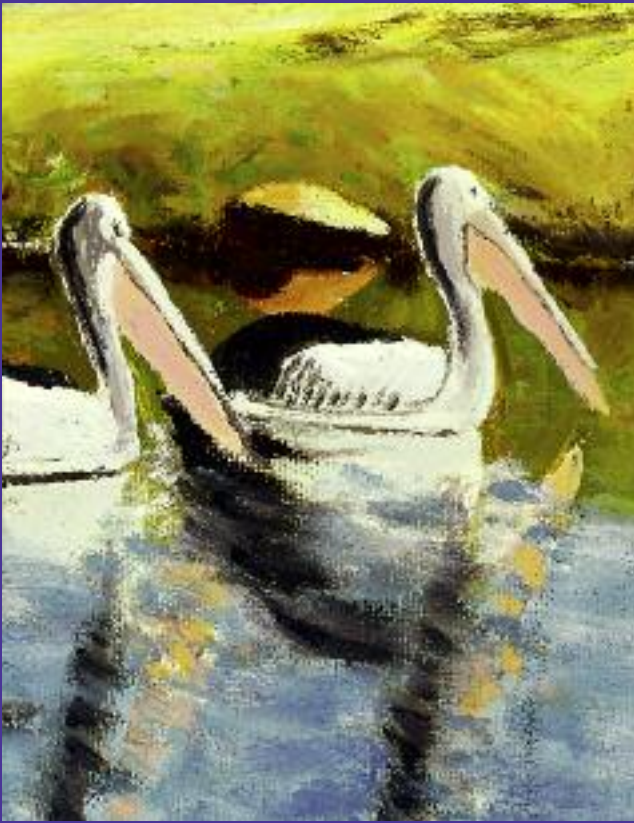


VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS
WORLDWIDE

December 2014/189



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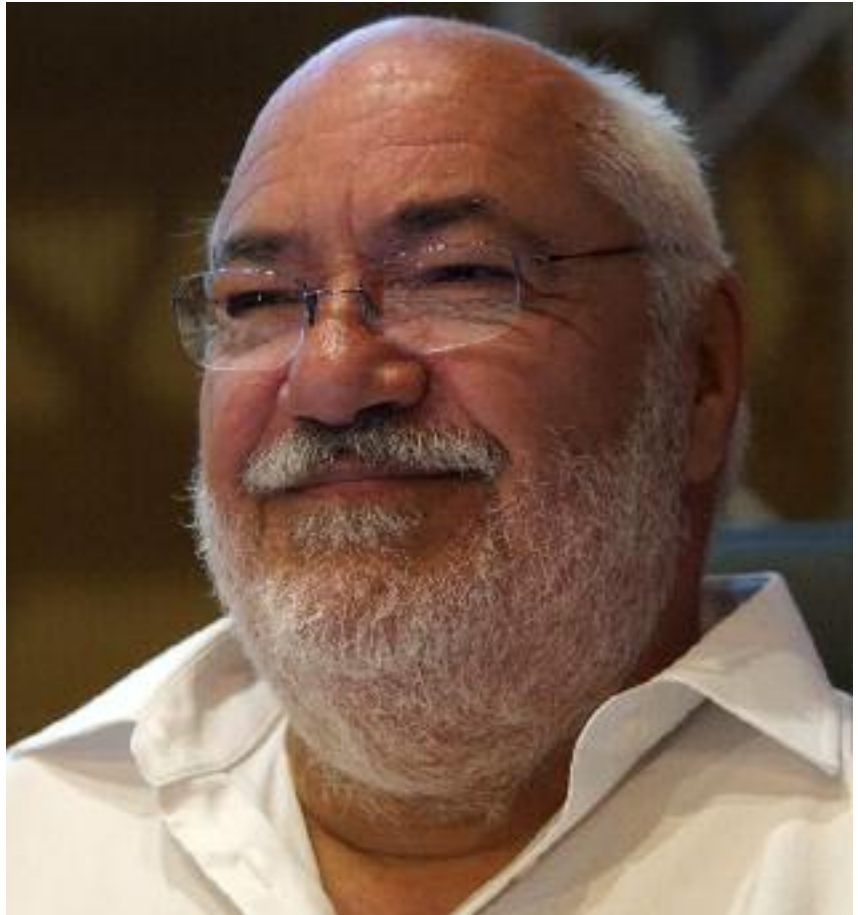
Dear artists,

The current month of December marks the start of winter. It sees the year 2014 draw to a gentle close and heralds the beginning of 2015. So for me it is a good time to take stock of this year which is now coming to an end.

As you can read in our magazine, various exhibitions were held during the year throughout the world both by you, the artists, and by publishing houses in many countries. These exhibitions and painting demonstrations always proved highly successful with the public. Visitors were enraptured by the talent of the mouth and foot painting artists and that is a source of great pleasure. I should like to thank the artists for their enthusiastic participation in the painting workshops, such as the one organised by the publishers in Potsdam, Germany, where I was invited to spend a wonderful time with the German artists; but also in the workshops staged by the publishers who work with great dedication to advance the goals of our Association. Congratulations to all of you: nothing can succeed without good cooperation!

The Association held a Delegates' Convention in Athens last September. It was accompanied by an international exhibition which took place in the Zappeion, the magnificent palace in the National Garden. This meeting was very important and crucial for all of us.

It was a pleasure to see our Honorary Member Prof. Dr. Dr. Herbert Batliner once again and to talk with him. He is always prepared to support our Association. It's important for us, the artists, to know where we're heading and never to forget why Arnulf Erich Stegmann established this Association. I can only encourage you not to give up, if I might put it that way. Only through perseverance will you succeed and feel personal satisfaction. We artists are full of joy when we are able to express our feelings on a canvas.



VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.

Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching, so I should like to take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant holiday with your nearest and dearest at the end of the year. May 2015 bring you all the happiness you wish for!

With best artistic regards,

Serge Maudet

President of the VDMFK

November 2014

Miscellaneous

Artists' activities

GREAT BRITAIN

- UK artists held their six-monthly conference and exhibition in the coastal town of Eastbourne from 21 to 26 October 2014. Towner, the award-winning museum of contemporary art in southeast England, staged an exhibition comprising 87 works of UK artists. Peter Field, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, attended the opening of the exhibition in his official capacity on Friday, 21 October, and welcomed 20 of the UK's mouth and foot painting artists. One of the highlights of the evening was the announcement of the



UK mouth and foot painters who attended the Eastbourne conference and exhibition.



VDMFK Board Member Mr Tom Yendell seen here delivering a few words at the opening. He organised the exhibition.

"Inspiration Award" which assigned the top three prizes to the three **Student Members David Read, Vanessa Haarloff and Barry West**. The exhibition itself attracted some 2,400 visitors – a record number for this time of year from the Museum's perspective. The Towner gallery offered plenty of space for the UK artists to demonstrate their artistic skills and talents. During the six days of the exhibition, a number of VDMFK artists worked alongside each other at the same time. This enabled visitors to experience and gain a deeper understanding of the techniques and media employed by the artists. The following mouth and foot painters contributed to the exhibition with their painting demonstrations: **Jacky Archer (Student Member), Jeff Astle (Student Member), Andy Baker (Student**

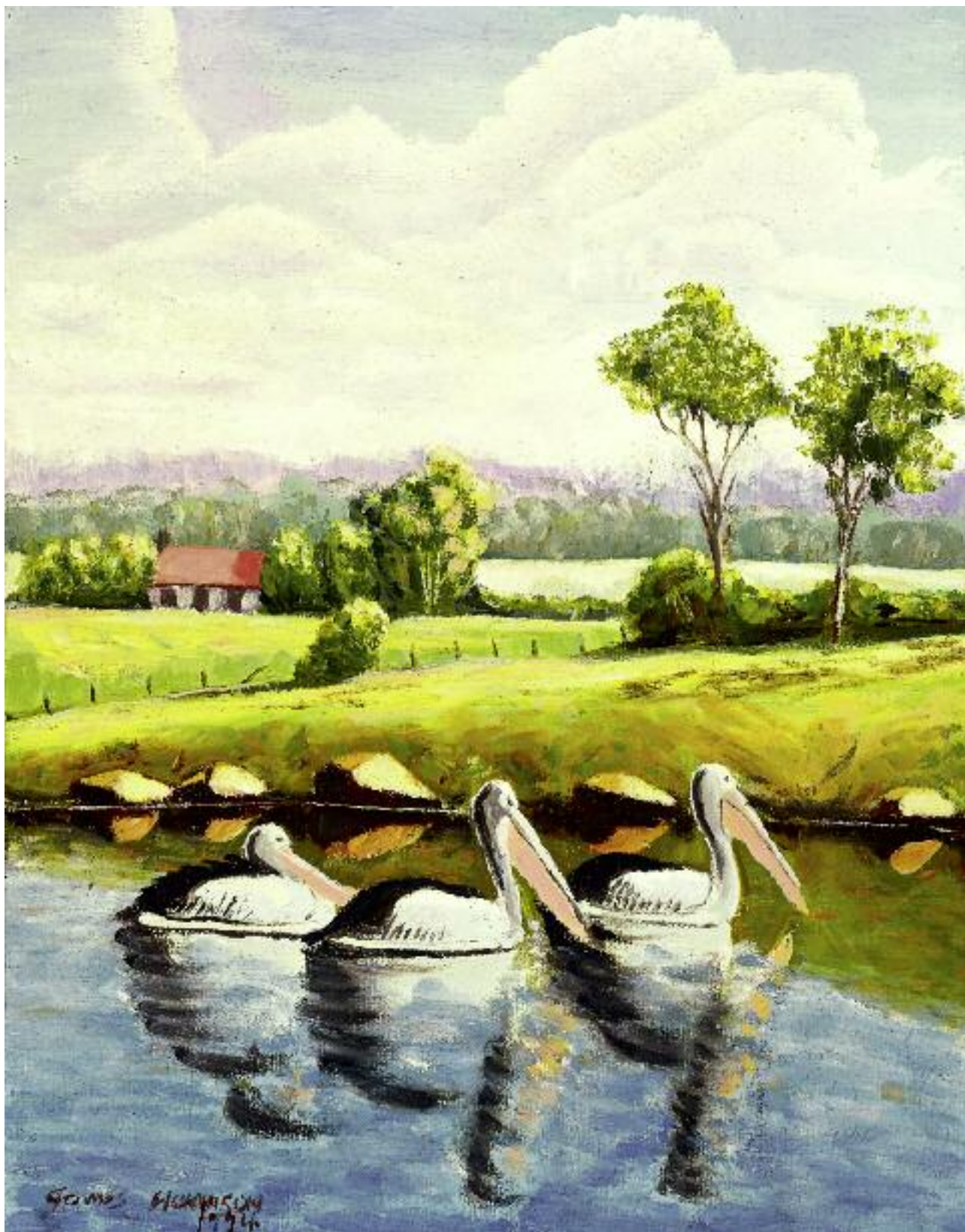
Member), David Cawthorne (Associate Member), Steven Paul Chambers (Full Member), Jon Clayton (Student Member), Ann Hulme (Student Member), Alison Lapper (Full Member), Peter Longstaff (Student Member), Rosie Mariarty-Simmonds (Student Member), Roger Pedrick (Student Member), David Read (Student Member), Mojgan Safa (Student Member), Robert Trent (Associate Member), Barry West (Student Member), Trevor C. Wells (Full Member/Board Member) and Tom Yendell (Full Member/Board Member).



Almost 90 works by UK mouth and foot painters were on display at the exhibition. Almost 90 works by UK mouth and foot painters were on display at the exhibition.



Associate Member David Cawthorne gave painting demonstrations at the opening of the exhibition.



Jim Hodkinson (Associate Member/Australia), 'Pelican Cove', oils, 35x28 cm.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



Member of the Managing Board Trevor C. Wells from New Zealand (on the left) talking to delegate Steven Paul Chambers from the UK.



VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga emphasised the significance of Athens in his speech.

