

The Value of Creative Education in Training the Future Specialists in the Field of Creative Arts - Architecture, Interior Design, Fine Arts

Angela Munteanu¹ & Ivanov Valeriu²

¹ Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, Department of Architecture, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

² Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Constructions, Geodesy and Cadastre, Department of Law, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Correspondence: Angela Munteanu, Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, Department of Architecture, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

Received: July 15, 2022

Accepted: August 19, 2022

Available online: August 24, 2022

doi:10.11114/ijsss.v10i5.5691

URL: <https://doi.org/10.11114/ijsss.v10i5.5691>

Abstract

Objective: The research presents the efficiency and importance of the studied theme, the capitalization of creative education through the interaction of arts and creation. Thus, creativity being the main statement that motivated this qualitative study coming to explain clear principles of formation of a modern personality, capable of continuous adaptation to the unpredictable challenges and conjunctures of life, which can be defined only through the prism of the process of creative development.

Methodology: Our study focuses on the development and applicative role of creativity through all methods and forms of related arts: architecture, urbanism, interior design, visual arts, applied in the curriculum of the higher school of architecture in the Republic of Moldova, which have an important role in the moral formation of personality skills, of the specialist in architecture, a modern person who can easily integrate into the labor market.

Findings: Finally, the flexibility of approach and implementation of creativity in the study program, demonstrates through our work through multiple examples of outstanding personalities formed within the higher school of architecture in the Republic of Moldova, who only through the strategy of creativity offered them a wide spectrum of professional affirmation activities and the opportunity to work in a preferred field.

Keywords: education, valorization, creativity, architect, creative arts, visual arts



“The art is the world in which you can escape, meditate and create.”

/Andy Warhol/

1. Introduction

The approach of the concept of creativity by applying in the educational process at different levels of the medium and higher specialized institutions, especially of the higher school of architecture in the Republic of Moldova, the Technical University of Moldova in our case, is a very important one both for the study programs with a realistic and humanistic profile.

The main goal of the higher school of architecture of the Republic of Moldova, within the Technical University of Moldova is to train specialists endowed with well-developed creativity skills on several criteria. The art of education

guided by principles of creativity aims to form a multilateral thinking, in our case of future specialists-architects, here we can discuss about graduates, who can work in different related creative fields: architecture, urbanism, interior design, engineering, visual arts (Munteanu, 2016; Munteanu, 2020, p. 68; Andronic, 2018).

Although today in the Republic of Moldova the offer on the labor market of architecture specialists is practically a completed one, our graduates lead a fierce competition for primacy, they can assert themselves in architecture, urbanism, interior design, engaging in a design office of a renowned architect or to open their own, other directions of employment are fields such as arts and industries, but also offers from abroad.

2. Principles of Creative Education within the Technical University of Moldova, Representatives

Ever since the founding of the Department of Architecture (1964) within the Polytechnic Institute of Moldova "Serghei Lazo" (1964), (today the Technical University of Moldova), at the Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, Department of Architecture (formerly the Department of Architecture) were educated personalities-architects with reputation in the country and abroad and dynasties of architect families, such as: Bognibov Eugeniu, Iaroslav Taras, Vladimir Gaidas, Mihail Sargorodski, Ivan Kozlovski, Eremciuc Vasile, Povar Iurie, Studzinski Ion, Borozan Sergiu, Iatuc Iurie and many others, those who go on the trends of classical and traditional architecture, but also the contemporary one, have designed important architectural buildings throughout the Republic of Moldova and not only, in value enriching the built cultural heritage of the country (Vacarciuc, 2014).

But today's young, more innovative architects come through ideas and visions of approaching the form embedded in the concepts of contemporary architecture for the Republic of Moldova. An example of creativity and the correlation of the past with the present, through the personalized character of the built edifice, we discover in the creation of the architecture built by the young and ambitious Moldovan architect, Maxim Calujac, the graduate of the Department of Architecture, FUA, UTM. Architect Maxim Calujac, in 2019 participates and becomes the winner of the European Union Awards for Contemporary Architecture contest – "Mies van der Rohe, 2019", with the project realized - ARTCOR edifice in Chisinau, being "a contemplation and special communication between architecture and nature" (Ministry of education and research, 2019).

"One of the only ways to get out of a tight box is to invent your way out."

