

OPINION

on the procedure for the acquisition of
educational and scientific degree

Doctor

professional field 1.3. Pedagogy
specialty Pedagogy of Fine Art Education

Title: CONSTRUCTION OF SPACE IN LANDSCAPE THROUGH COLORS AS A MEANS OF
EXPRESSION BY STUDENTS IN 5TH-6TH GRADE

Author: Teodora Hristova Tsankova –
Faculty of Fine Arts
Department of Fine Arts, AMDFA
Academic supervisor: Prof Zora Yanakieva

by Prof Bisera Valeva, PhD, Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”

1. The dissertation work of Teodora Tsankova consists of the following parts: introduction, three chapters, summary, conclusion and cited literature. There are also appendices to the text with a total volume of 33 pages. They are 8 in number and, according to the requirements for academic writing, are outside the main body of the work. The appendices (educational boards, educational presentations, survey for students, visual educational materials on paper, educational boards in a digital version, students' drawings, etc.) are inseparable from the work and are the basis of the ideas of the research and the analyzes and summaries of the candidate. The total volume of the text is 230 pages. The paper contains the necessary elements of a doctoral dissertation. The bibliography covers 134 sources, of which 121 titles are in Cyrillic and 12 titles are in Latin.

2. The subject, the object, the goal, the thesis as well as the specific tasks are justified and formulated intelligently, with an understanding of the essence of the methodological and artistic problem.

3. The object, as well as the research focus of Teodora Tsankova's work, is the stimulation of the visual creative thinking of junior high school students (grades 5-6), through the creation and development of a pedagogical model applicable in the teaching practice of fine arts in the general education school. More specifically, the emphasis is on the author's (candidate's) methodological model "aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills for spatial construction of the depth in the landscape, through the expressive possibilities of colours" (p. 6). Teodora Tsankova not only implements the proposed model in a very specific segment of fine art education in a junior high school, but also in the text manages to synthesize general guidelines and trends in education, as well as to find and justify their place in the general methodological approaches to fine art.

4. The meaning-bearer of the study and a serious emphasis in Teodora Tsankova's dissertation work are sub-points 2.3. *Conducting the didactic experiment* from chapter two, 3.5. *Comparative analysis of students' painting results* and 3.6. *Proving the hypothesis* in chapter three. The doctoral candidate convincingly substantiates the functioning of small study groups, which "stimulate the interaction between students" by creating supra-formal relations, outside of the traditional and predetermine the development of creative thinking. Teodora Tsankova emphasizes the dependence of the group forms of learning on certain tasks for artistic interpretation as a consequence of the preferences of the modern students, shaped as individualists, under the influence of the new technologies. Merit of the text is the approach to the unsatisfactory approbation of some widespread methodological concepts in the existing specialized literature, due to the insufficient knowledge of their essence, and hence of their possibilities. The experimental model that the author proposes is essential with the combination of leading basic methods and those that complement the overall system. These methods are: "observation, talk, exercise, experimentation with materials and techniques, explanation, instruction, work with a textbook, conference. And the forming experiment (based on the results) has a positive impact on the development of students in the junior high school, as a system of accumulated knowledge and skills for the spatial construction of the landscape" (p. 91). Such a point of view on the presentation and analysis of the author's methodological model forms the basic concept of the study. In this context, testing and analyzing the obtained results helps the doctoral student to derive, summarize and clearly formulate the contributions of the work.

5. The work uses a mixed methodology by using a theoretical analysis, a pedagogical experiment (with ascertaining, formative and control phase), observation, a diagnostic method (survey), analysis - (quantitative, qualitative and comparative), as well as of evaluation method, mathematical-statistical (for processing and analysis of the research results). This collective research approach also determines the importance of visual-methodological research.

6. The contributions of the dissertation work are identified on page 216 in the text. It can be noted that Teodora Tsankova is well familiar with the discussed problem, and her experiment is well presented both as artistic examples and as conclusions that are the basis of the analyses, summaries and contributions of the work.

Among them, we can highlight the one that focuses on the further development and support of the "existing methodical system on the construction of the space in the landscape", as the author includes in the educational process developed original educational presentations and methodological boards "Steps" representing leading methods in teaching in this age group combined with other (supplementary) methods.

It is also worth noting the contribution with a focus on the further development of a diagnostic apparatus with the relevant criteria and indicators for the analysis and evaluation of the students' works on the theme "Landscape". The candidate, through her experiment, proves its effectiveness in carrying out the diagnostic-evaluation procedures. The model of working with the students applied by her is

essential, and in particular the opportunities provided by the combination of leading and additional (supporting) methods. This part of the study is significant with its practical value.

7. Through the scientific publications - reports, articles and studies in specialized editions: Tsankova, T. *The illustration and its possibilities for the development of visual skills of students in junior high school*. – In: Yearbook of the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts, Plovdiv: Plovdiv University Publishing House, 2015, pp. 215 - 224; Tsankova, T. *Nature of the landscape, types and similar concepts*. - In: collection of reports *Spring Scientific Readings April 26-27*, Plovdiv: Makros, 2016, pp. 181 - 186; Tsankova, T. *Historical prerequisites for the emergence of the landscape during the ancient era* - In: collection of reports *Spring Scientific Reading*, Plovdiv: Diagon, 2017, pp. 228 - 235; Tsankova, T. *The place of the landscape in the new Fine Art program for 5th grade*. – In: ncollection of reports *Spring Scientific Reading*, Plovdiv: Diagon, 2018, pp. 225 - 228, the results of the dissertation have the necessary popularization among specialists in the field.

8. The accompanying abstract basically reflects all the main ideas in the overall research.

9. As a recommendation, in a structural aspect, the sub-points of all three chapters of the work could be combined. In some places the exposition is more essayistic than the genre suggests. Various technical and punctuation errors are noticeable throughout the text. It needs a final editorial touch. These notes do not belittle the work of the candidate, but are aimed at the better future realization of the work. The analyses and conclusions from it would be useful in the academic training of students of specialties related to the problems of teaching and the theory of fine art.

10. Conclusion

Based on the scientific-research and practical-applied results in the presented work, *Construction of space in landscape through colors as a means of expression by students in 5th -6th grade*, as well as my assessment of the contributions, scientific publications and the artistic work of the doctoral candidate, I have reason to believe that the work has the necessary qualities of a dissertation and to propose to the scientific jury to award of Teodora Hristova Tsankova, the educational and scientific degree **Doctor**.

Prof. Dr. Bisera Valeva
SU, "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Faculty of Educational Studies and Arts,
Department of Visual Arts

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Sofia