Delegates from the constituencies gathered at the Delegates' Convention which was staged this time around in the Greek capital of Athens from 29 September to 4 October.

Athens was the venue of the 2014 Delegates' Convention which was held

from 29 September to 4 October. 36 Full Members, to which the entire Managing Board belonged, travelled to Greece to conduct necessary statutory business and discuss the articles of association. The schedule also included the opening of an international exhibition as well as various social events. Fully in line with tradition, the week in Athens

began with the opening evening during which VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga took the floor and emphasized the significance of Athens as the convention's venue: «The city was once the very centre of ancient times. Today it is a vibrant and fascinating city on the Mediterranean with some 4 million inhabitants. Together with Jerusalem and Rome, the



Mouth painter Prof. Tranquillo Fregoni from Italy also travelled to Athens to take part in the convention as a delegate.



The two delegates who had probably undertaken the longest journey: Grant William Sharman and his wife from New Zealand.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



Member of the Managing Board Kun-Shan Hsieh from Taiwan (on the right) with Soon-Yi Oh from South Korea.



Member of the Managing Board Thomas Kahlau from Germany (on the right) in a conversation with Yitzhak Adir from Israel.

city forms the cradle of Western civilisation. Greek virtues in particular, as described by the famous philosophers, have been expounded in countless myths and are still ubiquitous today. At the time they helped enhance man's image of himself and encouraged the first signs of democracy as we know it.» The Director went on to emphasise the significance of the city for artists by saying: «Aesthetics, ideal forms, classical

sculpture and the golden ratio also have their origins in Greece. Consequently, the city should be of great significance for artists – people like you. I'm certain you'll have the occasional opportunity during this week to explore the city and the influence Athens has had on world history and on our lives today.» President Serge Maudet also addressed a few words to the delegates. He thanked the assembled mouth and foot painters

for the effort they had put in to come to Athens. In some cases it had been a very long journey. He added: «I'm happy to see you all again in good health. I hope that your trip went well and I wish you a pleasant stay. We are fortunate to have the privilege of enjoying excellent surroundings, rich in art and history, to do our work. This is an excellent environment for us to carry out our duties.»



VDMFK President Serge Maudet (on the right) engaging in a lively conversation with Vojko Gasperut from Slovenia and Ilias Raftopoulos from Greece.

Delegates' Convention in Athens

Obviously, attention during the week in Athens was centred on the two-day assembly which discussed and concluded statutory items of business. In addition, delegates had the opportunity to address questions to the Members of the Managing Board or to comment on various proposals.



Simona Atzori from Italy at the conference.



Kiichiro Mizumura from Japan.



The entire Managing Board of the VDMFK was present and answered all questions at the conference.



Artist Eiichi Minami from Japan (on the right) with his companion.

Participants in the Delegates' Convention in Athens

Members of the Managing Board: Serge Maudet, France (President); Ruth Christensen, Denmark; Kun-Shan Hsieh, Taiwan; Thomas Kahlau, Germany; Manuel Parreño Rivera, Spain; Trevor C. Wells, New Zealand; Tom Yendell, UK.

Full Members: Yitzhak Adir, Israel; Simona Atzori, Italy; Glenn Barnett, Australia; Steven Paul Chambers, UK; Shih-Feng Chen, Taiwan; Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan, Indonesia; Fernando Fernandes dos Reis, Brazil; Tranquillo Fregoni, Italy; Vojko Gasperut, Slovenia; Heinz Halwachs, Austria; Lars Höllerer, Germany; Christopher Keith Jansz, UK; Hee-Jeong Kim, South Korea; Shu Ko, Taiwan; Antje Kratz, Germany; Kyriacos Kyriacou, Cyprus; Alison Lapper, UK; Tan Kok Leong, Singapore; Theresa Helen Matthias, Canada; Eiichi Minami, Japan; Kiichiro Mizumura, Japan; Machiko Morita, Japan; Ah Kwai Ng, Malaysia; Soon-Yi Oh, South Korea; Ilias Raftopoulos, Greece; Grant William Sharman, New Zealand; Robert Thome, USA; Ann Lund Wahlberg, Denmark; Brom Wikstrom, USA.

Guest delegates: Maria Apostolou (Student Member), Greece; Leandros Arvanitakis (Student Member), Greece; Triantafillos Iliadis (Full Member), Greece; Eleni Marinou-Paleologou (Student Member) Greece.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



The conference at the Delegates' Convention in Athens lasted two days and focused on various items of statutory business. There were no elections to the Managing Board.



An evidently cheerful Lars Höllerer from Germany (on the right) taking part in the Delegates' Convention.



Helen Theresa Matthias from Canada at the assembly.



Christopher Keith Jansz (on the left) from the UK with his wife at the conference.



Mouth painter Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan from Indonesia (on the right) undertaking his task as a delegate.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



The exhibition took place at the charismatic venue of the Zappeion in Athens. It was opened in the atrium outdoors.

The international exhibition was held at the Zappeion in Athens. A total of 145 works by 59 mouth and foot painters from all over the world were displayed on this occasion.

First inaugurated in 1888, the Zappeion is a classicist building located on the southern edge of the centre of Athens. The VDMFK's international exhibition was held at this historic site from 2-8 October, with the opening ceremonies

taking place outdoors in the atrium. With its display of 145 works by 59 mouth and foot painters from all over the world, the exhibition was staged by VDMFK President Serge Maudet, Christine Papageorgiou, Member of the Board of the Chamber of Arts and Professor Emmanuel Mikroyannaki, President of the Parnassos Association of Literature. VDMFK President Maudet spoke a few words on behalf of the Association. As he emphasised: «Our Association comprises 800 artists from

all five continents of the globe. We paint our ideas and send our work to the Association, which selects works and reproduces them on cards and calendars in cooperation with local publishers. When visiting the exhibition and looking at the paintings, we urge you not to think that these works of art were painted by people with disabilities. Anyone can see that each picture constitutes a piece of poetry. We mouth and foot painters share a common desire to express ourselves.»



Opening the exhibition: Serge Maudet, Christine Papageorgiou and Professor Emmanuel Mikroyannaki.



VDMFK President Serge Maudet during his address which marked the opening of the exhibition.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



Visitors to the exhibition (from left to right): Ilias Raftopoulos from Greece, Robert Thome from the USA, Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan from Indonesia and Ah Kwai Ng from Malaysia.



Iliadis Triantafillos, Full Member from Greece, gives a painting demonstration at the opening of the exhibition.



Student Member Leandros Arvanitakis giving a painting demonstration.



The two artists Alison Lapper from the UK and Brom Wikstrom from the USA.



In high spirits: Member of the Managing Board Ruth Christensen from Denmark (on the left) and Vojko Gasperut from Slovenia.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



The rooms of the international exhibition, in which a total of 145 works by 59 mouth and foot painters from all over the world were displayed.



The international exhibition was held in the Zappeion in Athens.



Artists and guests were welcomed by drummers.



Greek flair also played an essential role at the opening of the exhibition.



The two foot painters Antje Kratz (on the left at the back) and Heinz Halwachs (on the left at the front) with their companions.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



The works displayed by mouth and foot painters from all over the world gathered enormous attention among the guests.



Foot painter Fernando Fernandes dos Reis from Brazil.



Glenn Barnett from Australia and his wife are clearly very happy.



Tan Kok Leong from Singapore and his companions enjoying the ambiance of the Zappeion.



Artist Ann Lund Wahlberg from Denmark with her family.



An artistic encounter: Machiko Morita from Japan (on the left) and Hee-Jeong Kim from South Korea.

Delegates' Convention in Athens

The hotel in the centre of Athens offered the opportunity to enjoy a meal on the roof terrace with its splendid views of the Acropolis – an opportunity gladly taken up on two occasions by the mouth and foot painters who also appreciated the warm temperatures over their wonderful evening meals.



Splendid views of the Acropolis during the evening meal on the hotel terrace.



Artist Shu Ko and his companion enjoying the views.



Member of the Managing Board Tom Yendell conversing with Legal Consultant and Honorary Member Prof. Dr. Dr. Herbert Batliner.



The evening meal was held in a tremendous atmosphere on the terrace.



Member of the Managing Board Kun-Shan Hsieh from Taiwan also joined in the festive spirit of the occasion.

Delegates' Convention in Athens

Traditionally, an assembly of the VDMFK concludes with one final evening. For this the mouth and foot painters drove to a spot by the sea near Glyfada to spend a pleasant evening with music and dance.

VDMFK President Serge Maudet and VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga took the opportunity afforded by the final evening to give a couple of short speeches. Both thanked the artists as well as the other participants for attending and actively participating in the Delegates' Convention.



The final evening was crowned by an outstanding atmosphere with dancing and celebrations lasting long into the small hours of the morning.



Guests were welcomed by the sounds of Greek music.



VDMFK President Serge Maudet expressed his gratitude to all those present in his speech.



Artist Kyriacos Kyriacou from Cyprus (on the right) visibly enjoying the atmosphere with his wife on the final evening.



Two Members of the Managing Board Ruth Christensen (on the right) and Tom Yendell enjoying the ambience by the sea.

Delegates' Convention in Athens



A friend in need is a friend indeed: Christopher Keith Jansz (on the left) and Grant William Sharman.



Also soaking up the atmosphere: mouth painter Shih-Feng Chen from Taiwan with his wife.



Member of the Managing Board Manuel Parreño Rivera (second from the right) with his wife (second from the left) and other guests.



VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga conveying his words of thanks.



Instead of waltzes, Sirtaki and Greek dances were de rigueur on this evening.



The evening's musical entertainment kicked up a lively storm.



Josef Habeler (Associate Member/Austria), "Merry Christmas", watercolour, 30x20 cm.

New Full and Associate Members

The following mouth and foot painter shall be accorded the status of VDMFK Full Member as of 1 March 2015.

POLAND

Kosowski, Krzysztof

Date of birth: 5 August 1963

Place of birth: Jablonowo Pomorskie

Mouth and foot painter

Krzysztof Kosowski sustained severe burns in an electrical accident in 1972, as a result of which both his arms had to be amputated. In 1978 he started attending secondary school in Wrocław before going on to study art history for two years at the University of Wrocław. Shortly after his accident, he began painting a little with his mouth. From 1985 onwards he put his heart and soul into teaching himself to learn the art of mouth and foot painting. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 1988 and an Associate Member in 2010. Krzysztof pursues a variety of hobbies in addition to painting, including music and oriental studies as well as his interest in world religions. He mainly uses oils,



Krzysztof Kosowski shall become a Full Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2015.

mixed media, watercolours and ink in his paintings. His favourite subjects in-

clude the world of the fantastic right through to fairy tales. During his artistic career he has had the opportunity to present his works on a number of occasions at solo and group exhibitions in Poland.



Krzysztof Kosowski has mastered the two methods of mouth and foot painting.

New Full and Associate Members

The following mouth painters shall be accorded the status of VDMFK Associate Members as of 1 March 2015.

ISRAEL

Ganor, Netta

Date of birth: 28 October 1979

Place of birth: Jerusalem

Painting method: Mouth painter

Netta Ganor was born in Jerusalem on 28 October 1979. After attending elementary and the "René Cassin" lyceum in Jerusalem as well as the College of Management in Rishon LeZion, she finally completed her Bachelor's degree in computer science in 2001. On 17 November 1994 she sustained a sudden sensory motor paralysis which caused a reactive quadriplegia in the area of the C3-4 vertebrae. An idiopathic transverse form of myelitis was diagnosed. She underwent rehabilitation treatment for three years at the Alin hospital in Jerusalem and started painting with her



Netta Ganor shall become an Associate Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2015.

mouth precisely during this rehabilitation period. Netta has been a VDMFK Student Member since 2003.

Netta is highly resolute and strong-willed. She has developed a software program for safe vehicle steering. As she

once said: "I decided not to lapse into depression and bitterness. Instead of saying give me back my life and instead of waiting for miracles, I understood that I have to work hard."