/Jeff Bezos/

The ARTCOR building houses the Center of Creative Industries located in the urban area of the historical center of Chisinau, in the inner courtyard of the Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts. The ambience of the exterior space of the edifice embedded in a site is the creative and contemplative environment for students and guests, completed with industrial furniture inspired by the architectural form of the edifice and made by the young designer Mihai Stamati from the Technical University of Moldova, in the forms of silhouettes of flying birds that complete the compositional and creative idea of the outer space of the courtyard, Figure 1 (Artcor, 2019).



Figure 1. Maxim Calujac. Artcor Creative Industries Center

The construction of the ARTCOR hub itself was joined to an existing study block, perimeter-aligned, keeping the old trees near two walls of the edifice. Vertical and horizontal green architecture is read on the roof of the adjoining construction, providing a landscape of the natural setting, which with time can expand to the adjacent construction.

Revolutionary stylistic interference of the very expressively designed ARTCOR built edifice, in the middle of the historical blocks of eclectic stylistics predominantly with Russian influence. Another special moment is the graphic resolution of the décor of the yard pavement. The varied harmonization of straight lines in the design of the construction

and a seven-legged graphic drawing at the attic of the inner courtyard, as if a riverbed with the black granite bed impluted with river stone completes the scene finely directed by architect Maxim Calujac.

The ARTCOR building is a first hub in the Republic of Moldova, which aims to develop the creative industries in the country, so that they become internationally competitive (Artcor, 2019).



Figure 2. Maxim Calujac. Creative Industries Center, Artcor, decorative elements (Mask David) of the façade

The expressive extetics of the ARTCOR building architecture, designed and realized by the architect, is perfectly inscribed in an organic form of the snail shell through the silhouette of the stairs, a mathematical element connected to the Fibonacci spiral (Abaci, 2002).

The facade is completed with classic elements from the Mask of David, by the sculptor, Renaissance painter Michelangelo Buonaroti, patterns rhythmically scattered on the façade of raw concrete, Figure 2. Next, we can see facades made of panels ferreted in metal screws, wooden surfaces with a warm natural texture on which we read silhouettes engraved by trees, Figure 3 (Munteanu, 2020).

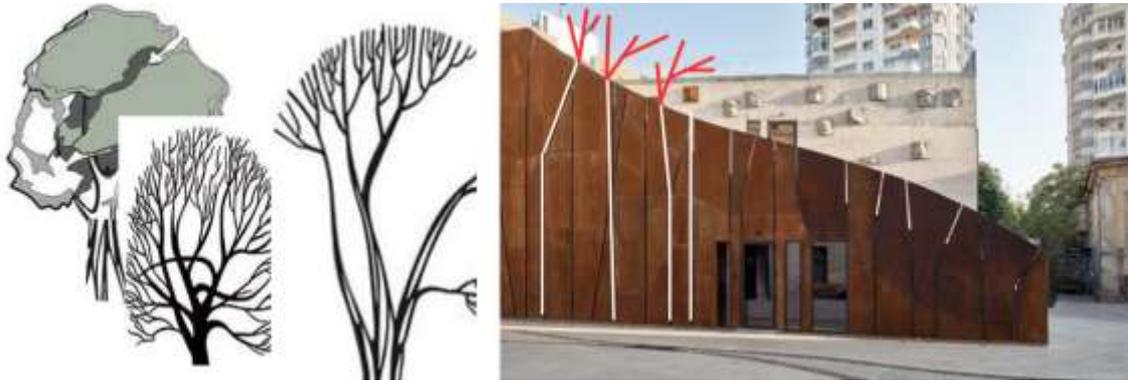


Figure 3. Maxim Calujac. ARTCOR, elements of incorporated faade trees

The philosophy of approach and solving through the finesse of ideas and the combination of materials is its own on the outside and inside of the edifice, the challenging and inspired environment, where large masses of young people gather in different fields, organize and record the most valuable cultural events in Chisinau.

ARTCOR is a non-state educational institution with an experimental approach to the educational process. Professionals and student architects, designers, illustrators, application developers, photographers, videographers, journalists and many other representatives of different professions can do their studies there. This is a large research laboratory, with workshops and start-up collaborations through an applied approach to creativity, and the main objective is to find new ideas and create successful commercial and social projects, long-term and short-term, small and large scale in the development of creative industries.

"Art must be daily, and public space an art ..."

The design of the interior space brings together raw finishes of concrete, rustic stone and brick, embossed plaster exposed on the walls and ceilings by volumetric modules, all these personalize the unmistakable urban stylistics.

