

MOVEMENT AND STATICS - THEORETICAL RESEARCH AND ARTISTIC REALIZATIONS IN VISUAL GRAPHIC AND PLASTIC ARTS

HEAD OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

PROF. ANNA TZOLOVSKA PHD

RESEARCH AREA:
ART, TYPOGRAPHY, HISTORY OF ART,
SCULPTURAL RELIEF

The Department of Visual Arts of Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" is the only department in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", which is accredited by professional area 8.2. Fine Arts. The nature of the activities that are part of the department's curriculum is very different from any other. The way that the learning process occurs is also very specific. The teaching methods applied in various of the subjects are modified to suit the individual student, based on their own personal capabilities of assimilating the art forms and their subsequent visual expression. This is due to the fact that the goal of the programs in the department is to build and showcase the process of creating a unique, individual and highly personal work of art, based on universal knowledge and problems, adapted to the unique individuality of the student, treated as an artist in development. The members of the department participate in the academic community based on precisely this aspect of authorship expression. One aspect of our work is the carried out research on different matters regarding visual arts and their theoretical and historical components, in the context of contemporary tendencies, occurring as an interactive part with the present perspective of the art. Another one is the creation of new art pieces based on acquired skills following carried out practical experiments. This is part of the unique essence and character of the Department of Visual Arts. The process of acquiring different methods and techniques for creating art, from conceptualization to final execution, often involves overcoming compositional challenges related to the chosen materials. The resulting final artwork is presented alongside other contemporary pieces in curated exhibitions, competitions, and projects. The current project affects all the aforementioned specifics of professional area 8.2, in which the department works. The experimental research, realized thanks to the project, thus far has been primarily focused on the problematics of the "movement" in the artistic sculptural relief. Main topics have been its plastic possibilities and their reasoning, both as a philosophical and aesthetic concept in the context of the contemporary situation in art. So far, three out of the planned activities have been completed.

- Preliminary experimental design of a small-scale relief, with presentation and demonstration by Senior Assistant Nikoleta Ivanova-Stoimirova, PhD, during the "Open Art Sculpture Studio and Workshop "The Relief as a Sculptural Form and The Classical Method of Creating Sculptural Relief".
- The work of another group of students, which experiment particularly within the understanding of "movement" in sculptural relief, lead by Prof. Anna Tzolovska, PhD, is presented in an exhibition "Movement and Statics of The Sculptural Relief" in Gallery FESA, floor 3, FESA, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the period 20th of March until 20th of April.
- The third direction being pursued in the current project concerns the field of visual graphic design, specifically focusing on the typographic art within the paradigm of the historical context of socio-cultural relationships. Nikolay Petroussenko, a PhD student in the department, presented a research paper on the topic of "Typography as a weapon in the political propaganda of Nazi Germany" during INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ART READINGS 2024 • NEW ART MODULE ART AND HISTORY Sofia, 17th-19th of April 2024

"THE RELIEF AS A SCULPTURAL FORM AND THE CLASSICAL METHOD OF CREATING SCULPTURAL RELIEF"

The topic "The Relief as a Sculptural Form and The Classical Method of Creating Sculptural Relief" was presented by Senior Assistant Nikoleta Ivanova-Stoimirova, PhD at the "Open Art Sculpture Studio and Workshop" in the sculpture studio of Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" on March 18th 2024. This event is part of the work and experiments on the project "Movement and statics - theoretical research and artistic realizations in visual graphic and plastic arts". It was held in three parts - a lecture with a presentation, a demonstration on working with clay and plaster - casting models and molds, conducted by Ivanova-Stoimirova, and thirdly - experiments on the commented topic, made by the students who were guests.

There was a lecture in the first section of the event. The Senior Assistant explained theoretically what a sculptural relief is, indicated the different types and explicated the basic principles in the construction of the forms, the ways of working with clay and plaster in this case. During the lecture, a presentation with visual materials was displayed. Each move of creating a sculptural relief was shown through photographs.

In the second part, Ivanova-Stoimirova made a demonstration on working with plaster and casting models and molds. The demonstration included all the steps of "The Classical Method of Creating Sculptural Relief" that were previously shown in the presentation and a small-scale sculptural bas-relief was produced. The correct way to model the individual shapes in clay so they could be cast in plaster was shown. After that -- the technology of mixing strong and smooth plaster and pouring it on the clay model. Here was obtained the mold from which the finished plaster model was subsequently done.