SOUTH AFRICA

Botto, Patrick John

Date of birth: 18 September 1970

Place of birth: Grabouw

Painting method: Mouth painter

Patrick John Botto was born in Grabouw on 18 September 1970. After gaining his upper secondary education certificate in 1988 he joined the South African police service in 1991. On 12 November 1992 he was involved as a side passenger in a car accident. He sustained a fracture of the C4/C5 vertebrae, which left him a quadriplegic. More recently, Patrick has worked hard and with great determination to perfect his mouth painting skills. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 2000. Patrick John Botto mainly creates oil paintings.



Patrick John Botto shall become an Associate Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2015.

New Student Members

The following mouth and foot painters shall receive new VDMFK scholarship grants as of 1 March 2015.

ARGENTINA

Mansilla, Carlos Gabriel

Date of birth: 7 October 1994

Painting method: Foot painter

Carlos Gabriel Mansilla was born in Buenos Aires on 7 October 1994. Right from his earliest childhood he has suffered from gait pattern disorders and an indeterminate congenital deformation of his bone apparatus and musculature. As a result, he is unable to use his upper limbs at all. His legs only function in a highly restricted sense. Carlos completed primary school and is currently in the third grade of secondary school. From the age of 16 he has devoted himself to foot painting of which he is now a brilliant – and self-taught – master! The artist has already had the opportunity to present his pictures several times at various exhibitions.

BRAZIL

Figueiredo de Abreu, Lucas

Date of birth: 25 April 1986

Painting method: Foot painter

Lucas Figueiredo de Abreu was born in Varginha, a town in the Federal State of Minas Gerais, on 25 April 1986. He was born without arms and gradually learned from early childhood to do virtually everything with his feet. Lucas attended a regular school, where he also began to doodle on paper. A short time later he was delighted to learn how to write and draw using a pen clasped between his toes. He later went on to study law and is currently busy with his preparations to pass the selection process for a position at a public institution. Lucas was always very impressed by art. He regularly used to attend drawing classes. At the age of 14 he seriously began to take up pain-

ting with his foot and devote himself to art. Lucas enjoys painting landscape pictures in oils. He currently takes art lessons from a well-known local teacher once a week. In the meantime, the dedicated artist has staged several solo exhibitions and repeatedly participated in group exhibitions.

Ribeiro Santos, Thiago

Date of birth: 19 February 1987

Painting method: Mouth painter

Thiago Ribeiro Santos was born in the city of Almenara within the Federal State of Minas Gerais on 19 February 1987. He was hit by a car at the age of just 8 in 1995. For 15 days he lay in a coma and fought for his life. Due to his serious injuries, he became a quadriplegic and has been unable to use his upper or lower limbs ever since. Furthermore, he will have to depend on a ventilator to help him breathe for the rest of his life. Thiago arrived back home a good one year later. Since then he has written two books, including one entitled “Esperança sem fim” (“Endless Hope”). In the world of artists, the two words “endless hope” are very important. To put it briefly, they describe a basic principle in his life. In 2011 a friend encouraged him to have a go at painting with his mouth. After a few attempts, he was not only impressed by his latent artistic skills but also by the actual results. Since then Thiago has also been taking art lessons once a week from a well-known local teacher. Painting has become an important part of his life ever since.

Siqueira, Igor

Date of birth: 1 January 1997

Painting method: Foot painter

Igor Siqueira was born in Santo André on 1 January 1997. Due to a congenital cerebral palsy he is permanently paralysed and cannot use his upper limbs. In addition, his feet suffer from talipes equinus (club foot). After the death of his father, he lived in a refuge for homeless and abandoned children. Igor alrea-

dy embarked on his first attempts to paint and draw with his left foot as a child. Gonçalo Borges (a VDMFK Associate Member) recommended Igor to the Association. As a result, ever since 2013, he has devoted himself intensively to foot painting and has been able to make considerable artistic progress.

BHUTAN

Tshering, Pema

Date of birth: 1 January 1981

Painting method: Foot painter

Pema Tshering was born in Tormas-hong, a village in the Bhutanese district of Mongar, on 1 January 1981. He suffers from a form of congenital cerebral palsy in conjunction with quadriplegia. In addition, he has speech disorders and is unable to use his hands and arms due to his disease. He uses his left foot for everyday activities including drawing and carving. From 2006-2009, he attended the arts and crafts school in the capital of Thimphu, where he successfully completed his training in the field of woodcarving and painting. Pema has also staged several solo exhibitions.

CANADA

Fleet, David

Date of birth: 12 December 1968

Painting method: Mouth painter

David Fleet was born in Quebec City on 12 December 1968. He completed primary and secondary school, high school and a course of specialised studies in business and economics. On 26 August 2009 he was on his way home from work in his car when it came off the road, overturned, and landed in the ditch. The accident left him a quadriplegic and all his limbs are now completely paralysed. David then spent the next 18 months at a rehabilitation centre. In January 2012 he decided to have a go at mouth painting. In order to broaden his knowledge he regularly attended a

New Student Members

painting course at a therapy centre. David particularly enjoys painting landscape motifs.

COLOMBIA

Cardazo Hernández, Teodoro

Date of birth: 29 September 1984
Painting method: Foot painter

Teodoro Cardozo Hernández was born with phocomelia, as a result of which he has no arms, in Nobsa, Colombia, on 29 September 1984. His severely deformed legs prevent him from walking. He completed primary and secondary school before attending the "Cultura-ma" vocational college. In 1991 he embarked on his first attempts to paint with his left foot. He very much enjoyed the experience, so for three years he took painting and art lessons under a well-known local teacher. Since then, Teodoro has participated in several solo and group exhibitions.

Gallego Ramirez, Elisabeth

Date of birth: 7 February 1989
Painting method: Foot painter

Elisabeth Gallego Ramirez was born in the city of Medellín on 7 February 1989. She has suffered from the disability of arthrogryposis multiplex congenita since birth, causing her joints to become multiply deformed. In addition, she has a paresis of the upper limbs. Rehabilitation treatments are now part of her life. She started walking at the age of five, mainly as a result of her sheer tenacity and steadfastness – despite of the doctors' opinions. After learning to walk, she was admitted to the pedagogical centre of Antioquia where she also acquired other skills with her mouth and feet. Around this time she realised that her feet were the most suitable aid for coping with her life. She went on to complete her primary and secondary school education with her characteristically gritty determination. In 2009 a number of people suggested that she

should take up foot painting and she discovered a new zest for life. To develop her foot painting talents, Elisabeth attended the "Punto y Sol" academy in Copacabana, where she attended regular painting classes which soon enabled her to improve her artistic skills. She learned the charcoal drawing technique and created her first still life pictures with the aid of pencils. Elisabeth later arrived at the "House of Culture" in Copacabana, where she attended art classes. There she discovered the world of acrylic painting and created many landscape pictures using this technique. Afterwards she took private lessons, in the course of which she learned sepia and red chalk techniques in addition to oil painting. Elisabeth has already taken part in numerous exhibitions and received several awards for her work.

Silva Contreras, Ernesto

Date of birth: 22 September 1951
Painting method: Mouth painter

Ernesto Silva Contreras was born in a little village to the north of Tolima on 22 September 1951. He attended primary school in Anzoátegui. Due to the prevailing violent situation he moved with his family to Ibagué. In 1973 he managed to join the national police force but his appointment was short-lived. On 26 April 1975, he was working at a police station in the village of Cundinamarca when he had a serious car accident while on his way home. From this time onwards he could no longer move his arms or legs. This devastating incident left him a quadriplegic. After protracted stays at therapy centres Ernesto decided to take up mouth painting, simply as a way of passing the time, in May 2011. His initial, tenuous brushstrokes evolved over time into vibrant and highly detailed pictorial motifs. At the same time Ernesto founded the "Alfa Sports Club" because he wanted to help people with disabilities integrate into society. This was followed by his establishment of further sports clubs, always with the aim of supporting the integration of disabled people.

DENMARK

Vendel-Jensen, Yvonne

Date of birth: 15 May 1948
Painting method: Mouth painter

Yvonne Vendel-Jensen was born in Copenhagen on 15 May 1948. After completing primary and upper secondary school, she graduated with a degree in social pedagogy and became a self-taught drama teacher and actress in children's theatre. In 2002 Yvonne was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis: in her case, it became a serious and swiftly progressive, disseminating disease. Her upper and lower limbs are now completely paralysed and she can only move her head. In December 2013 she decided to have a go at mouth painting. Once she had taught herself this skill she quickly felt inspired by the joy of painting. From 1986 to 2012 she took art lessons at the Holboek College of Art. The subjects she studied there included sculpture, graphics, pottery, intuitive painting, acrylic and watercolour painting. Yvonne has also participated in various exhibitions in Copenhagen.

EL SALVADOR

Flores, Juan Francisco

Date of birth: 16 December 1957
Painting method: Mouth painter

Juan Francisco Flores was born in the municipality of San Lorenzo within the Department of San Vicente in El Salvador on 16 December 1957. He attended school right through to the second year of upper secondary school. Since he was unable to raise the money to fund his secondary school and higher education, he volunteered to serve in the armed forces of El Salvador in 1978. Shortly after, the country became embroiled in a serious armed conflict which began in 1980 and ended in 1992. On 1 August 1982 he sustained a bullet

Continued on p. 22

New Student Members

wound between the sixth and seventh vertebrae (C6-C7) which shattered his spinal cord. As a result, he was diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia and, due to subsequent complications, had to be re-admitted to El Salvador's military hospital in 1984 where he received a course of rehabilitation treatment. He took up regular painting lessons at this time: a well-known artist taught him how to paint with his mouth. He increasingly enjoyed mouth painting and gradually made considerable progress. Painting has been instrumental in helping him continue to live, to feel productive and not to be a burden on society.

GREAT BRITAIN

Harvey, John Anson

Date of birth: 5 June 1969

Painting method: Mouth painter

John Anson Harvey was born in Wokingham on 5 June 1969. Signing up at the age of 16, he served for a total of eight years in the Corps of Royal Engineers. In September 1992 a serious accident left him paralysed from the neck down. Since then he can no longer use his upper or lower limbs. A good friend suggested to him that he take up painting with his mouth for the first time in 1993. At the start, his pictures took a long time to improve but, undaunted by this, the works he created gradually became better and better. John mostly draws and paints portraits of women or figures with some imaginative aspects. He also enjoys painting fantasy figures such as dragons and phoenixes and Pegasus.

INDIA

Kumar, Uttam

Date of birth: 2 February 1979

Painting method: Foot painter

Uttam Kumar was born in Maouri, Udhampur, on 2 February 1979. He has been physically disabled in both his

hands and arms and in his right leg from birth. At the time he was diagnosed with a form of polio. Later, when he was admitted to the village school, he found it extremely difficult to hold a pen with his feet because his upper limbs were completely paralysed. Uttam practised writing with his left foot whenever he had time. He gradually started to paint and draw. He participated in a painting workshop for the first time when he was in the fourth grade and managed to sell his first picture there. Uttam gradually honed his artistic talents and managed to take part in several exhibitions. Up to now he has received 14 awards from governmental organisations and NGOs for his artistic achievements.

Nadaf, Bandenawas Badhsa

Date of birth: 5 February 1987

Painting method: Foot painter

Bandenawas Badhsa Nadaf was born in Mumbai on 5 February 1987. He was born without a left hand and with a defect in his upper extremities: his right arm merely consisted of a short stump. But despite these difficulties his family helped him to learn to write with his foot. He attended the Hindi secondary school until the seventh grade and was a very good student. At the age of 13 he began to take an interest in art and set out to become a foot painter. At the start he taught himself how to do this. Later on he took private art lessons from a well-known local teacher. Bandenawas quickly made considerable progress with foot painting and won prizes at several internal school and national art competitions in India.