The libertine interior space is organized in conference areas, round tables with exhibitions of painting and sculpture that harmonize and color the exciting space at discussion and meditation, Figure 4.

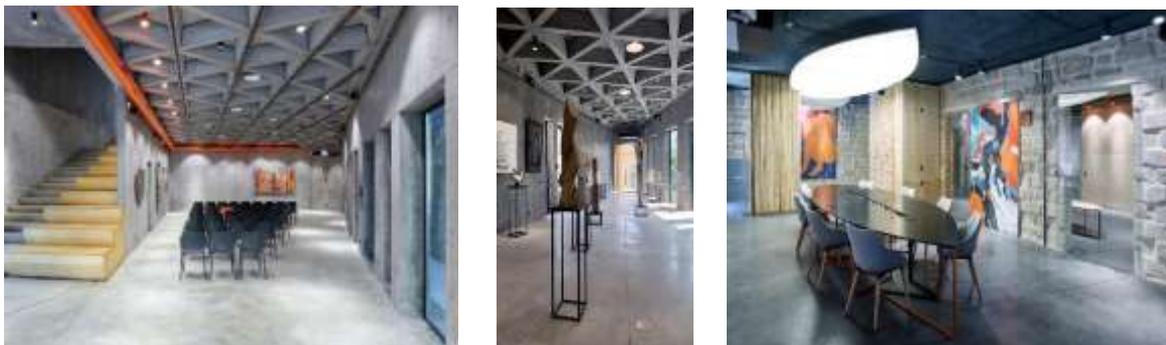


Figure 4. Maxim Calujac. Artcor Creative Industries Center, indoor spaces

As the author, the architect Maxim Calujac, mentions, the concept of the built edifice, but also through its philosophical and creative attitude, the work conveys *"... the principles followed in the object designed by the laconic style expressed, and architecture must not dominate nature, it is meant to create a harmony between the plastic and emotive lines that erase the boundary of the two meridians, forming a whole..."*

Therefore, the emphasis in the curricula of the study program for future architects of the School of Architecture of the Republic of Moldova is the art of education through creativity, a universal art of architecture being a reality, a desideratum or a metaphor: *and they, ... architects build paradise, day by day, row by row, everything they see, everything they feel, everything that passes through their thoughts, feelings, words, aspirations and ideas. Architects build paradise for people and gods...* (Munteanu, 2020; Munteanu, 2019; UTM, 2016).

Creative and outstanding personalities, graduates of the Architecture Department are devoted specialists - architects, sculptors, painters and art critics, such as: Eugen Bognibov, Ion Chitoroaga, Eleonora Brigalda-Barbas, Ludmila Zastavnichi-Sheremet, Victor Drebot, Nicoleta Vacaru, Victoria Baluel and many others, specialists in architecture but also wide fields of artistic creativity, research or design (Munteanu, 2013).



Figure 5. Eugen Bognibov. Landscape. Chisinau morning. Urban landscape, oil/cloth

An example of a specialist formed after the educational curriculum through creativity of the school of architecture program is the architect, professor, associate professor, doctor of architecture, Eugen Bognibov, graduate of the first promotion of the school of architecture in the Republic of Moldova (1965-1970), department of Architecture, Technical University of Moldova.

The young graduate continues his doctoral studies in Moscow, and after graduating, he begins his activity of professing within the Department of Architecture, being a period, the head of the department. Architect Eugen Bognibov is involved in the design of new districts of Chisinau, research and editing of scientific works. But more important is the education of a new class of architects that becomes a priority, creativity and architecture two indispensable elements for the future field. His professional training allows Professor Eugen Bognibov, in his free time, to dedicate himself to painting, illustrating images of the Moldovan mioritic area, but also the landscapes in the historical area of his place of birth, the city of Chisinau, Figure 5 (Bognibov, 1975; Munteanu, 2021)

Architects and plastic artists who work both in the Technical University of Moldova, become members of the Union of Architects of Moldova, members of the Union of Fine Artists of Moldova, some settled abroad, who are known for their works.

