

The first issue of the e-journal Art & Critique – a publication of the National Academy of Art for scientific and critical interpretation of current problems in the visual arts – has been brought into existence.

The project on structuring and building an internet platform for current scientific publications has the ambition to continue the wonderful tradition set in the specialised periodical with the same name, whose first issue was published in 2009. The first issues aroused great interest not only in the scientific circles in the field of fine arts, and of teachers and students, but also among a much wider readership, proving the need for such a scientific publication.

The idea to renew this authoritative publication in an electronic environment appeared long before the current circumstances caused by the global pandemic, but the result of which means an increasing part of communication between people inevitably takes place through the global internet. One of the main goals of the electronic academic platform for scientific research and publications in the field of fine arts and design was to adequately fit into modern dynamic forms of transmission and receiving of information, allowing for interactivity, and the option to directly follow links to external information resources.

The publication will present not only theoretical research on various fields and periods of art history, focusing on new interpretative scientific approaches and analyses, but also a professional perspective and assessment of the dynamics and diversity of cultural processes and phenomena in modern public life. In this way, the journal would contribute to the promotion of current academic, artistic, scientific and cultural projects, as well as events of importance and with participation at a national and international level. Analytical and curatorial texts representing bright individual creative and artistic manifestations have a special place and significance.

The structure of the academic electronic publication provides direct access to three main sections: Scientific Announcements, Operational Critique and Doctoral Research. Short abstracts direct the reader to the full and illustrated text of the specific publication. The platform also has an information section for contacts and instructions to authors wishing to have their texts published. The content of the issues and short summaries of the articles will be presented in the English language version of the journal. The frequency of the publication is twice per year.

The editorial board of the publication consists of leading specialists from various fields of art history, fine arts and design. The work done by the publication team is invaluable, as it includes the construction and

structuring of the online platform, graphic design, proofreading and translation of texts. The team's efforts are focused on the aesthetic vision of the publication consistent with maximum interactive functionality and ease of access through any current electronic device.

As an integral part of the publishing activity of our educational institution, a dynamic and highly professional functioning electronic journal Art and Critique would contribute to raising and emphasising the authority, educational and cultural role of the National Academy of Art. However, the most important goal of the publication is to be a platform of inspiration and polemics, where students, teachers, artists and audiences can engage with and utilise shared discoveries and cultural values, and discover their new ideas and perspectives.

Good luck!

Prof. Dr. Mania Vaptsarova

Editor-in-Chief