

OPINION

by

Prof. D.Sc. Peter Tzanev,

Department of Psychology of Art and Art Education, National Academy of Arts, Sofia

Professional Field 8.2 Fine Arts (Art Studies and Fine Arts)

for acquiring the academic degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)

in Professional Field 8.1 Theory of Arts

with a candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boyan Krasimirov Manchev

In the last 20 years, Boyan Manchev established himself as one of the most interesting Bulgarian thinkers with a specific intellectual aura. Manchev's theoretical texts and polemical presence combine sophisticated erudition and captivating rhetoric. Manchev's deep knowledge of the ancient and modern philosophy of art corresponds with an extremely insightful view of the development of contemporary art and the most current trends of its theoretical interpretation.

I want to say that I admire the appearance of this dissertation in the field of art theory. In the great dialectic between the philosophical disenfranchisement of art and the philosophical empowerment of ideas about art (if I may use this famous formulation of Arthur Danto), Manchev's original philosophical program offers a new intellectual path for the future of art.

Very few authors worldwide dare to locate a conceptual structure of their research in the seemingly impassable zone between history of art, philosophical art criticism and philosophy of art. Manchev's respectable efforts as an art theorist are related to the challenge to reveal the structure of the philosophical essence in the creative act, which gives rise to the idea of art.

The search for the epistemological foundations of the work of art in the origin of the image as a modus and situation in the creative act, which today overturns the notions of its possible constitution as a dynamic human virtuality, in Manchev's philosophical analysis spread from Plato, Aristotle and Ficino through Kant and Fichte to Bataille and Deleuze, homologously

coincides with the analysis of the conceptual structures that give rise to "philosophical figurology" as an inner dynamic character and eternal magical tool of the creator.

Boyan Manchev is an associate professor in direction 2.3 Philosophy, at the Department of "Art Studies and Cultural History" at the New Bulgarian University (from 2021 at the Department of Fine Arts), visiting professor in Berlin, USA and Tokyo.

The dissertation "Art and Poiesis: Philosophy of the Image and Philosophical Figurology. Attempts at the epistemology of the foundations of the theory of art" is composed of three separate parts, each of which has an independent meaning: the study "The other origin of art" [« L'autre origine de l'art », 2021] and the books "The Alteration of the World . For a radical esthetics" [L'alteration du monde. Pour une esthétique radicale, 2009 / 2020] and "The New Athanor. Beginnings of Philosophical Fiction" (2020).

The dissertation has a volume of 390 pages and a bibliography that includes 410 titles (196 titles of Cyrillic) and (214 titles in Latin).

Manchev's hypothesis is that the modal axiomatics of the idea of art finds its energetic potential in the idea of creativity. According to him, beyond the seemingly tautological nature of this statement, due to the banalization of the idea of creativity, we must think of the possibility of forming the idea of art as inseparable from the unfolding of a new ontological modality, whose privileged expression is precisely the idea-practice of art (p. 27). Art becomes the privileged mode of a new modality of the world (a modality of the world, but also a modality for the world), which can precisely be hidden through the idea of creativity or poiesis.

Scientific contributions of the dissertation

I completely agree with the formulated scientific contributions.

Particularly valuable, in my opinion, is the proposed model of 'philosophical figurology', having the dual function of an epistemological tool and a method of reading and interpreting images. The model of 'philosophical figurology' complements the hypothesis of the constitutive role of philosophy in the formation of an autonomous idea of art in modernity with the assumption of an artistic or poetic modality of the formation of philosophical concepts and concepts, as well as for its role in the self-legitimization of philosophical practice.

Publications reflecting the dissertation theses

The works that make up the three parts of the work have already been published and have been further developed in the dissertation work.

Abstract

The abstract meets the necessary requirements in terms of volume and content.

Critical notes and recommendations

I have no critical notes and recommendations for the presented dissertation.

Conclusion

The presented dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation, and the Rules for the conditions for the acquisition of academic degrees.

I give a positive assessment of the dissertation and recommend to the honorable Scientific Jury to award the academic degree Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boyan Krasimirov Manchev in Professional Field 8.1 Theory of Arts.

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Sofia

Prof. D.Sc. Peter Tzanev