Kooleri, Vyshak

Date of birth: 1 October 1994

Painting method: Foot painter

Vyshak Kooleri was born without arms on 1 October 1994. During his years of basic schooling the teachers at the U P School Ettukudukka in Kannur encouraged him to learn to write with his foot. He completed his compulsory school

education and attended the Cheemeni Higher Secondary School in Kasaragod where he achieved very high grades. He wrote both his final examinations with his left foot. Vyshak is now a second year history student at Payyanur College in Kannur, Kerala. Vyshak had already taught himself to draw and paint pictures with his foot at primary school. He received encouragement from his parents and teachers in these attempts. At the time he began to take part in several art and painting competitions and received a number of special awards. In 2011 Vyshak met the Indian foot painter Ganesh Kumar (a VDMFK Student Member) and visited him on occasion to learn the basic principles of painting. This is how he learned of the existence of the VDMFK. Landscapes are one of the artist's favourite motifs which he prefers to depict using the technique of watercolour painting.

ICELAND

Bjarnason Karlsson, Brandur

Date of birth: 2 January 1982

Painting method: Mouth painter

Brandur Bjarnason Karlsson was born in Reykjavik on 2 January 1982. He attended primary and secondary school and completed four semesters of studies in biology, physics and the social sciences. During his course of study, Brandur was diagnosed with myelopathy, a disease characterised by an indeterminate deterioration of his motor functions. The symptoms have now left him a quadriplegic. His upper and lower limbs are completely paralysed and he will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In November 2012 he began to teach himself to paint with his mouth. Because he was determined to his painting skills he has attended regular painting classes since January 2013. He also attended the art school in Reykjavik, Iceland.

New Student Members

ISRAEL

Liberty, Ruth Luba

Date of birth: 13 November 1959

Painting method: Mouth painter

Ruth Luba Liberty was born in Stuttgart (Germany), where she also completed her elementary school education, on 13 November 1959. In 1972 Ruth emigrated with her family to Israel. Once there, she and her siblings were sent to a boarding school in Natanya to complete the next part of their education. In 1973 she was involved in a swimming accident which left her a quadriplegic. All her limbs have been completely paralysed ever since and she needs a wheelchair. After her accident she returned to Germany with her family and arrived in a trauma clinic in Tübingen. A short time later she was referred to a rehabilitation centre where she lived for seven years and completed her grammar school education. Ruth returned to Israel in 1982 and began studying at the University of Tel Aviv where she was eventually awarded a bachelor's degree in social pedagogy. Despite all her difficult circumstances, she married in 1989 and is the mother of five children. She had always been interested in painting, so she started to paint with her mouth in 2008. Through self-study and with the help of the Internet she was able to steadily improve her painting skills.

ITALY

Gattolin, Federico

Date of birth: 30 October 1966

Painting method: Mouth painter

Federico Gattolin was born in Saint-Étienne (France) on 30 October 1966. He attended primary and vocational school. When, at the age of 17, he was involved in a car accident he sustained an injury to his spinal cord around the C4-C5 area (post traumatic quadriplegia) and since then can no longer use his upper or lower extremities. His pas-

sion for drawing already started when he was a young child. He drew comics and tended to use a single colour – either black or blue. An occupational therapist encouraged him to have a go at mouth painting when he was in hospital after his accident. First, he showed no interest, but he has painted regularly since spring 2014 after teaching himself to paint with his mouth.

Merlo, Franca

Date of birth: 6 June 1961

Painting method: Mouth painter

Franca Merlo was born in Treviso on 6 June 1961. She completed primary and secondary school as well as teacher training college. In 1984, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis which gradually left all her limbs paralysed (spastic quadriplegia). In September 2010 she began to paint with her mouth on her own initiative. Slowly but surely she managed to achieve considerable progress. Franca particularly enjoys painting flowers and animal motifs.

MEXICO

Araujo Corrales, Carlos Fernando

Date of birth: 21 August 1988

Painting method: Mouth painter

Carlos Fernando Araujo Corrales was born in Choix, Sinaloa, Mexico, on 21 August 1988. After primary and secondary school, he began attending upper secondary school but was unable to complete his education. At the age of 21, Carlos broke his neck at the C5-C6 vertebrae and was left a quadriplegic. But four months after the accident he could sit in a wheelchair and, as a result of his rehabilitation therapy, improve the mobility and sensitivity of his upper body. Even so, he was unable to regain the mobility and feel of his hands and legs. Some two years ago he met the president of an association for disabled people who invited him to a painting workshop solely attended by disabled people.

There he also met the teachers Martha González and Lidia de Jesús Cháidez López (a VDMFK Student Member). He has regularly attended mouth painting classes for various groups since January 2012. Since January 2013 he has taken regular private lessons. As a result, he has been able consistently to further his artistic progress. Carlos has already displayed his works at a number of exhibitions.

Gallardo Ibarra, Araceli

Date of birth: 20 November 1972

Painting method: Mouth painter

Araceli Gallardo Ibarra was born in the city of Guasave, Sinaloa on 20 November 1972. She completed primary and secondary school. Her first symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis emerged when she was 13 years old. As a result of this disease she was no longer able to continue her education because she was constantly receiving medical treatment and spending protracted periods at the rehabilitation centre. She already had severely deformed hands by the age of 18. One day she met Víctor Bojorquez, the husband of the mouth painter Lidia de Jesús Cháidez López (a VDMFK Student Member and painting teacher). Consequently, Araceli was invited to her first lessons in mouth painting. In the process she became fascinated by the idea of taking up mouth painting herself because she had always enjoyed painting when she was still able to use her hands. From January 2012 she regularly attended painting classes held by Lidia de Jesús Cháidez López. Delighted by the experience of mouth painting, she was able to make great progress within a short time.

Hernández Vázquez, Jesús Ángel

Date of birth: 29 October 1982

Painting method: Mouth painter

Jesús Ángel Hernández Vázquez was born in Navolato, Sinaloa, on 29 Oc-

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New Student Members

tober 1982. The carelessness of a medical student at his birth resulted in severe injury to his right arm. As a result his movement has been seriously impaired ever since and he will suffer from muscular dystrophy for the rest of his life. In 2002, at the age of 19, his left arm was amputated due to bone cancer. He completed primary and secondary school. In 2005, he became aware of the VDMFK and began painting with his mouth. Afterwards, he attended the "José Limón" school of visual arts in Culiacán where he developed his talent still further. The motifs of the mouth painter are a cross-section of the multifaceted landscapes in Mexico, of animal figures and of all kinds of still life pictures. Jesús Ángel has presented his works to the general public on several occasions at solo exhibitions and other exhibitions staged in his region.

Juarez Covarrubias, Carlos Mauricio

Date of birth: 27 September 1992
Painting method: Mouth painter

Carlos Mauricio Juarez Covarrubias was born in Mexico City on 27 September 1992. When he was one year old his mother took him to the doctor, who diagnosed a Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In 1999 he attended the "Gaby Brimmer" primary school, which he managed successfully to complete. His muscles steadily atrophied year after year and by the age of eight he began using a wheelchair because he could no longer move his arms and legs. Even so, he attended the "Daniel Huacuja Sánchez" secondary school which he left in 2008. He even went on to complete his upper secondary school education. In secondary school, he began to take an interest in arts and mouth painting. To improve his artistic talents he has been taking private painting and art lessons under Jorge Marquez for quite some time.

Luna, Arizmendi, Miriam

Date of birth: 13 May 1980
Painting method: Mouth painter

Miriam Luna Arizmendi was born in Zacualan on 13 May 1980. She suffered from infantile cerebral palsy at birth and will be unable to use her upper or lower limbs for the rest of her life. She attended primary and secondary school as well as upper secondary school at the "IUL Instituto Universitario Libertad". In addition, she received a diploma in psychology through an online course at the "Fray Luca Paccioli" university. In August 2011, she embarked on her undergraduate course of studies in psychology. In 1991 she began writing and later, in 2004, painting with her mouth. Because she took great pleasure in painting, she spent two years developing her artistic ability under the guidance of Arturo Paredes Correa. In February 2010 she even opened her very first gallery under the name "Sol y Luna, Galería de Arte y Cybercafé" ("Sun and Moon, Art Gallery and Cybercafé"). A wide array of recognitions by governmental agencies and associations testify to her creative urge. For example, she received inter alia a national award for her participation in the art concours of the "Youth Institute of the Federal State of Morelos" in January 2009. In addition, she has held a number of exhibitions and motivation talks.

Moreno Diaz, Cesar Yaren

Date of birth: 27 December 2004
Painting method: Mouth painter

Cesar Yaren Moreno Diaz was born in Mexico City on 27 December 2004. The little boy was born without arms and legs. One-and-a-half months after his birth, his mother took him to the Teletón rehabilitation centre for children (CRIT) where he underwent many rehabilitation treatments over the course of time. The therapy helped him to move his throat and become a more independent child. By using his body to hop along, he is able to sit down on chairs and can go up and down stairs. Cesar

began his education at the "Profesor Candelario Mejía y Cervantes" primary school where he is currently in the fourth grade. He even learned to swim, and won third prize in his class at a swimming competition. Cesar began to paint and draw with his mouth when he was 3 years old. He has been taking regular painting lessons since March 2012.

Valenzuela Ruiz, Dora Beatriz

Date of birth: 17 January 1973
Painting method: Mouth painter

Dora Beatriz Valenzuela Ruiz was born in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, on 17 January 1973. She completed primary school. At the age of 18 she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. The disease worsened over the years and she is now no longer capable of using her hands. Her body is slowly becoming deformed. In 2008, Dora Beatriz began painting with her mouth. Her friend Maria de los Ángeles Romero, herself a VDMFK Student Member, taught her how to hold a paintbrush with her mouth. One year later Dora Beatriz began studying art and painting under the mouth painter and teacher Lidia de Jesús Cháidez Lopez (also a VDMFK Student Member who has already taught mouth painting to many artists in Los Mochis). The mouth painter has now taken part in several group exhibitions.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Huang, Guofu

Date of birth: 9 June 1970
Painting method: Mouth painter

Guofu Huang was born in Chongqing on 9 June 1970. In 1974, at the age of 4, he lost both his arms due to an electric shock. Despite his adverse circumstances, Guofu completed his primary school education and gained his upper secondary school education certificate

New Student Members

after many years of self-study. At the age of 12 and on his own initiative he began to practise painting and creating calligraphies with his mouth. In his youth Guofu had the honour of being given an extensive education in painting under masters such as Zhao Yi, Cheng Manfu and Bai Dasong, etc. In his twenties he studied under extremely well-known Chinese artists such as Wang Yiyang, Chen Mo, Hu Yichuan and Lin Chenghan, to name just a few. Consequently, he managed to learn to paint in different styles and now knows how to correctly wield the paintbrush in what is known as the “water ink” painting technique. Guofu’s works have already been collected by hundreds of people at home and abroad. In 2010, he was given the opportunity to participate in the World Expo in Shanghai, where he presented a wide selection of his pictures. Many other exhibitions and awards testify to his immense creative urge. Guofu paints an extensive range of subjects including, inter alia, birds, animals, landscapes and typical buildings in his hometown of Chingqing.

SENEGAL

Diongue, Yonni

Date of birth: 5 April 1995

Painting method: Mouth painter

Yonni Diongue was born in Ziguinchor on 5 April 1995. At the age of 10, she suddenly became ill when she was in the first grade of primary school. She lost consciousness and was subsequently in a coma for over a month. When Yonni awoke from her coma, she found that she could no longer walk or talk, or use her hands or arms. She eventually managed to speak again after an intensive course of physiotherapy. Her parents coaxed her to learn to paint with her mouth, and she taught herself to do so in 2010. By doing so she continued to make good progress and she has even had the opportunity to exhibit her pictures in Dakar and the surrounding area.

USA

Barton, William V.

Date of birth: 7 June 1992

Painting method: Mouth painter

William V. Barton was born in San Diego on 7 June 1992. He attended high school and part of college. As a result of the serious injuries he sustained after a shootout in October 2012, William has lost the functionality of both his hands and arms, and of his left leg. During the incident he suffered a traumatic brain injury and injuries to his brachial plexus as well as a hemiplegia. In 2013, William began to teach himself to paint with his mouth. Later, he attended an art academy to extend his artistic talent. William mixes different media and paints in an abstract expressionist style. In his art works he employs thematic progressions by means of repetitive lines, meaningful words, abstract interpretations and expanding representations. His enormous hunger for creativity is partly due to the fact that both his parents are professional artists and that he himself was also an artist before the shooting. William uses the shooting incident as a catalyst and art as a recreation therapy.