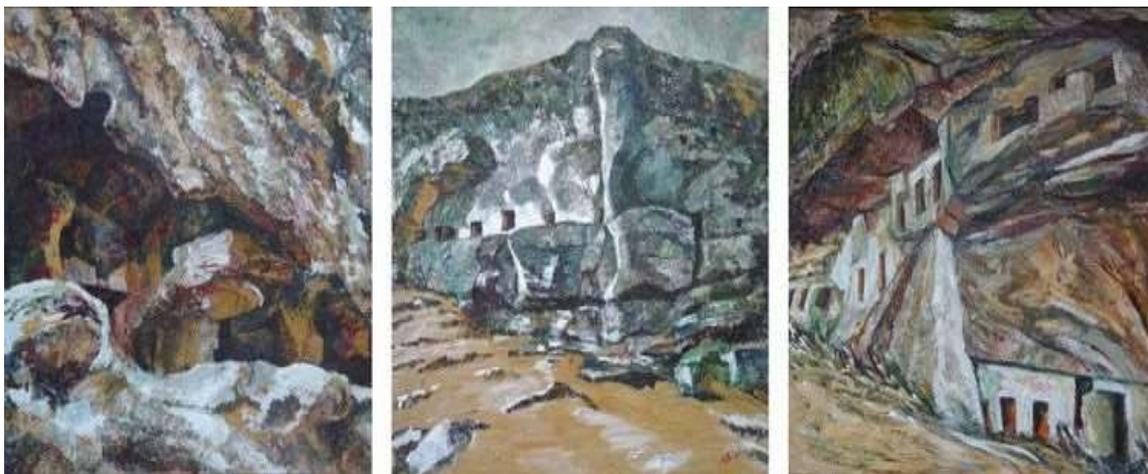


Figure 6. Eleonora Brigalda-Barbas Cave monasteries, 1997 oil / canvas

University professor, art critic, doctor in art theory, Eleonora Brigalda-Barbas, graduate of the Department of Architecture, UTM, initially gets involved in architectural design, after which scientific research and profession at the "Ion Creanga" State Pedagogical University, she realizes genre painting.

The creative genre of Eleonora Brigalda-Barbas painting is a varied one from painting with classical traditions, after which it goes more deeply into the genre of historical painting, it fulfills numerous landscapes of the edifices of cave monasteries in Moldova, holy and silent places, for example, the work Cave monasteries (1997) Figure 6, triptych composition, monumental painting in oil colors, worked with mastery and gentleness in quiet tones of sonorous colors

(Munteanu, 2021; Barbas-Brigalda, 2002).

From the generation of young graduates of the school of architecture is Nicoleta Vacaru, who is involved in both architectural design and interior design where the interior space is completed with her works of art.



Figure 7. Nicoleta Vacaru. Portraits worked in string art technique

Therefore, the graduate of the architecture school, Nicoleta Vacaru, approaches creativity through the visual arts and techniques of using working materials, very varied and personalized, including the technique of nails and threads - string art, the technique preferred by the architect painter (Figure 7, 8). Nicoleta Vacaru creates paintings with close themes together with her college colleague Victoria Balutel, today settled in the United States of America. Vibration of colors and emotions, they convey the message to the viewer through symbols and shapes printed on the canvas (Munteanu, 2022).



Figure 8. Nicoleta Vacaru. Exhibition in nature. Works from the author's collection

Nicoleta Vacaru's art represents portraits full of energy and emotions experienced by the author and transmitted to the visitor through the character represented.



Figure 9. Nicoleta Vacaru. Works in string art technique, the painting embedded in the interior space

Unmistakable, metaphorical art on matte or sliding graphic and chromatic backgrounds of the painter's canvas. The studies received at the faculty in architecture and interior design through the arts, a field of creativity, allow the painter Nicoleta Vacaru to also propose a design of the interior space relevant to her stylistically connected paintings, Figure 9, (Munteanu, 2021).

With a training in architecture, however, Nicoleta Vacaru finds herself in the development of the form of plastic expression, constantly remaining the type of portrait interpreted and one customized for each work, whether for exhibitions in the most prestigious galleries in the world or those made to order, which are numerous.

Victoria Balutel, the young architect settled in America after completing architecture school, where the fields of artistic creation unite all forms of manifestation: photography, painting and architecture (Figure 10 a, b) the fields of interest and symbiosis between concept, research and creativity.

Conceptual architecture projects are the concerns of the young architect Victoria Balutel, with proposals for the revitalization of urban spaces, project concepts proposed for the architectural realization of urban spaces in the United States.



Figure 10. Victoria Balutel. Area revitalization project. Self-portrait, photography, mathematical matrix from different views

In the same way, the creative photographic framework is the works composed by Victoria Balutel from modular photographs, organized according to matrix principles of balance and harmony like classical architecture and naturalistic painting with wildflowers, Figure 11. Therefore, all the works, regardless of the field addressed, illustrate the atmosphere of the expressive and creative character of the architect, the painter Victoria Balutel (Balutel, 2022).



