

IMAGE AND NARRATIVE

Theoretical and Artistic Studies on the Visual Arts in the Context of historical, socio-cultural and scientific-technological Development

Research Group: Image and Narrative
Research field: Visual Arts

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PROJECT GUIDELINES

- In order to enable department members and students to participate even more actively in various contemporary art forums, it is necessary to renew the material and technical base in the studios and to stimulate and create conditions for students and teachers to present fully realized artistic and creative work;
- The Department of Visual Arts will create a digital video and photo archive containing documentation of the artistic and creative performances of its teachers and students. An excellent starting point for future research on patterns and information about contemporary art would be this archive;
- Publication of research on certain aspects of 20th-century Bulgarian language artistic life, viewed through the lenses of social, political, and cultural contexts in which they arise.

INTRODUCTION

Sofia University's "VISUAL ARTS" department is distinct because it is the only one accredited in the professional field 8.2 Fine Art. This specificity plays a major role in defining how department members participate in the life of the university, primarily through projects related to artistic and creative activities.

However, this uniqueness offers chances for theoretical research on current Bulgarian art trends as well as global artistic practices' influences on the country's artistic landscape (including historically). Numerous creative events have taken place over the years, many of which have been recorded, presented, and published in catalogs, specialized and scientific publications, etc.

The proposed project, which focuses on the study of the state of the visual arts within the framework of historical context, socio-cultural interactions, and scientific and technological conditions, is thus a logical continuation of research in an area in which the team members are actively engaged.

METHODOLOGY

Methodologically speaking, the project takes several approaches that are generally connected. FIRST, it addresses the topic's historical development. NEXT, it encourages creative activity and documents, researches, analyzes, and publishes the findings.

The project envisions a variety of artistic endeavors pertaining to various media, settings, and circumstances. Results are derived from the analysis of documents and art critics, and they are presented in the form of a publication.

The project is intended to be developed concurrently in multiple directions, necessitating the use of various techniques and a broad methodology in its execution.

THE PRIMARY TECHNIQUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Systematizing the gathered documentation and creating an organized archive;
- Examining the processes in modern and contemporary art using a historiographical, inductive, and deductive approach;
- Deliberately gathering video and photo documentation that represents the various artistic performances of instructors and students from the "Visual Arts" department.

RESULTS

The output of the departments' team members' artistic and creative endeavors is showcased in a variety of publications and specialty editions and catalogs.

- Participation in the scientific conference "ART READINGS", Module NEW ART, which featured presentations of research findings on various aspects of artistic life in Bulgaria during the 20th century, was made possible within the project's framework.
- The following article by Senior Assist. Prof. Tsveta Petrova, PhD was published in the conference proceedings: The Viennese period in the oeuvre of Bistra Vinarova - the printmaking as a new vehicle for the artist; Art Readings 2023. Metamorphosis, 148-161, 2023, Thematic Peer-reviewed Art Studies Annual, Volumes I-II 2023.II. New Art, Web of Science (2017 -).
- A digital repository has been established containing student projects completed within the past five years.
- Over the previous five years, the teachers' design, publication, and artistic/creative endeavors have resulted in the creation of a digital archive.



(1) The printmaking studio's archive containing recent student artwork;
(2) The conference "Metamorphosis - Art Readings 2023" proceedings issue cover;
(3) The main page of an article by Senior Assist. Prof. Tsveta Petrova, Ph.D.;
(4) The schedule for the Metamorphosis - Art Readings 2023 conference;
(5) The archive containing recent student artwork (a portion of the printmaking studio archive);
(6) The collection of professors' catalogs, on the photo - the catalog of Ventsislava Stoyanova, Ph. D, Senior Assist. Prof. in the department of Visual Arts.

CONCLUSION

The updating of the technical and material foundation in the "Visual Arts" department studios directly affects student and teacher work and raises interest in artistic and creative performances.

The creation of a digital archive is an important activity in the department and lays the foundations for existing research in the field of taught disciplines.