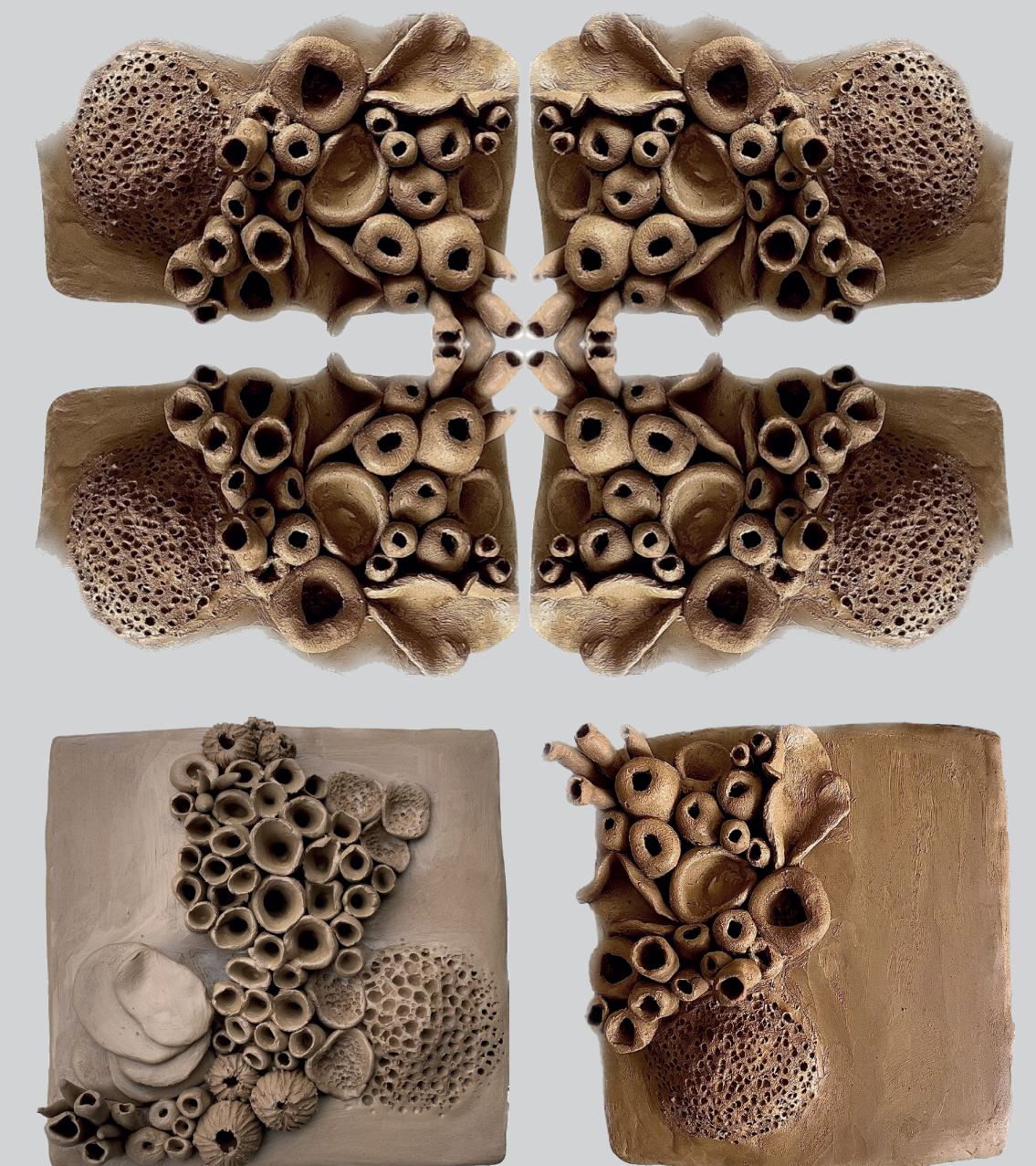
The third section was devoted to experiments on the project "Movement and statics - theoretical research and artistic realizations in visual graphic and plastic arts". Here, the students who attended and were audience for the lecture, presentation and demonstration had the opportunity to make their own small-scale bas-relief with the assistance of the lecturer. Each person was given the required amount of clay and time to make a simple relief form according to the rules shown in the previous stages of the event. Every participant mixed their own plaster and poured it onto their clay model - this is how the new molds were made. The process required mixing the plaster again and pouring it into the mold. After this step the ready plaster models were removed from the molds and finished.