Condon, Michael Dennis

Date of birth: 10 October 1949

Painting method: Mouth painter

Michael Dennis Condon was born in Pasadena, California on 10 October 1949. He attended elementary, junior high, high school and college. In 1971, a diving accident in the Feather River in Quincey (North California) led him to sustain a complete C3/4 quadriplegia. He has been unable to use his upper and lower limbs ever since. After his rehabilitation at the VA hospital in Long Beach he began studying law at Pasadena City College. To fill his schedule, he opted for the optional subjects of painting and drawing. Consequently, he had already established a basis for mouth painting by 1971. Because he had liked art from early childhood – an

interest which he nurtured right through until the start of college – he changed his major to art. Michael paints, draws and sculpts all the time and has already had the opportunity to take part in numerous exhibitions and to organise his own private exhibitions. His works can be found in many private collections and he has won several awards. He also devotes most of his time to lobbying for the interests of disabled people and their carers.

Masters, Richard Scott

Date of birth: 25 September 1989

Painting method: Mouth painter

Richard Masters was born in Rochester, New York, on 25 September 1989. He completed his school education up to grade K-6 at Schlegel Road Public School, and from the 7th to the 12th grade at Boces / Schroeder High School. In 1994, at the age of 5, he was seriously injured in a car accident. Since then he has been paralysed from the neck down and is now dependent on a ventilator. He already began to take an interest in painting when he was in the fourth grade and learned to draw and paint with his mouth on the initiative of his then teacher. Later on he took private lessons in art and painting under the professional artist Deborah Sapienza. Richard mainly creates his still life pictures in bright colours and with textures. Uncompromisingly strong, vibrant brushstrokes became his trademark. One of his paintings was awarded with a silver key at the “Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition 2008” in the State of New York. In addition, he painted portraits of popular US country singers such as Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, Toby Keith and Jason Aldean. He met all of these country artists and personally presented them with his original paintings.

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New Student Members

May, Sara

Date of birth: 6 October 1966

Painting method: Mouth painter

Sara May was born in Valdosta, Georgia, on 6 October 1966. She graduated from North Side High School and Westmark Community College. In 2005 she was diagnosed with progressive, recurrent multiple sclerosis. Then, in 2009, she had to give up her job because she could barely walk any longer. Since then she can no longer use her hands and arms, and is now paralysed in all her limbs. Sara always likes to be creative. After doing some research on the topic of mouth painting, she came across the VDMFK's publisher in the United States. As a result, she opened up the path to a new career in mouth painting by teaching herself to paint in October 2013. Later on she attended the "Hendrix College Governor's School", where she was able to develop her artistic skills still further.

Robi, Kenzi L.

Date of birth: 4 March 1973

Painting method: Mouth painter

Kenzi L. Robi was born in Los Angeles on 4 March 1973. He attended high school and College. Kenzi suffers from the consequences of a shooting accident which took place in December 1992. He is now permanently paralysed as a C-4 quadriplegic from the neck down. Despite the tragic incident, he has managed to overcome a variety of obstacles in circumstances where many others would easily have given up. He decided to paint with his mouth at St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco in 1993. His love of painting helps Kenzi to cope with his situation: he expresses himself on the canvas, occasionally sells artworks and inspires others never to give up. In 2010 Kenzi won the "National Disability Institute's Real Economic Impact Tour" competition. In addition, he was granted the rare privilege of exhibiting his artworks at the National Press Club and even had the opportunity to say a few words there when he

was awarded an achievements plaque for his artistic success and his quest for financial independence. Kenzi also works as a mentor for adults who have to live with a sudden disability and helps individuals released from hospital to the community so that they can live safe, independent and productive lives. Moreover, Kenzi is President of the Board of Directors of the "In-Home-Support-Services" (IHSS) state agency in San Francisco. He is an advocate for older people and adults with disabilities in San Francisco and in the State of California. The staging of several exhibitions in California has enabled him to become a well-known figure among the general public.

Scarborough, Sharon L.

Date of birth: 22 July 1944

Painting method: Mouth painter

Sharon Scarborough was born in Dunsmuir, California on 22 July 1944. Spinal muscular atrophy – a hereditary disorder in her case – caused her gradually to lose control of her hands and arms as the disease began to have serious hold when she was 27. The disease has now reached the stage that she can no longer use her upper and lower extremities and now lives in the nursing home. She tried painting with her mouth on her own initiative for the first time in 2013 and was delighted by the experience.

VENEZUELA

Pérez Velásquez, José Gregorio

Date of birth: 7 November 1967

Painting method: Mouth and foot painter

José Gregorio Pérez Velásquez was born without arms and with club feet in El Tejero, Monagas, on 7 November 1967. He completed primary and secondary school. As a young boy, he learned to use his mouth and his feet not only to speak and move about, but also for everyday tasks. Furthermore, he taught

himself to write and acquired an array of artistic and handicraft skills. His range of motifs includes local landscapes, lakes and the old houses and roads in his village. In addition, he is a writer, composer and occasional presenter on a local radio station.

At work...

Painting has always accompanied me from early childhood; sometimes by using my mouth, sometimes by using my feet, and sometimes even using both in order to paint a picture.

Flowers were always a source of inspiration for me. Their colours, their forms and their vibrancy inspire me. I regard them as a way of life... as an inducement to live even better and as a way to bring joy to the soul of the artist and the viewer.

Time passed. I have made art my profession and expressed pure talent in subtly different ways. At the VDMFK I suddenly noticed that my candles, my playing around with Father Christmas, my coloured snow and even my floral motifs have met with wide approval. It's very nice to know that someone on the other side of the world, or even on my side, has selected a particular image. My image! It's a fantastic feeling, as if a child had finally experienced the recognition and appreciation of professionals.

I hope this letter acts as a source of motivation to my dear fellow artists. Paint whatever it is you enjoy, but also discover other motifs such as Easter, Christmas and the miracle of Christmas. With each newly painted picture I go back to being a child, I play with colours and hear the sound of bells ringing in my ears... bells that awaken me to a different reality: to my commitment to the VDMFK and to my commitment to myself. This is the way to ensure personal and professional satisfaction.

In any case, it certainly reaps its rewards!

*Maria Goret Chagas
Student Member from Brazil*

The significance of painting

The significance of painting as seen by mouth painter Jingsheng Liu, Full Member from the People's Republic of China.

Painting gives me hovering wings

I was still a teenager when in the course of carrying out a routine repair job I unfortunately suffered an electric shock, as a result of which both my arms were amputated. This stroke of fate cast me into deep despair. I felt as if I would now forever be in darkness and never find hope again.

But one day I managed to create a crooked symbol through my attempts to hold a pen in my mouth. It seemed to me as if a light had lightened up my spirits again. I was convinced that for as long as I could hold a pen I would be able to perform many other activities. From that time on I channeled all my hopes and efforts into my pen, as if a burning torch could lead my soul from darkness into a radiant dawn and move me away from my trivial, insignificant worries towards a broader world of art...



Jingsheng Liu, Full Member from the People's Republic of China.

Like a flint which lights a torch and dissipates fears of the dark, which repels the forces of confusion and

desperation, and which signifies a flag of hope, when I hold a pen with my mouth and feet and draw a clear line, my heart virtually explodes precisely at this moment.



Jingsheng Liu (Full Member/People's Republic of China), "Tree in red blossom", watercolour, 67x67 cm.

Having recovered from the suffering caused by my disability and from the shock of losing my arms, I am now able to release my hidden life energies. Although my toes might get blisters, my legs suffer from cramp, my gums become swollen and my neck feel stiff, both at the front and the back, all this strengthens my hope. A brushstroke simply means to carve a new life. The assured execution of a brushstroke simply means to gauge one's will. The colour of a brushstroke simply means transforming passion into love – for intensive efforts lead to extraordinary success.

You have to suffer an intense disappointment in life to truly learn to appreciate what life is all about and accept increasing sympathy with gratitude. This also makes you long all the more for the splendid comfort of beau-

The significance of painting

ty. You might easily find yourself enjoying the glory of daybreak, being grateful for genuine friendship, marvelling at dancing flowers or listening to the sublime beauty of birdsong.

Coloured pens and crayons enable you to immerse yourself fully in true feeling, to paint the marvels of life, to celebrate the joys of working, to praise the glory of love. Coloured pens and crayons give me floating wings; they produce little, carefully made works; and a sheet of what I paint on flies with me all over the world and flies close to you.

There is no darkness or burden to shoulder. All that has been encouraged is tempestuous passion. All that has receded quietly and secretly is the springtime glory of love. Humanity, friendship and hope are everything we have enjoyed together.

We first met in laughter. Our efforts have resulted in unimaginable energy and strength. Our hopes have spread out colourful swinging wings; in the same blue sky, we fly – and we fly together.

Jingsheng Liu
Full Member / People's Republic of
China



Jingsheng Liu (Full Member/People's Republic of China), „Cock“, watercolour, 70x66 cm.

Jingsheng Liu

Date of birth: 30 November 1952

Place of birth: Beijing

Full Member of the VDMFK since: 2005

Painting method: Mouth painter

Jingsheng Liu has always loved painting. In 1978, he experienced a severe electric shock while working which meant that both his arms had to be amputated. He turned to painting with a passion in order to start a new life. In 1980 he returned to his former employer who employed him as a librarian in his company. He also began to paint with his mouth. Jingsheng focused first

on calligraphy. In 1985, he also joined the Federation of Calligraphy and Painting in the municipality of Beijing. He began painting delicate watercolours in the traditional Chinese style and was awarded a scholarship by the VDMFK in 1988. At the same time, he also began studying at the University of Changchun. In 1992 he became an Associate Member of the Association. He continued his studies at the Painting Academy from 1994 onwards. Five years later, he began studying calligraphy at the Pedagogical Institute of Shoudu. At the current time, he is a member of the Chinese Association of Calligraphy and Painting. Jingsheng

became a Full Member of the VDMFK in 2005.

Jingsheng has mastered the art of Chinese calligraphy and the traditional Chinese painting style which permits brushwork without taking details into account. His pen work is simple, beautiful, and creative all at the same time. He prefers to depict motifs from the animal world. For the connoisseur of Chinese painting, his pictures represent visual parables which reveal profound insights into life and the human condition. He has displayed his works at exhibitions in the USA, Japan, Austria and Korea. In addition, he has staged solo exhibitions at several places in China.

We mourn for

GREECE

Raftopoulos, Ilias

Date of birth: 10 May 1958

Passed away on: 4 November 2014

Painting method: Mouth painter

Ilias Raftopoulos attended elementary and grammar school, after which he studied at the Athens art school from 1979 to 1981. In August 1981 he was involved in a serious accident in which he broke his fifth and sixth vertebrae. He was left a quadriplegic from this time onwards. Ilias started painting with his mouth in 1986. Just one year later he managed to take part in an exhibition in his home village in Chania. He received a scholarship from the Association in 1988, was awarded Associate Member status in 1994, and became a Full Member of the VDMFK in 1998. Ilias' preferred motifs included the landscapes of his Greek homeland, which he painted in the bright colours of his Mediterranean style. He also



Ilias Raftopoulos still managed to take part in the Delegates' Convention in Athens. This photo shows him at the opening of the exhibition. He passed away only a month later.

enjoyed painting portraits. He used the methods of oil and watercolour painting. His works were repeatedly shown

at home and abroad in solo and group exhibitions. Ilias Raftopoulos passed away on 4 November 2014.

