

## OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Iliya Iliiev Kozhuharov, PhD, Professional Field 8.4 Theatre and Film Arts

NBU

**On the material, submitted for participation in the contest for awarding the academic degree Associate Professor, in professional field 8.4 Theatre and Film Arts (Graphic Design), as announced in State Gazette, issue 14/18.02.2022, Candidate: Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Nikolov Gyuzelev, PhD**

### **I. Assessment of the compatibility with the nationally required minimum for awarding academic degrees and the requirements of new Bulgarian university**

Based on the work submitted for the contest, it can be stated that Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD meets the requirements posed by NBU, as well as the national requirements for being rewarded the academic degree *Associate Professor*.

### **II. Research (Creative) Activities and Results**

The paper submitted by Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD, *Visual Objectives and Specific Features of Graphics, Painting, Photography and Graphic Design*, is quite a distinctive achievement, due to its artistic expressiveness and sufficient comprehensiveness. Through his works we can reach into Chavdar Gyuzelev's intellectual wealth, his versatile artistic activities and wide knowledge, as well as into his spirituality. His paper and his artistic works enclosed, including reviews and feedback, are all but conventional, very far from the official standard. The brief statement that accompanies the artworks consists of an introduction, three chapters: *Painting and Graphics, Photography and Graphic Design*, and a conclusion.

In the opening part, the author reveals the way in which his artistic talent has developed, or – more precisely – the way in which many of his works came to life through the years and how they were realized and have become successful works of art.

In manifesting each of his creative personae – as a painter, as a photographer, or as a graphic designer, the candidate, Chavdar Gyuzelev, PhD is different, but always seeking and experimenting. Maybe the person, who has described him most accurately is Yavor Gardev, in relation to Chavdar Gyuzelev's anniversary exhibition, *Heads in Free Flight*, in *Rakursi* Gallery, 2021: “The graphics and the paintings of Chavdar Gyuzelev offer an unexpected and a rather curious meeting with a perfect stranger. A meeting with a person, of whose existence, hidden within Chavdar Gyuzelev, I have never held even the faintest of suspicions. A different person. Absolutely unknown for me, cuddled in the shades, well-hidden and disguised and absolutely unrecognisable in the social persona of Chavdar Gyuzelev. There is something floating around triumphantly among the freely flowing and roaming heads in his graphics, and that is the beheaded human vanity on account of a universal calmness, slowing down the passage of time, while my favourites among his

paintings sagely contemplate the landscapes, freed from the bothering human presence, with their quiet subtle secret hidden inside them.” (Yavor Gardev)

When it comes to the photographs “...You are looking, but can you see?” it is obvious that this is the philosophical question and the major problem, that the author is concerned about. Should one go with the flow, barely touching the surface, or should they dig deep into the problems. Our surroundings, aesthetically presented as they are and not ignoring the social issues, occupy some space in the album of photography *Found Installations* – 2018, published by Black-Flamingo. The street and street photography frees him in his artistic choices and in his creativity. *Graphic Design* is the third chapter of the paper. Using and explaining the principles of graphics, the author redesigned the magazines *Kultura* and *Christianity and Culture*.

The conclusion provides a summary of the ways in which all these artistic incarnations have enriched his life. I will take the freedom to quote the finale of his work, a quote itself: *The designer's life is a life of battles against the ugly* - just like that of a doctor fighting against illness. For us, visual illness is what surrounds us, and we are trying to cure it through architecture and design.” (Massimo Vignelli, architect)

### **III. Teaching and tutoring:**

Chavdar Guyzelev, PhD meets all the requirements posed by NBU concerning the workload of tutors. The number of students he works with, the courses and the extracurricular projects he devises and teaches are enough to meet the tutor workload requirements.

#### **Personal impressions about the candidate:**

I have known Chavdar Guyzelev for many years and I am very positively impressed by his work and by the fact that he is responsible and reliable. He has always stood out with his artistic talents, his critical thinking and his analytical approach to various issues.

#### **Opinions, recommendations and notes on the applicant's activities and achievements:**

I can state that Dr. Chavdar Gyuzelev meets all requirements for being awarded the academic degree Associate Professor. I am convinced that his academic development will bring to life even more innovative and challenging projects, studies, courses and programs, which will be beneficial for the academic community of the New Bulgarian University and for him alike.

In conclusion, and based on the facts and opinions presented so far, I vote in favour of awarding the degree Associate Professor to Ch. Asst. Prof. Chavdar Nikolov Gyuzelev, PhD by the General Assembly of NBU.

17 June 2022

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Iliya Kozhuharov, PhD