As a result of the "Open Art Sculpture Studio and Workshop", each attendee received theoretical knowledge about sculptural relief as an object of visual art. The main principle of the workshop, in which everyone had the opportunity to create their own piece (bas-relief) and experiment with materials and forms, reinforced the knowledge gained during the lecture and presentation. Practical exercises leave a lasting impression on the minds of learners when it comes to applied and fine arts. At the event the connection between theory, technology and application was accomplished.

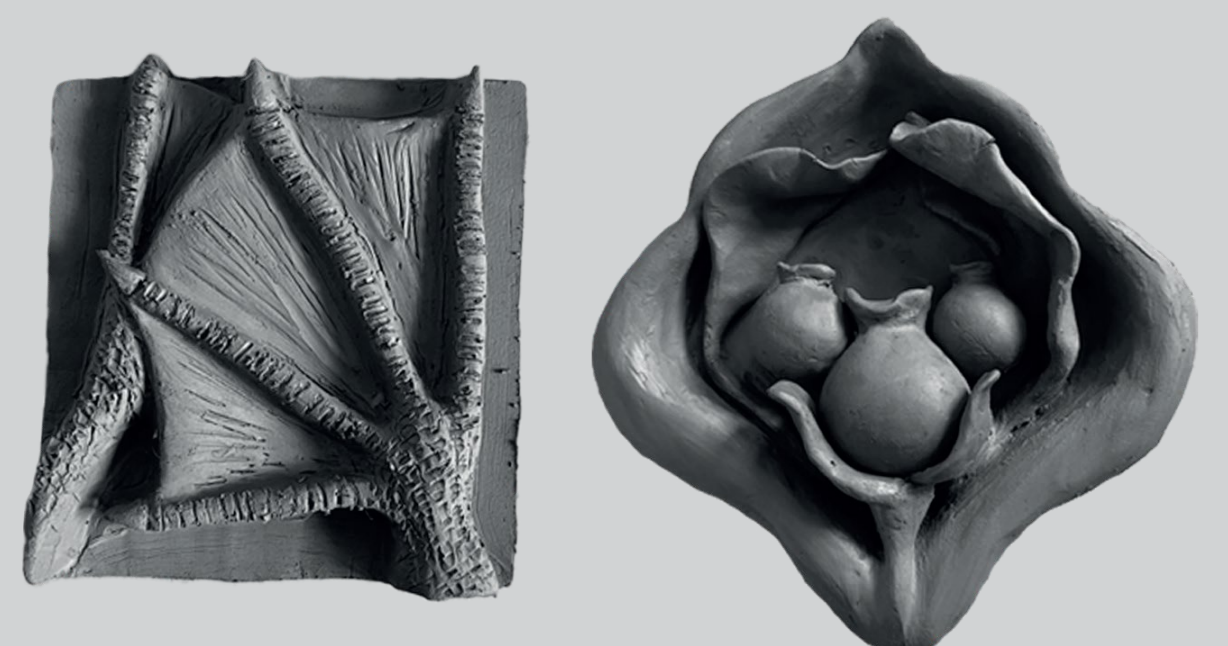


Photos from "Open Art Sculpture Studio and Workshop" in the sculpture studio of Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" on March 18th 2024

EXHIBITION "MOVEMENT AND STATICS OF THE SCULPTURAL RELIEF"



Sculptural details, made during the preliminary project design by Vanesa Eneva, student in Bachelor's programme Fine Arts, Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"



Sculptural details, made during the preliminary project design by Natalia Krisenko, student in Bachelor's programme Fine Arts, Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

"TYPOGRAPHY AS A WEAPON IN THE POLITICAL PROPAGANDA OF NAZI GERMANY"

Research Paper by Nikolay Petroussenko, PhD student in the Department of Visual Arts of Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" presented on ART READINGS 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, NEW ART MODULE ART AND HISTORY, Sofia, 17th-19th April 2024
Institute of Art Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Venue: Sofia, 21 Krakra St, Institute of Art Studies
Conference Hall 1, 17 April, Wednesday

Abstract: World War II was a sublime moment in human history, marked by unprecedented levels of destruction and ideological conflicts. Amid the turmoil, typography emerged as a powerful tool for political propaganda, shaping public perception and persuading citizens. This article explores how graphic design was used by Nazi Germany for manipulation and total control of the masses.

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