

# **Monumental plot polychrome painting of Karatepa in Old Termez**

**Shakirdjan Pidaev**

Institute of Art of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent UZ

## **Abstract**

The large-scale archaeological studies conducted in the past two decades at Karatepa, allowed to obtain the new patterns of the plot polychrome painting, which have the best preservation and were performed both in the traditions of three-dimensional modeling, and in contour. The polychrome plot painting with the image of Buddha and monks decorated the stupa platform was discovered in the room No. 11 of the monastery complex on the northern hill. Another pattern was found in room 56 of the monumental monastery complex. According to the remnants, the walls of the room were decorated as follows: the lower level was a panel painted red, the second and third levels were filled with the plot polychrome painting. The plot compositions are placed inside the frame with the images of deities and secular faces. The use of a rich palette of colors in the painting of Bactria was noted for the first time.

In the light of the latest discoveries of the wall plot polychrome painting samples of Karatepa, it can be mentioned with great confidence that in Bactria of the Kushan period, the artistic technique of volumetric modeling was widely used by using of the black and white tinting. These examples demonstrate that the artists who created the paintings belonged to the single artistic tradition, which can be called the Bactrian art school. One of the centers of this art school, most probably, was Termez. At the beginning of the development, the school gained the best achievements of the Hellenistic painting.