SWITZERLAND

Spahni, Klaus

Date of birth: 20 June 1940

Passed away on: 4 July 2014

Painting method: Mouth painter

Klaus Spahni contracted polio at the age of nine, which left his arms and legs completely paralysed from that time on. He discovered his joy of painting through a physiotherapist in Zurich. Just a few years later he found himself studying scientific illustration at the School of Design in St. Gallen and took art classes under a renowned painter to perfect his skills in free painting. Klaus continued his education in other European countries, and honed his art in Rome, Paris, and Spain. Only a short time later, he became a member of the Swiss Professional Association for the Visual Arts (VISARTE) and of the VDMFK. As a result, he was given the opportunity to introduce his works to a wide public. He



Mouth painter Klaus Spahni passed away on 4 July 2014.

organised numerous exhibitions in Switzerland, Austria and in cities all over the world on his own, together with his wife, and in groups as part of his activities for VISARTE and the VDMFK. Today, many of his paintings are also on display in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Gallen. Painting served as the cornerstone of Klaus' work and activity. It enabled him "use lines, surfaces, colours and tonalities to move about on the canvas", as he put it. His physical freedom of movement was severely restricted by his paralysis. "But on a canvas I can walk, skip, jump and dance", Klaus used to say. Inspired by this "dance", he felt completely connected with life. He greatly enjoyed the experience of working intensely until a particular picture was finished and he felt extremely happy when his works turned out the way he wanted them to. Klaus Spahni passed away on 4 July.

SOUTH AFRICA

May, Justice

Date of birth: 1 March 1968

Passed away on: 8 October 2014

Painting method: Mouth painter

Justice May attended technical college before starting an apprenticeship as an electrician, but at the age of 18 his career plans were suddenly interrupted by a diving accident. Due to the accident he injured his spine between the fifth and sixth cervical vertebrae and remained paraplegic for the rest of his life. He began drawing with his mouth less than two years later and eventually learned the art of painting with oils on canvas and of painting with watercolours. From the start of his artistic career he attended various courses under recognised art teachers. In 1989, Justice received a scholarship from the Association. This enabled him to present his works to the general public at a series of exhibitions. After joining the VDMFK, he represented South Africa with tireless commitment in the USA, where his works received various awards at a number of exhibitions. He was inducted as an Associate Member in the Association in 1995 and became a Full



Justice May passed away on 8 October 2014.

Member in 2000. Justice was also a member of the Association of South African Artists. An initial highpoint of his artistic career came in 1999, when he presented Nelson Mandela with a

portrait that he had painted of him with his mouth. This gift led to numerous reports about Justice being published in the media.

USA

LaDow, Jeffrey

Date of birth: 2 February 1957

Passed away on: 26 May 2014

Painting method: Mouth painter

Jeffrey Allen LaDow worked as a car dealer after he finished his school education. In 1975 he was involved in a diving accident which left him a quadriplegic. He already knew about his talent for painting before his accident. For this reason, it was logical that he began to take up oil painting in 1982. Subsequently, he completed courses under renowned art teachers. He first received a scholarship from the Association in 1986 and studied at the Milwaukee Art

Museum in 1991. It was on these courses that he learned the techniques of the old masters. He became an Associate Member of the VDMFK in 1992 and a Full Member in 2003. Jeffrey's paintings followed the traditions of naive art but always featured highly idiosyncratic forms and ideas. The images he created were painted at one go with the highest concentration and minutest detail. He was frequently able to show his works to a broad section of the public at solo and group exhibitions. Furthermore, he organised demonstrations for elementary school pupils and college students. As well as painting, Jeffrey also enjoyed tandem parachuting, which became his hobby in addition to photography and car sports.



Jeffrey LaDow passed away on 26 May 2014.

We mourn for

Student Members who have passed away

ARGENTINA

Villagran, Rosalino

Date of birth: 18 July 1952
Passed away on: 9 November 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

The mouth painter Rosalino Villagran was born in Chile on 18 July 1952. At the age of 16 he was involved in a swimming accident which left him a quadriplegic. Rosalino began to teach himself how to paint and draw before going on to take lessons with art teachers at a later stage. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 1991. Rosalino mainly painted oil and tempera pictures. Due to his disability the mouth painter was only able to paint in bed. Rosalino Villagran passed away on 9 November 2014.

BRAZIL

Faleiros, Maria Aparecida

Date of birth: 31 October 1942
Passed away on: 21 July 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Maria Aparecida Faleiros was born prematurely in the sixth month of pregnancy on 31 October 1942. She was born with physical disabilities which affected her central nervous system and prevented her from moving about normally. She was intelligent, could read but was unable to write due to her disability. Her quadriplegic condition meant that she was completely unable to move or feed herself without the help of others. The Association granted her a scholarship in 2002. Maria Aparecida Faleiros passed away on 21 July 2014.

CANADA

Maslanka, Phillip

Date of birth: 7 April 1943
Passed away on: 17 May 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Phillip Maslanka was born in Radway, Alberta / Canada on 7 April 1943. He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1969. His arms and legs were completely paralysed. A few years later he set out on his first attempts to paint with his mouth. The artist preferred painting landscape motifs. Phillip also took part in a number of exhibitions. He first became a VDMFK Student Member in 1996. Phillip Maslanka passed away on 17 May 2014.

GREAT BRITAIN

Davies, Hayley

Date of birth: 29 May 1963
Passed away on: 2 August 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Hayley Davies was born in Usk, Monmouthshire, on 19 May 1963. She had already qualified as a hairdresser when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1990. Due to the steady progression of the disease she gradually lost the use of her arms and legs until, eventually, her limbs were completely paralysed. Because she had always had a flair for art and was searching for a new way to realise herself in life, a friend enabled her to discover the opportunity to paint with her mouth in 2007. Animal motifs and a wide array of natural motifs provided the main inspiration for her paintings. She became a VDMFK Student Member in 2011. Hayley Davies passed away on 2 August 2014.

Pike, Ray

Date of birth: 11 July 1966
Passed away on: 20 May 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Ray Pike was born in Nottingham on 11 July 1966. He attended primary and secondary school. At the age of 16 he broke a neck vertebra when he fell through a window. From that time onwards, his legs and arms were left paralysed. Even so, he attended a computer school and became a qualified programmer. On the advice of therapists, he embarked on his first attempts to paint with his mouth and increasingly perfected his artistic talent. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 1996. Ray Pike passed away on 20 May 2014.

Rainey, Edward

Date of birth: 8 July 1961
Passed away on: 7 May 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Edward Rainey was born in Glasgow on 8 July 1961. He attended primary and secondary school in Glasgow. In 1985 he was involved in a diving accident which left him a quadriplegic. Before his accident, the mouth painter had only been back one year from the army in which he had served a three-year tour of duty in Germany and Northern Ireland. Edward began teaching himself to paint with his mouth in 1987. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 1991. In addition to painting, Edward was also deeply interested in religion. Edward Rainey passed away on 7 May 2014.

JAPAN

Oda, Toshio

Date of birth: 25 February 1952
Passed away on: 25 June 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Toshio Oda was born in Kita Kyushu, Fukuoka, on 25 February 1952. He contracted pneumonia on his first birthday

and his accompanying high fever resulted in a cerebral palsy. As a result, he not only became unable to use any of his four limbs but also the ability to speak. In 1961 he arrived at the "Komei" school, an educational institution for children with disabilities in Tokyo. His school education enabled him to reach an academic level, but owing to his personal circumstances he was no longer able to become a scientist. His art teacher advised him to learn to paint with his mouth. From 1972 he started painting under the instructions and guidance of professional artists. In 1975 he won a highly prestigious award in Japan – the "NHK International Contest for Educational Media". One of his works was displayed at a modern art gallery in 1976. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 1979. The artist always reflected his own personal style in the works he created. Toshio Oda passed away on 25 June 2014.

SINGAPORE

Kim, Liang Hang

Date of birth: 20 November 1949
Passed away on: 14 September 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Liang Hang Kim was born on 20 November 1949. On 2 April 1972 he was involved in a serious traffic accident in which he fractured his C6-7 vertebrae (resulting in both his arms and legs being paralysed). In 1990 he was introduced to the world of art in the course of his occupational therapy, but was not that interested at first. It was only through the encouragement of our late mouth painter Johnny Ang Yam Kwang that Liang Hang began to paint with his mouth. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 2001. The artist chiefly painted a wide range of animal motifs. Liang Hang Kim passed away on 14 September 2014.

SOUTH AFRICA

Calitz, Jan H. E.

Date of birth: 8 March 1949
Passed away on: 12 June 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Jan H. E. Calitz was born on 8 March 1949. On 17 July 1970 he had a motorcycle accident in which he fractured his C5/C6 vertebrae. He first began to explore the possibilities of painting in 2000. Jan began to take private lessons and developed a sublime passion for painting. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 2004. His interest grew the more he learned about art. More than anything else, the mouth painter Jan H. E. Calitz wanted to reflect the beauty of nature in his pictures.

Swanepoel, Johannes Bertus

Date of birth: 5 October 1964
Passed away on: 4 October 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Johannes Bertus Swanepoel completed his education in Pretoria and passed the 8th grade. Afterwards, he served for one year in the police unit of the South African Air Force. On June 17, 1983 he suffered a spinal cord injury between the 5th and 6th cervical vertebrae as a result of an automobile accident. This was precisely the day on which he was due to get his driver's license. Johannes was a C5/6 quadriplegic from that time onwards. His rehabilitation lasted around two years. Johannes subsequently worked for four and a half years as a senior executive for two different companies before he got the chance to run his own company for two years. In 1994 he was encouraged by his family and friends to take up mouth painting. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 1995. In 1996 he was admitted to a self-help centre for quadriplegics, where he lived and worked for seven years. During this time he studied art for five years before moving back to Pretoria at the end of 2001. After that, he worked for three years at a mission

organisation. He worked with watercolours, oil paints and other mixed media. Above all, his preference was to work with oil paints and charcoal. Johannes Bertus Swanepoel passed away on 4 October, just one day before his 50th birthday.

USA

Nakamura, Morris M.

Date of birth 5 January 1950
Passed away on: 7 May 2014
Painting method: Mouth painter

Morris M. Nakamura was born on 5 January 1950. A carpenter and business owner of 30 years' standing, he was diagnosed with a progressive spinal atrophy, a form of muscular dystrophy, in 1989. As his physical disability increased, he discovered his passion for oil painting. Fascinated by the beauty of nature, the mouth painter enjoyed depicting landscapes and aquatic themes in his paintings. He became a VDMFK Student Member in 2006. Although he slowly lost the use of his most important muscles, he continued to believe that painting was a means of strengthening his self-awareness as an artist. Morris was also involved in the "How People With Disabilities Can Work On Their Own" initiative. Morris M. Nakamura passed away on 7 May 2014.

VDMFK personalities

In this section we are honoured to introduce you to mouth and foot painters who rendered outstanding services to the VDMFK Association in the course of its – now over 50 years old – history. This time around we present Corry F. Riet, a mouth painter from the Netherlands.

Corry F. Riet passed away on 11 November 1958. So she was only a Board Member of the Association for little more than 18 months after her election to the position at the inaugural meeting of 19 March 1957. Corry was born a healthy child in Zaandam on 16 November 1924. Corry contracted polio at the age of five and from that time on her arms and legs remained paralysed, which meant that she was now bound to a wheelchair. She attended disability school in Rotterdam before settling in Amsterdam. Corry taught herself to paint with her mouth and loved capturing romantic landscapes on paper. It wasn't until 1944 that she returned to her native village of Zaandam, a suburb of Amsterdam, where she bought a



Corry was elected to the Board at the inaugural meeting of the VDMFK.



Corry F. Riet's works are among the oldest belonging to the VDMFK. She passed away 18 months after the inaugural meeting.

house in which she would often sit at the corner watching the lively bustle of the street. Travel was also one of her great passions and took her to different towns and cities across the world. She exuded a tremendous joie de vivre which came across to everyone who talked with her.



Corry's preferred motifs included landscape scenes from her native countryside.

Artists' activities

ARGENTINA

Barcia, Cesar Andres

(Student Member)

- Cesar Andres Barcia had the honour of painting the 'Juan L. Vega' award. He was also invited to the prize-giving ceremony at which numerous well-known celebrities from Argentina and various media outlets were present.