Figure 11. Victoria Baluțel. Oil painting - landscape, portrait and floristic compositions

Finally, we note that the freedom of training and thinking of the graduates of the School of Architecture from Moldova, UTM, are specialists guided by the university curriculum of the Architecture study program, which pursues the development of young people in the creative fields: architecture, interior design, offering the possibility for integration in the field of work.



Figure 12. Zastavnitchi-Seremet. Spring landscape, oil/cloth

Professor and plastic artist Ludmila Zastavnitchi-Seremet, from the Technical University of Moldova, member of the Union of Plastic Artists from the Republic of Moldova, impresses with her creative and personalized technique.

The painting of the teacher, Ludmila Zastavnitchi-Seremet, is a role model for students in fashion design, a special one due to the execution technique, where at the final stage she applies spontaneous effects obtained through the jet of flowing color, reminiscent of the huge paintings of the American artist Jackson Pollock (Girod, 2018).

Still life and landscape are the favorite genres of the painter Ludmila Zastavnitchi-Seremet, paintings that include images of the Moldovan countryside or urban, through camera or panoramic aspects painted in a juicy range of colors.



Figure 13. Ludmila Zastavnitchi-Seremet. Static nature with mirror, u / p, 50x60 cm. Landscape Flowering spring, u / p, 70x50 cm. Still life on the windowsill, u / p, 50x60 cm, author's collection

The personalization of the paintings of the artist Ludmila Zastavnitchi-Seremet is the technique of splashing with graphic colors to achieve the unusual effect of colorful spontaneity, Figure 12, 13 (Zastavnitchi-Seremet, 2021).

The principles-model of manifestation of creativity transmit the works and creative art of the teachers from the School of Architecture of the Republic of Moldova, the Technical University of Moldova through all forms of representation: architectural design, interior design, painting, graphics, sculpture, etc. for engineering students, architects, designers, concepts pursued by university curricula for the Architecture program. Flexible approach through creativity starting from the UTM motto - "The engineer creates the future", allows UTEM graduates to be employed in related fields: architecture, interior design, visual arts, ensuring a bright future for the graduates of the Architecture program.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we observe that our scientific research in the field of the architecture program has demonstrated the importance of creativity for the formation of the culture and professionalism of student architects, designers, and future creative specialists. The freedom of multilateral manifestation, focused on stimulating the imagination, understanding and applying the architectural-plastic language leads to creativity and professional development of the future architect.

Therefore, creativity stimulates the personal development of specialists in the field through the intervention of the arts in the higher school of architecture in the Republic of Moldova, and through our research we have demonstrated through ample examples of outstanding personalities, graduates of the Department of Architecture, FUA, UTM, examples for future training of the student-architect through creativity and spirituality, towards the freedom of creative expression in the related fields: architecture, interior design, visual arts.

Confirmation

This paper is a result of the scientific project "Postdoctoral Programs" for the years 2021-2022, priority: Societal Challenges, entitled: Morphological stylistics in interior design, architecture, fine arts in Moldova, with the number 21.00208.8007.11 / PD.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to the experts for their appropriate and constructive suggestions to improve this work.

References

- Abaci, L. S. (2002). *Book of calculations, 1240. Leonardus of Fibonacci, Pisanus.* - New York, NY: Springer New York, 2002. Retrieved June 14, 2022, from https://archive.org/stream/springer_10.1007-978-0-306-48517-6/10.1007-978-0-306-48517-6_djvu.txt
- Andonic, S. F. (2018). *Charter of the Technical University of Moldova*: approved at the UTM Senate meeting on 26.05.2015, Pr.-Verb. No. 11. "Tehnica - UTM" publishing house, Chisinau, pp. 44.
- ARTCOR - *the center of creative industries will be launched in Moldova.* (2019). Online page: 29/05/2019 category: arts & design, culture, Moldova. Retrieved June 14, 2022, from <https://locals.md/2019/artcor-centrul-industriilor-creative-va-fi-lansat-in-moldova-pe-3-iunie/>
- Balutel, V. L. (2022). *Blog: News for young people.* Retrieved June 16, 2022, from <https://www.facebook.com/viculina.balutel>
- Barbas-Brigalda, E. C. (2002). *The evolution of genre painting from the Republic of Moldova.* (Ed. 1) Chisinau. Publisher: Science, 2002, 107 p.

