

## REVIEW

*Of the scientific production and activities of Senior Assistant Professor, PhD, SILVIA EMILOVA BORISOVA-SPASOVA, participant in the competition for acquiring the scientific position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 2.3. Philosophy (Aesthetics), for the needs of the Department of Culture, Aesthetics, Values at IPS, BAS, announced in State Gazette, Issue 67, 28.07.2020*

*Reviewer: Professor, DSc Ivanka Georgieva Stapova*

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMPETITION**

The sole participant in the declared competition is Senior Assistant Professor, PhD Silvia Borisova. She has submitted an excellently arranged (objective, proper and comprehensive) set of documents and scientific works, on the basis of which she is competing; this includes: *one monograph, three studies, five articles*. She has also submitted a detailed list of activities related to her academic activities to date: two monographs, 8 studies, 25 articles, 8 scientific announcements, 10 translations of scholarly and literary texts. Borisova has described her participations in scientific research projects as head of project, coordinator, or consultant. In addition to her scientific production, the candidate has presented a considerable amount of activities as lecturer, editor, consultant, expert, reviewer, compiler, as well as 22 participations in scientific forums, 6 participations in applied aesthetics projects, and 5 interviews. To this administrative description of Silvia Borisova's activities relevant to her quality of competitor for the position of Associate Professor, I should add the comprehensive table demonstrating that her publication activities meet the requirements of the NCID. She fully covers the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor Borisova has presented a full list of citations of her works, including

their complete bibliographic description, as well as indications of the contributive features for each of the works based on which she is participating in the competition.

***SOME SIGNIFICANT FEATURES IN THE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF SILVIA BORISOVA***

Borisova is participating in the competition with her second monograph book, entitled *Aesthetics of Quietness and Silence* (Gutenberg Publishers, 2019, 232 pages). The text consists of a *foreword, six chapters and a bibliography*. This is an inspired and successful attempt to synchronize classical categories of aesthetics, woven into a harmonious tissue of beauty (as the leading structural component) and the creatively illuminated, newly or innovatively interpreted, categories of quietness (soundlessness) and silence. The interweaving of traditional and “new” categories shapes an unsuspected value perspective, a fantastic flower garden inhabited by quietness and silence, which continuously weave new meanings, cut old knots and sparkle again from unlighted aesthetical spaces, shining out in hitherto unknown usages. Quietness and silence here are not fixed dry as in a herbarium, within the empty presences of infinity or amidst apathetic and passive subjects. In Borisova’s work, they are active and expressive.

***GENERAL REMARKS ON THE CONTRIBUTIVE ASPECTS***

1. The main work with which Borisova is participating in the competition is *Aesthetics of Quietness and Silence*. This is an integral, original study focused on the conceptual framework of two insufficiently studied categories – quietness and silence. The study offers a systematic reading of quietness (soundlessness) and its subjective human correlate, silence, approached as a cultural-philosophical problem in their philosophical-anthropological and phenomenological-aesthetic dimensions and in the context of the Western worldview.

2. Written in a colorful and expressive language, the monograph provokes readers, offering them conceptions, suggesting ideas, stimulating them towards their own innovativeness and creative endeavor.

3. In her theoretical-philosophical study, Silvia Borisova breaks through the restrictive framework of a rigorous scientific idiom; her thought is centered on the aesthetical analysis of two borderline categories – quietness and silence, which ardently pursue their primal “yearning for the absolute”. In seeking the problem field amidst metaphors, the author in turn creates metaphors herself.

4. Silvia Borisova’s book curtsies to the genre of the aesthetical-philosophical essay, which is present here full-bloodedly in a new guise, emotionally charged and woven out of poetry, elation, and figurative language – precisely through quietness and silence – a quietness that is always full of topics to be spoken on, and silence turned into a subdued whisper or a resounding cry....

5. The eight smaller scientific text forms (3 studies and 5 articles) define the orientation of research on various aesthetical problems, which complement the general picture of the candidate’s creative interests: the studies reflect the aestheticization of emotions in art, viewed as basic categories related to creative performance and perception, the study of the kinship and contrast between myth and metaphor and, in this sense, their permanent dialectical relation and inseparability (a dialectical relation already marked in Schelling’s concept of the primordial); the study of the problem field of negative aesthetics and its potential to produce topical interpretations of the phenomena of the modern (aestheticized) cultural situation.

## ***CONCLUSION***

Senior Assistant Professor Silvia Emilova Borisova-Spasova is participating in the announced competition for holding the academic position of Associate Professor based on a compelling set of scientific works, which signal her scientific interests and creative searches. This candidate certainly defends her participation in the competition persuasively. Borisova is creative, inspired, and erudite – a scholar for whom scientific searching in the field of aesthetics, the philosophy of culture and art has long become a creative life mission. The defense of the sphere of the spiritual, inspired by new and varied perspectives, enable the author to work with imagination and to seek new, unexplored niches and fields of aesthetics.

*Based on the indisputable creative qualities of Silvia Borisova, I will with full conviction and a clear conscience vote “yes” on awarding the academic position of Associate Professor, and I recommend that the jury members unanimously support that the SC of IPS award her the academic position of Associate Professor.*

*November, 2020*

*Professor, DSc Ivanka Georgieva Stapova*