

Letter of the Dean of the Faculty of Media Art, Nana Iashvili

Tbilisi State Academy of Art, since 1922, is one of the most successful and distinguished higher art educational institutions in Caucasian region, as well as, in the whole post-Soviet space. It has always adopted definite position in the avant-garde of contemporary age. Right the gained experience had been transformed to the steadfast tradition, in which, the academic approach and current research are constantly full-filling each-other.

It's just 5 years since the time, when, in quite a traditional and ambitious-conservative atmosphere of this higher art school, and through overcoming various counterchecking, the academy was appended by the Faculty of Media Art, based on fundamental academic educational principles, though - built up, by applying new technologies, powerful general-theoretical, art and historian basic and general subjects courses. After establishing, the faculty history is closely related with education reformation process, taken place in Georgia.

In 2006, it was the first time, when, the Faculty of Media Art became introduced with Romulado del Bianco Foundation, organization, that provides with a chance to be seen internationally and encourages mutual exchanges of knowledge among young students, academicians and professionals, transmitting the values of interpersonal and intercultural dialogue, reciprocal awareness and understanding.

In 2007, the Faculty of Media Art, and then, in 2008, the Tbilisi State Academy of Art, had signed the Memorandum on Collaboration with the foundation. Professors- Nana Iashvili, Dean of the Faculty of Media Art, and Giorgi Bughadze, Rector, had become experts of the Foundation, participating annually in the Experts Round Table with the goal of promoting and planning the foundation future activities.

Collaboration appeared to be fruitful and successful, as for several visits of the academy delegations, including professors and students, participation in virtual expo, international students workshops, had pointed the way to winning international prizes by presenting degree projects. In November, 2008, the BA graduate-Shorena Otkhзорia had won the Medal of the President of Italy in the field of design, and then , the Prize-2 000 Euros for the most visible project of Virtual Expo - "Degree and Profession"; in June, 2008, the BA III year undergraduate-Sopio Chkhenkeli had won the Prize - 500 Euros for the best photography work; in November, 2009, the BA graduates Sopio Gogoladze had won the "Life Beyond Tourism Award" of 4 000 Euros and Sopio Antidze the Medal of the President of Italy in the field of design. As a supervisor of the degree projects, I had been suggested to make a speech - sharing professional experience, that was held in November, 2009.

I have pleasure to note Mr. Paolo Del Bianco's appreciation and benevolence towards Georgia. I won't be original in saying that every single representative of different countries has the similar thought, when considering Mr. Paolo's attitude towards his/her national country. I suppose, that's the unique feature, that impart all activities, so named-projects of Del Bianco Foundation, such an attractive and

alluring appearance. This feature, indeed, is of great value, as for supporting acting in the contemporary space, especially for young professionals, professors, university activities.

Cultural heritage-tangible and intangible-“discovering the past together - working to build a shared future” is the major motto of the foundation’s already acting projects: “Life beyond tourism”, Florence World Festival - “Degree & Profession”, as well as the relatively new ones: Regional Festival -“Degree & Profession”, “University delegates and their club”, directed towards the Foundation future development and expanding perspectives.

What about my collaboration with the Foundation - powerful institution, serving for more stronger integration with Western cultures, it’s truly, the great honor for me and my faculty, to be provided with a chance of introducing my faculty acting outcomes to an international professional audience. As a result of 4 years long fruitful collaboration, I’m glad to extend hospitality to the Regional Festival -“Degree & Profession” - Virtual Expo and International Conference -“ Life beyond tourism” in Tbilisi, on 20-23 April, 2010, that, I hope, will acquire annual character, and include all art fields, presented in the Tbilisi State Academy of Art: Media art - video art and animation, photography, visual and digital art; Architecture-interior, civil architecture, urban planning; Cultural heritage, art history and theory; Fine art-painting, graphics, plastics; Design-fashion, jewellery, textile, artistic ceramic and glass.

Welcome to Tbilisi! Wish you successful interpersonal and intercultural collaboration!

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