Moya, Maria Celeste

(Student Member)

- Maria Celeste Moya exhibited her works in San José on 16 and 17 August 2014. This exhibition aroused a great deal of interest because the mayor and the local bishop also attended the opening. In addition, she received an award from the city council of Catamarca. She also took part with her works in an art fair which was held in the city on 14 June 2014 and participated in the 11-day festival. As a result, her paintings were viewed by over 500 visitors.

Paz, Rosa Mirta

(Student Member)

- Rosa Mirta Paz again took part in the 'PURO' art exhibition which was held in the city of Charata from 24-29 August. This time around she was accompanied by **Student Members Maria Celeste Moya and Sergio Adrian Hernandez**. Numerous media outlets reported on the artists' involvement in this event.

Semaan,

Agostina Antonella

(Student Member)

- Agostina Antonella Semaan was invited by Argentina's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to present the film 'Mundo alas' at the seventh conference of member states which have signed up to the convention on disability rights. Agostina Antonella was also asked to organise a show. This film was screened in the presence of ambassadors and representatives of various countries on 10 June. Next day, she gave a concert during which she showcased a portrait of the artist Frida Kahlo in the presence of over 200 per-

sons, UN ambassadors and visitors.

BRAZIL

Borges, Gonçalo A. Pinto

(Associate Member)

- Gonçalo A. Pinto Borges demonstrated his skills in front of over 900 children at a state school in the municipality. Furthermore, he displayed his works at the Fourth International Exhibition of Visual Art as well as at the autumn and winter exhibitions of the art company.

GUATEMALA

Nájera Carazo,

Maria Eugenia

(Student Member)

- Maria Eugenia Najera Carazo can look back on a busy time filled with activities. For example, she took part in a collective exhibition at a modern art museum from 12 September 2013 to 15 January 2014. She also participated in the 'Expo-Arte' show in the lobby of the 'Europlaza' building from 6 May to 6 June 2014. Maria Eugenia went on to present her works in the framework of a

permanent picture exhibition at the 'Poderosas' movement and also gave various painting demonstrations and motivational lectures at hospitals and schools.

INDIA

Ramakrishnan, Narayan

(Student Member)

- Narayan Ramakrishnan presented his foot-painting art at the 'Astha' celebrations to preserve talents and uniqueness on 1 December 2013. This festival is held by NGOs for children.

INDONESIA

- The **Associate Members Yusuf Agus, Sadikin Pard and Sabar Subadri as well as Student Member Salim Haram** took part in the 'Art Fair 2014' painting exhibition which was held in Surabaya from 3 to 12 October 2014. They made full use of the opportunity to exhibit many of their works and give painting demonstrations which attracted considerable interest among visitors

Continued on page 36

GREECE / CYPRUS

- The two artists **Kyriakos Kyriakou (Full Member/Cyprus) and Leandros Arvanitakis (Student Member/Greece)** had the honour of exhibiting their works in the Parliament of Cyprus on 5 June 2013 and of giving a painting de-

monstration at the opening. The exhibition was organised by the President of the Parliament of Cyprus, who also held a speech. Leandros Arvanitakis exhibited 25 paintings and Kyriakos Kyriakou some 27.



The two artists Kyriakos Kyriakou (on the right) and Leandros Arvanitakis during the speech delivered by the President of Parliament.

Artists' activities

and in the media.

- The two **Associate Members Yusuf Agus and Sabar Subadri** took part in the Yogyakarta art festival which was organised and staged by the Province's office of cultural affairs and which lasted from 20 August to 9 September 2014.

- The two artists **Sadikin Pard (Associate Member) and Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan (Full Member)** presented their works at the 59th anniversary of the Foundation for the Development of Disabled Children in the city of Malang from 24-29 March 2014.

ISRAEL

Adir, Itzhak
(Full Member)

- Yitzhak Adir exhibited his works at a group exhibition entitled 'Woman's Voice'. The exhibition was held in the Amiad Center, the biggest gallery in Tel Aviv.

Argalazi, Ronen
(Student Member)

- Ronen Argalazi opened a highly successful solo exhibition at the Kibbutz Hatzerim on 28 March 2014.

ITALY

- The three artists **Mario Barbuiani (Full Member), Mario Cav. Barzon (Full Member) and Guido Chinello (Student Member)** staged a group exhibition at the villa of the Count of Padua from 28 June to 2 July 2014 and gave a painting demonstration at the opening. The exhibition attracted a high number of visitors.

- The Italian artists **Bruno Carati (Full Member), Tranquillo Fregoni (Full Member), Santina Portelli (Full Member) and Roberto Zomero (Associate Member)** held a group exhibition at the civic theatre of the Municipality of Nova Milanese from 18-28 October 2014. This event was organised

by the independent painting academy.

Atzori, Simona
(Full Member)

- Simona Atzori had the great honour of being granted an audience with the



Pope at which she presented him with a portrait of his Holiness which she had painted.

MEXICO

Cháidez López, Lidia da Jesús
(Student Member)

- The artist Lidia de Jesús Cháidez López was awarded a prestigious prize by the 'Documentación y Estudios de Mujeres, A.C.' (DEMAC) institute. She was awarded the prize for submitting the most sensational life story. The story itself was written by her sister and published in a book.

Escalante Berea, Rosa María
(Student Member)

- Rosa María Escalante Berea opened a solo exhibition at the Faculty of Architecture in Mexico City on 25 March 2014. She exhibited 23 of her works over the course of two weeks.

PHILIPPINES

- The two **Student Members Bernard Pesigan and Jason C. Delos Reyes** exhibited their works at a national festival held in Calamba on 21 August 2014.

- The artists **Amado Binwag Dulnan (Associate Member), John Roland Feruelo (Student Member) and Jovito Sasutona (Associate Member)** gave painting demonstrations and pres-

ented their works at the 'Culture and Art' festival in the City of Antipolo and in order to promote tourism in the mountain city.

Delos Reyes, Jason C.
(Student Member)

- Jason C. Delos Reyes held a solo exhibition at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City from 17-24 July 2014.

POLAND

Kmiecik, Stanislaw
(Full Member)

- Stanisław Kmiecik can look back on a series of exhibitions and painting demonstrations which he staged from October to December 2013. Simply between 14 and 30 November 2013 he exhibited 110 of his works at six different venues in the town of Trzemeszno. Each exhibition lasted several weeks and the artist gave demonstrations of his painting skills at each venue.

SPAIN

Samblas Punzano, Restituto
(Student Member)

- Restituto Samblás Punzano held his first solo exhibition from 1-15 April 2013. It was entitled 'Brushstrokes of Life' and took place in the town of Roquetas de Mar.

USA

Crouch, Wendy Paige
(Student Member)

- On 3 December 2013 Wendy Paige Crouch was invited to take part in a special event to mark the International Day of People with Disabilities. She exhibited her paintings and held a speech at the event.



Ko Shu (Full Member/Taiwan), 'Colourful butterfly around a white flower', watercolour, 31x31 cm.

Information from the office

Submission of originals

The office of the Association kindly asks all members to read and take note of the following information.

All consignments of originals sent in to the VDMFK are subject to inspection by the Swiss Customs Administration (Liechtenstein is Swiss Customs Territory and part of the Swiss Currency and Economic Area). Import levy is imposed on all originals, which will be paid by the VDMFK.

As artists constantly send their originals to the VDMFK we have commissioned the forwarding agency DHL Logistics AG, Switzerland, to handle this difficult matter.

We therefore request you to send all your parcels containing originals to the following address:

**DHL Logistics (Schweiz) AG
DHL Freight Division
z.Hd. Herrn Kurt Schäpper/VDMFK,
Schaan
Heldastrasse 66,
CH-9471 Buchs/Schweiz**

Please keep in mind the following points when you send in your paintings:
-no framed paintings
-no passe-partouts
-no eye bolts or other hanging devices
-no oil paintings that are not dry

Please write the following information on the reverse of your original:

Name

Country

Original title

Technique

on sale or not on sale

With your cooperation you save us additional correspondence and considerably facilitate the work of the VDMFK.

Please send **only** originals to DHL but no correspondence, reports, photographs, catalogues, biographies, etc.

All your correspondence etc. should be addressed solely to the:

**VDMFK
Im Rietle 25
P.O. Box 818
FL-9494 Schaan
Principality of Liechtenstein
vdmfk@vdmfk.li**

Return of originals

Due to lack of storage we have to return the originals to our artists from time to time. We send back those originals that have already been reproduced or motifs that are not needed for other purposes any more. The VDMFK does not need these paintings any more, so please do not submit the returned originals again. You can use your works for your exhibitions or sell them. However, please take into account that the purchaser does not acquire the right to reproduce the original.

For private sales please use the form of the VDMFK, which has to be signed by the respective purchaser.

History of the VDMFK

Rome 1992: 8th Delegates' Convention

The Delegates' Convention which was held in Rome from 30 March to 3 April 1992 played a particularly significant role in the history of the Association. On the one hand, the Convention agreed to an extensive revision of the statutes. On the other, the audience with Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Cathedral marked a highpoint in the history of VDMFK. The Holy Father used the opportunity to exchange a few words with various mouth and foot painters and to bless them. The conference focused on a comprehensive revision of the statutes, unanimously adopted by the delegates, which expanded the possibilities of VDMFK membership. While the Association had only recognised Members and Honorary Members in the years until 1992, the 1992 Delegates Convention regulated possible membership on completely new grounds. Thus Article 4 of the statutes was amended as follows:



The audience with the Pope marked a highpoint in the history of the VDMFK. Here we see the Holy Father giving his blessing to Board Member Ruth Christensen from Denmark who was elected to the Board for the first time in Rome.



During the audience, Spanish mouth painter Cristóbal Moreno-Toledo presented the Holy Father with a portrait he had painted of him.

"The Association recognises the following forms of membership:

- a.) Full Members
- b.) Associate Members
- c.) Honorary Members."

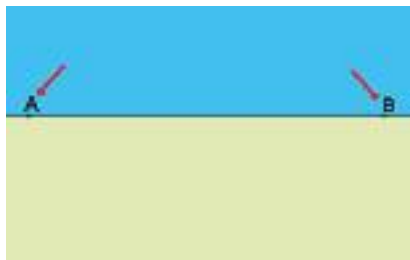
Consequently, the status of "Associate Member" was added to the possibilities of membership. No amendments were made in regard to Student Members. The statutes of the time clearly stated: "In addition, the Management Board has the right to grant scholarships to persons who paint with their mouth or feet, but who cannot be accepted as Members of the Association on grounds of age, the quality of their pictures or for other reasons." The Delegates adhered to this long-standing rule in 1992. A further incisive change involved the procedures for electing the President. During the presidency of Arnulf Erich Stegmann the statutes explicitly stated that he was elected to serve as President of the VDMFK for life. Following his death, a new rule was introduced which limited the tenure of the elected President to six years in each case. In 1992 the Delegates amended this in the ruling whereby "The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period covering the next three Conventions." At the Convention in Rome, Delegates were also called on

to elect a new Managing Board for the coming years. As a result, it was necessary to elect a President once more. President Marlyse Tovae stood for election again. Since no request had been submitted for a written ballot to be taken, she was unanimously elected for the second time as President by verbal ballot. In the case of the election of Board Members, the requirement was to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Irene Schricker. In addition, a motion was approved to extend the number of Board Members by one person. After the previous Board Members Eros Bonamini, Erich Macho and Charles Fowler had been confirmed in their office by acclamation, the Delegates elected Ms Ruth Christensen, mouth painter from Denmark, and Mr Bruce Peardon, mouth painter from Australia, to the Board by written ballot. In addition, Legal Consultant Dr. Dr. Herbert Batliner was confirmed in his office – just as he had been at previous VDMFK Conventions and Assemblies. At the Delegates' Convention in Rome the VDMFK also held an international exhibition which displayed some 150 exhibits by mouth and foot painters from all over the world. This exhibition was staged at Palazzo Ruspoli from 31 March to 20 April 1992 under the patronage of the City of Rome.

