

## FROM THE SCIENTIFIC EDITOR

An important part of every national culture is its book culture. It is through the book that people and society absorb the accumulated knowledge of the ages. Encyclopaedias are one of the most comprehensive information sources that accumulate knowledge from different fields of knowledge or a particular area. The encyclopaedic culture itself, as a result of the creation of encyclopaedias, is a separate, strategically important area of presentation of the country to the world. The educational and promotional functions of encyclopaedias and their role as sources of dissemination and promotion of relevant knowledge are undeniable.

Ukraine also has considerable experience in creating encyclopaedias, encyclopaedic dictionaries, encyclopaedic directories, encyclopaedic dictionaries and reference books, etc. The typological diversity of Ukrainian encyclopaedias is reflected in sectoral, regional and personal encyclopaedias. However, despite the obvious achievements, some knowledge units and certain disciplines do not have encyclopaedias to present them. So, among Ukrainian encyclopaedias, there are very few editions of artistic direction. Such gaps are often filled with foreign or translation editions. And yet, despite the low level of state support, Ukrainian encyclopaedistics is developing. One of its gaps was filled by scientists, the authors of this edition – sculptor Vasyl Hohol and architect Yurii Dyba.

The appearance of the first illustrated encyclopaedia “Sculpture” is an exceptional event in Ukrainian art criticism and, without a doubt, an important contribution to the science of art in general. Indeed, until now, no works have been published in which, exhaustively, through the personalities of authors, historical and mythological characters, key concepts and most famous works, the whole palette of the centuries-old heritage of the art of sculpture would be represented in the variety of its manifestations, directions and styles, from the beginnings of birth to the present.

By removing the volume of an encyclopaedic publication from the shelf, the reader can touch the treasure trove of human knowledge. Finally, science begins with clarifying concepts and terms that are basic to theoretical and practical knowledge. The appearance of this should therefore intensify scientific work in the artistic environment, since each of the problems considered in it can become an independent direction of theoretical development.

The first volume presented, which covered the terms on the letter “A”, is a serious prospective application for the future. It contains a considerable and varied textual and illustrative material, the volume of which allows the reader to form a full understanding of the development of sculpture, as an important component of fine arts.

In conceiving this publication, its authors have set themselves and the scientific schools they represent a very ambitious goal, the prospects of which go far beyond specialized encyclopaedic editions aimed at satisfying the professional demand of teachers and students of educational institutions of art profile. This work is primarily intended to serve an important educational function. The illustrated encyclopaedia “Sculpture” will set the overall tone, orienting the reader who is seeking out certain information, or flipping through pages, examining illustrations with works of sculpture, in the standards of high art.

Teachers and students will receive a quality guide to special and general courses in art history. Instead, a wider reading circle of our contemporaries, whose consciousness is mostly formed against the background of unified spaces and shapes, factory invoices and technologies, will be able to evaluate not products, but individual works of sculpture, understand the specifics of material processing, get acquainted with the peculiarities of handmade with materials and evaluate performance and the individual skill and handwriting of artists of different historical periods, their professional standards. There is no doubt that every reader will receive true aesthetic and intellectual pleasure from this work.

It is important to note the well-reviewed and significant volume of literature that will be updated with each subsequent volume. It presents a variety of reference and encyclopaedic editions and works that characterize the achievements of individual sculptors or highlight the historical development of the art of sculpture. The bibliographic unit plays an important educational role, orienting the reader to the modern world standards of reference, historical and artistic literature. In the long run, this section could turn into a valuable independent bibliographic publication of artistic direction. Working with the encyclopaedia is simplified by the publication's thorough reference book, including its Ukrainian-language and English-language indexes.

The uniqueness and courage of this work is first characterized by its proportion conformity. The proposed format is expected to cover about ten volumes that will contain the most balanced amount of information about the art of sculpture. This volume is the first stage of future systematic work on comprehensive coverage of the phenomenon of sculpture, which I hope will be properly appreciated by the scientific community.

I would like to wish the author's team creative inspiration in the work of the next issues, in order to fully represent the art of sculpture in its various manifestations.

*Bohdan CHERKES*