

## **STATEMENT**

by Assoc. Prof. Dobrin Yordanov Atanasov PhD

for awarding the educational and scientific degree PhD on  
professional direction: 1.3. Pedagogy of education in...  
(Methodology of Fine Art Education)

Thesis topic:

### **PLAYING FORMS IN THE STUDIES OF VISUAL ARTS IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

Author:

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The presented dissertation has the following structure: introduction, three chapters, conclusions and conclusion, contributions, list of publications of the PhD candidate on the topic of the dissertation and participation in conferences, declaration of originality and authorship, list of references used. The volume of the text is 153 pages. There is an appendix of 33 pages. It includes documentation of the experiment, including tables of empirical data, field protocols, lists and visual material.

The abstract in 49 pages correctly reflects the structure and content of the dissertation. The doctoral candidate has made three publications on the topic.

In the introduction of the dissertation the necessity of the dissertation is described, then the following are stated: scientific problem, topicality, object and subject of the research, as well as hypothesis. In the first chapter a theoretical study of literature related to the topic is made. The game is studied in cultural, sociological and historical aspects. Within these frameworks, the views of fundamental authors such as Kant, Schiller, Hoisingha, Tyler, Gadamer and Merzoev are mentioned. A parallel is drawn between the game and the work of art. The essence of the concept of "gamification", looking for the main connections, similarities and correlations between it, the game and art. The principles of image gamification are presented, giving a concrete example.

Next, water is discussed as a tool for pedagogical work in the context of non-formal education. A study of its use in the field of visual arts is made, and examples from the practices of a number of artists are presented.

The second chapter examines play in an educational context with a focus on informal educational practices. Attention is paid to the workshop as an organizational form and a basic tool in non-formal education. The methodological characteristics and research design are presented.

The third chapter presents the parameters of the derived training module and its implementation. The results of the experiment are presented and analyzed and the hypothesis is proved.

In the final part, conclusions are summarised and the potential for development is described.

#### Contributions:

1. The topic of the dissertation "Play Forms in Visual Arts Education in Non-Formal Education" has not been presented before in this format and represents the researcher's own insight and overview, drawing on scholarly

sources from the field.

2. Theoretical material, which is currently not published in Bulgarian scientific works, is selected, analyzed, systematized and translated.

3. An experimental learning model is structured, planned and derived that applies play forms as a learning tool in non-formal education.

4. A game structure based on a theoretical review is derived and applied as a system in deriving a design for a workshop.

5. A pedagogical model that incorporates an interdisciplinary arts approach is proposed. Areas such as the humanities, which are studied as distinct disciplines, are addressed and related to contemporary visual art forms in a compelling way.

6. An educational module is presented that can be transformed and composed into segments, thus offering a flexible application of the workshop learning tool during the experimental work with children of the selected age group.

7. Another innovation is the creation of a link between the environment, natural materials, working with them and modern digital tools.

8. A model has been developed that provides measurable outcomes that can be used to make comparisons, correlate the resulting data to assess how knowledge of contemporary visual art forms is improving.

My evaluation of the thesis, abstract, scientific publications and scientific contributions is positive. I consider that the submitted dissertation meets the necessary requirements, which give me grounds to propose to the Scientific Jury to award Marina Lachezarova Aleksandrova the educational and scientific degree PhD.

10.10.2023 г.

Assoc. Prof. PhD Dobrin Atanasov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dobrin Atanasov', written in a cursive style. The signature is located to the right of the printed name.