Painting school

Serge Maudet, VDMFK President and mouth painter from France, reveals further tips and tricks about the art of mouth and foot painting.

Buildings depicted in perspective



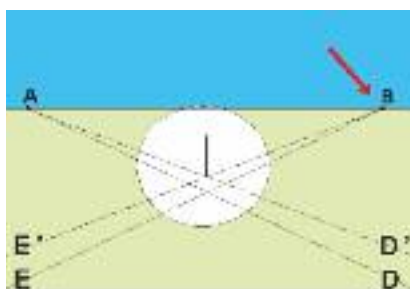
Draw a horizontal line about a third below from the top of the sheet and mark two alignment points (A and B) on it.



Draw an alignment line to the opposite corner of the sheet (D).

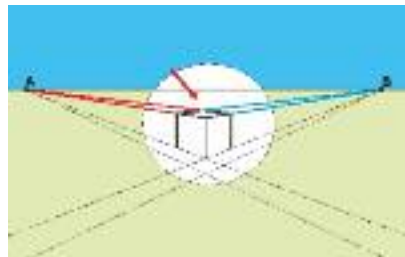


Draw a second line starting at A and ending at point D' via D.

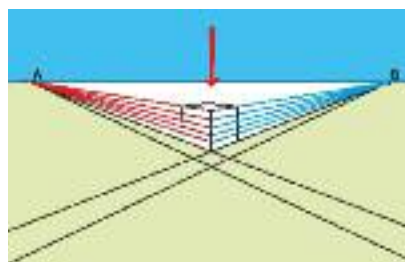


Repeat this process, starting from point B to points E and E'.

Draw a vertical line at the point of intersection between lines A, D' and B, E'.

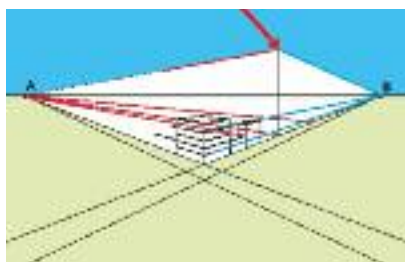


The red lines all meet at point A, an alignment point. The blue lines all meet at point B, also an alignment point. They enable us to preserve the depth of the cube.



Mark the floors on the longest edge of the cube and add the red and blue lines.

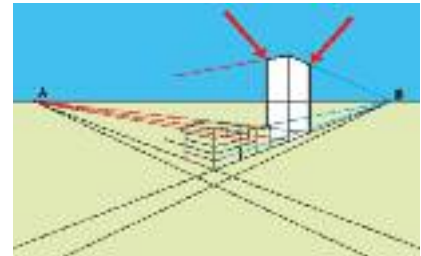
By extending these lines, you'll find they all intersect at the vanishing points (A and B).



Continue the exercise by putting various buildings in the form of cuboids of different heights.

To give an impression of size, draw a vertical line which is higher than the line of horizon.

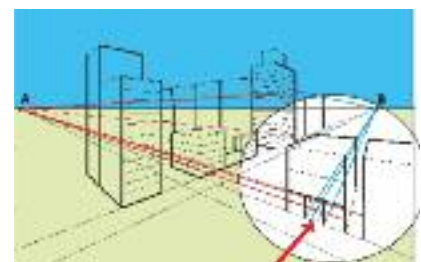
Starting from alignment points A and B, draw one line each to the tip of your vertical line.



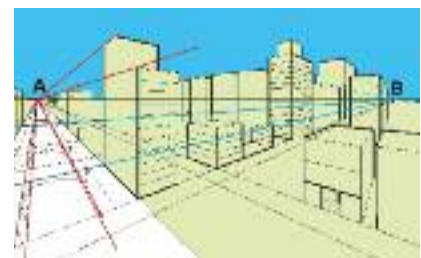
Now draw two more vertical lines, one to the left and the other to the right of the first line.

Draw the two edges at the top of the building.

Repeat the process for each building with the desired sizes.

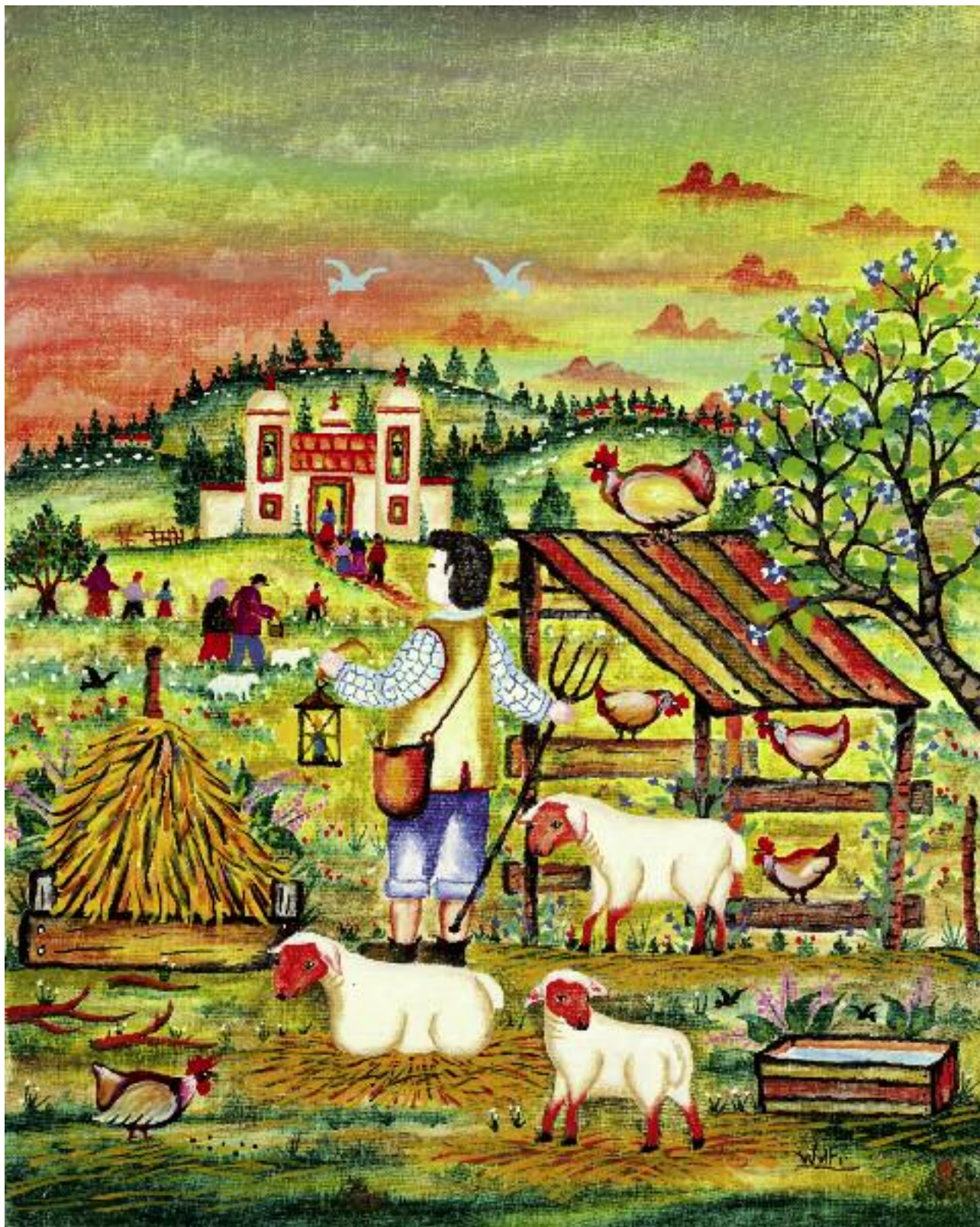


Note the highlighted section. Note the importance which the alignments have for realising the entrance hall of the building.



Study the left side of our imaginary city. Draw a canal with four bridges. Ensure you correctly place the horizontal and vertical lines.

In the next edition of the VDMFK Information we shall explore in greater depth how best to follow the alignment lines in order to achieve an apparent depth through the bridges.



Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member/Argentina), 'Wall with sheep and chickens', tempera, 50x40 cm.

Publishers' activities

GERMANY

- The German publishing house held its traditional workshop in Potsdam's 'Neues Palais' from 2-6 September 2014. The theme of this year's event was 'Colour – Worlds of Colour'. Nine of Germany's mouth and foot painters took part. They consisted of the **Full Members Lars Höllerer, Günther Holzapfel, Thomas Kahlau and Antje Kratz, the Associate Members Markus Kolp and Markus Kostka, and the Student Members Wal-demar Merz, Renate Schaible-Kaufmann and Petra Wenig**. Greatly appreciated was the fact that President Serge Maudet travelled to Potsdam to spend a few days with the artists.

SINGAPORE

- The vast majority of the Singaporean artists participated in the 'Singapore Gift Show' which was held from 9-11 July 2014. Each of the attending mouth and foot painters gave a two-hour painting demonstration which met with great interest.

SLOVENIA

- The Slovenian publishing house opened an exhibition entitled 'Flowers' in the Salus gallery on 3 April 2014. Most of the 33 works on display were by Slovenian artists. The pictures could be viewed right through to 30 May and were highly praised.

- An international exhibition was held in the Slovenian town of Koper from 8 August to 8 September 2014. On display were works by **Yitzhak Adir (Full Member/Israel), Mario Barbu-jani (Full Member/Italy), Vojko Gasperut (Full Member/Slovenia), Silvo Mehle (Associate Member/Slovenia) and Benjamin Žnidaršic (Full Member-/Slovenia)**. This exhibition aroused great interest in the local media. A TV station broadcast a report on the opening.

CANADA



- The Canadian publishing house staged an exhibition in Toronto from 18-26 September 2014 at which over 50 pic-

tures and paintings by Canadian mouth and foot painters were on display. The event was attended by the artists **Theresa Helen Matthias (Full Member), Amanda Orichefsky (Student Member) and Barbara Ann Winfield (Student Member)** who also fielded questions from the media. The highlight of the opening of the exhibition was the speech delivered by Student Member and former high school teacher Barbara Ann Winfield in front of pupils in the fifth grade (see photos). All eyes and ears were on her, and her words were listened to with great attention. Clearly enjoying all this, Barbara Ann went on to give a humorous presentation to the delight of all those who had the privilege to be there.

SWEDEN

- The Swedish publishing house held an exhibition from 9 November to 23 December 2013 at which 50 works by Swedish mouth and foot painters were on display. It bore the name 'Autumn Exhibition' and took place in the gallery of the publishing house in Solna. Most of Sweden's mouth and foot painters attended the event.



Publishers' activities

SLOVENIA

- The Slovenian publishing house held an exhibition entitled 'Slovenian sites' in Ljubljana from 15 October to 7 November 2014. A total of 24 works by the Slovenian artists were on display. Each Slovenian artist had been given plenty of notice to paint two pictures on the subject of 'Slovenian sites'. The results culminated in a wonderful exhibition of new paintings. The exhibition meant that the Slovenian publishing house (UNSU) was also able to celebrate two premieres: on the one hand, the country's mouth and foot painters exhibited their works for the first time as part of the well-known gallery lottery. On the other, this occasion marked the first time in the history of the publishing house that all eleven of Slovenia's mouth and foot painters had gathered in the same place at one time. The exhibition proved highly popular and was seen by very many people.

Photo below: The artist Benjamin Žnidaršič gives the manager of the gallery, Ms Katjuša Rojac (on the right), one of his works as a gift. Ms Klára Soós, office manager at the Slovenian publishing house, can be seen on the left.



For the very first time in the 13-year history of the Slovenian publishing house, all eleven artists gathered at the same time for an exhibition opening.



The exhibition was based around the theme of 'Slovenian sites'. The publishing house especially asked the artists to paint pictures on this theme.



Many visitors attended the opening. The exhibition was well attended each day until it closed.

