and plans”. The candidate focuses on the educational aspect of the problem, specifically – the teaching of fine arts (compulsory training) and examines the application of an author's model of a system of technologies for the formation of knowledge and visual skills of students in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade at junior high school.

The chosen topic is significant from the point of view of the current state of the researched problem in school education. It offers an important interpretation of the state educational standards in fine arts and the expected results laid down in them in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes for working with colour, shapes and composition. Given the difficulties and gaps in the achievements of the students in junior high school in general education, the author tries to bring out the causes of the problem, following the main points of the entire educational cycle of fine arts.

The formulated goals and tasks are justified by the real opportunities for positive influence of the artistic and practical activity of the students, development of their pictorial abilities, interests, knowledge, achievement of the objectives in art education.

### **3. Knowledge of the problem**

The presented work shows that the author Teodora Tsankova knows the current situation and the trends related to the discussed problem. In the aspect of modern factors for practical application of the acquired knowledge to achieve spatial construction of the landscape with the help of colours as a means of expression, object of special interest is the art lesson with specific goal, objectives and expected results in accordance with state educational standards.

From the point of view of the current state of the researched problem, the attitude of the author in the educational aspect makes a good impression. She presents arguments that trace the unsatisfactory state of the problem, discrepancy in the accumulated knowledge and experience of the environment with the actual painting abilities of the students to reflect the visual impressions through the means of art. At the same time, the focus of research interest is the picturesque landscape and its place in the curriculum of fine arts in the junior high school stage of education. The necessity of searching for modern didactic methods and painting techniques in the teaching of fine arts is motivated and the significance of the proposed methodological ideas is substantiated.

### **4. Research methodology**

The selection of the tools is in accordance with the specific tasks and stages of the research. The didactic experiment is the leading research method, presented in three stages - ascertaining, forming and control. The selected methods of scientific research are appropriate, they are described correctly, with clear indicators.

### **5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation**

The dissertation consists of a total of 230 pages, of which 218 pages main text with included

tables, diagrams and 8 appendices of 11 pages. The literature used covers 134 sources, of which 122 in Cyrillic and 12 in Latin, including internet sources. With few exceptions, the writing of the bibliography is in accordance with the established standards, as the literature review is selected appropriately for the research issues.

Structurally, the dissertation contains: an introduction, which is not listed in the content of the dissertation, but it should be; 3 main chapters with paragraphs; summaries and conclusions; conclusion, formed as a separate element of the dissertation; scientific contribution; bibliography and appendices.

In the introduction the author presents the relevance and significance of the chosen topic, as well as personal motives and conceptual ideas. The main goal is "to develop and test an experimental pedagogical model of teaching aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills for spatial construction of the depth in the landscape, through the expressive possibilities of colours" (p. 7). The tasks set in the research give a correct direction for the realization of the set goal. The subject and the object of the scientific research are correctly formulated.

The scientific hypothesis points to the development of an experimental model of education, the probation of which should prove the effectiveness of the proposed system of methods and techniques in the practical implementation of learning tasks with emphasis on the expressive possibilities of colours to increase knowledge and skills of junior high school students (fifth grade) and for the spatial construction of the landscape (sixth grade).

The first chapter presents the theoretical aspect of the dissertation research. The text covers the basic theoretical positions of the topic and its practical aspects. On a theoretical-activity basis the landscape and the colour are analysed as leading elements. The educational aspects of the landscape in the teaching of fine arts with accent 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade at the junior high school stage are considered in detail. In this direction is also the theoretical experimental model of training.

The second and third chapters present the essence of the conducted research, the achieved results and their interpretation. The main research tool is the didactic experiment in the three stages - ascertaining, forming and control. The object of methodological problematization are the specifics of the pictorial activity in recreating the space in the landscape through the colours as knowledge and skills of the students, as well as specific pictorial techniques and technologies for their mastering. The research field brings another leading line – “the positive attitude and creative reproduction of ideas using different means of expression” by the students as an aspect directly related to the acquisition of the key competence "competence for cultural awareness and expression" as defined in 2018, or in an older educational plan - "cultural awareness and creativity and cultural competences" (2006).

In the analysis of the obtained results the author pays attention to leading elements and details related to the painting activity. I accept this as a realistic basis for the conducted empirical study of the main problems in reflecting the spatial changes in depth in the practice of students.

The conclusions and recommendations made are of real practical value.

## **6. Contributions and significance of development for science and practice**

The contributions of the dissertation can be divided into scientific-theoretical and applied-practical aspects. The advantage of the research is that it presents realistic solutions from practice with the positive moments and difficulties. I accept the 5 scientific contributions of the dissertation research pointed by the author, as the emphasis, in my opinion, are the applicable models for the teaching practice of fine arts, related to improving the quality of the teaching process of fine arts in students, as well as the derived and defended idea of the author, of achieving actually better results in the artistic and practical activity of the students.

## **7. Evaluation of the publications on the dissertation**

Teodora Tsankova presents four articles on the topic of the dissertation research, published in the period 2015-2018, all of them are included in indexed collections - Yearbook of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Plovdiv and Spring Scientific Readings of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev", Plovdiv. The text of the publications reflects stages and main problematic issues of the research.

## **8. Personal participation of the doctoral student**

The author of the dissertation research directly participates in the empirical research, which I consider to be an important positive moment.

9. The presented **abstract** corresponds to the main points in the dissertation and the significant contributions.

## **10. Critical remarks and recommendations**

Some of the recommendations are noted in the review process, therefore I will mainly pay attention to the following: there is discrepancy between the appendices mentioned in the text of the dissertation and their numbers listed at the end of the dissertation. Of the eight mentioned appendices only five are actually present, and there is no appendix under number 1, the same is presented as number 5. In Annex No 2, titled "Presentations", there are in fact no presentations or slides, but the names of artists whose works are included in the presentations. Annexes 6, 7 and 8 are not presented. Thus, the materials related the three stages of the pedagogical experiment are actually absent.

## **Conclusion**

The dissertation contains scientific and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Regulations for application of DASRBA and the relevant Rules of AMDFA "Prof Asen Diamandiev" Plovdiv.

The dissertation work proves that the doctoral candidate Teodora Tsankova has theoretical

knowledge and professional skills in the doctoral program Methodology of Fine Arts Teaching, demonstrating qualities and skills for an independent research.

Based on the above, I give my *positive assessment* of the research presented in the herein reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and *propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"* to Teodora Hristova Tsankova in field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching..., doctoral program Methodology of Fine Arts Teaching.

14.05.2022

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof Tsvetanka Kolovska