- Bognibov, E. A. (1975). *Architecture of Moldavskoi SSR*. In Kodru Magazine, Nr. 11, pp. 34.
- Botez-Crainic, A. R. (2004). *History of Fine Arts, volume I*, Didactic and Pedagogical Publishing House, ISBN 973-30-2886-X, 288 pp.
- Girod, A. S. (2018). *Jackson Pollock and Action Painting*. Online magazine 2018. Retrieved June 17, 2022, from <https://usa-decouverte.com/jackson-pollock-et-laction-painting/>
- Ibidem*, 2019.
- Ministry of Education and Research. Press release - *The first center of excellence dedicated to the creative industries "ARTCOR" was opened in Chisinau*. (2019). Retrieved June 14, 2022, from <https://mecc.gov.md/ro/content/la-chisinau-fost-deschis-primul-centru-de-excelenta-dedicat-industiilor-creative-artcor>
- Munteanu A. G. (2021). Landscape, colored passion in the creation of architect Eugen Bognibov. *Journal of Social Sciences, UTM, IV(4)*. [https://doi.org/10.52326/jss.utm.2021.4\(4\).04](https://doi.org/10.52326/jss.utm.2021.4(4).04)
- Munteanu, A. G. (2013). *Nature landscape inspiration for painters and architects*. In: Collection of Articles, Volume III, 15-23 November, 2013, Chisinau: TUM, FUA, pp. 421-424, ISBN 978- 9975-45-310-3, "Tehnica - TUM " Publishing House.
- Munteanu, A. G. (2016). Architects, plastic artists, teachers at the FUA, Architecture Department, TUM, 2015- 2016. In the "*Identities of Chisinau*" Collection, 3rd edition, ISBN 978-9975-61-871- 74, Arc-Chisinau Publishing House, pp. 265-273.
- Munteanu, A. G. (2019, May). *The interaction of colors and interior jellyfish on the aesthetic development of the pupil or student - future artistic specialist*. Scientific-practical conference "Pedagogical innovations in the digital age", ISBN 978-9975-3325-2-1, p. 262-266.
- Munteanu, A. G. (2020). Promoting national identity in stylistics of contemporary architecture and interior design. *Journal of Social Sciences, UTM*. Vol. III, nr. 4 (2020), ISSN 2587-3490, eISSN 2587-3504, Social Science - Arts and Design. „TEHNICA UTM” (PRINTING HOUSE).
- Munteanu, A. G. (2020, November). *The evolution and study problem of the stylistic-morphological interference of related fields in interior design, architecture, plastic arts*. International Technical Scientific Conference "Current problems of urbanism and territorial planning", 10th edition, pp. 67-75. Retrieved from https://ibn.idsi.md/vizualizare_articol/125872
- Munteanu, A. G. (2021). *Aesthetics of the landscape in the plastic arts of Moldova*. (Ed. 1) Chisinau: "Lexon-Prim" SRL, 308 p.:fig. ISBN 978-9975-909-81-5, CZU 7.047.03(478). Publication part of the "Postdoctorate 2021-2022" project, with the code 21.00208.0807.00/PD.
- Munteanu, A. G. (2022, April). *The design of the interior space extended by color emotions from the works of painter with training in architecture, Nicoleta Vacaru*. In the proceedings of the International Conference of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (ICSAH), from 01 April to 02 April 2022, or. Puducherry, India. In online format, link:info.iferp@gmail.com.
- Munteanu, A. G. (2021, March). *Creating psycho-emotional conditions in the creative training of future specialists*. In: Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference, or. Kremenchuk, Ukraine from March 19, 2021, with the theme: Current problems of modern pedagogy: creativity, skill, professionalism, volume I, p. 163-169.
- UTM Education Plans*. (2016) Retrieved June 10, 2022, from <https://utm.md/procesul-de-studii/licenta/planuri-de-invatamint-la-utm/>
- Vacarciuc, L. I. (2014). Polytechnic of Moldova – symbol of our progress. *UTM newspaper, University Messenger*. (No. 9, p. 16), Poligraphic Office from Chisinau.
- Zastavnitchi-Seremet, L. M. (2021). *The personal painting exhibition entitled "Plastic Contrasts" inside the National Museum of History of Moldova*. Retrieved June 27, 2022, from <https://utm.md/blog/2021/04/23/contraste-plastice-de-ludmila-zastavnitchi-seremet/>

Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the [Creative Commons Attribution license](#) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.