

# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
WORLDWIDE

December 2015/191



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## Dear artists,

Once again, Christmas and New Year are just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I have the impression that time passes much too quickly.

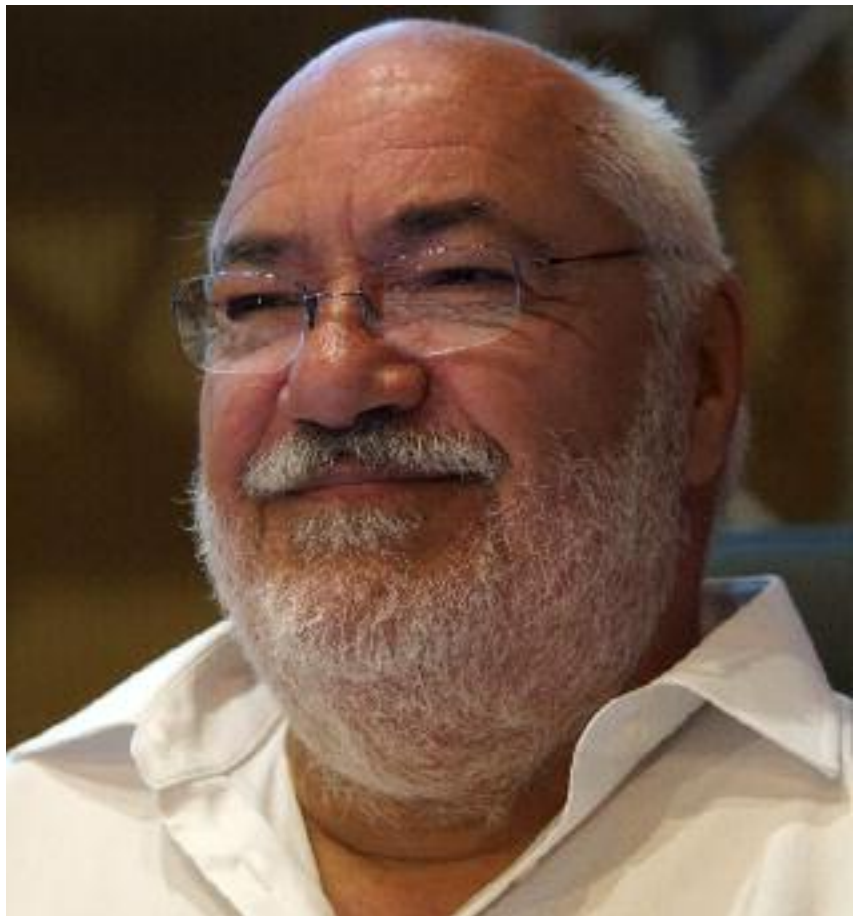
Now almost upon us, the New Year 2016 is full of new adventures and challenges. So let's get ready and roll up our sleeves to meet the coming year with energy and enthusiasm!

I would especially like to dedicate these opening words to two people who left us a few months ago. The first was my friend and long-term colleague Trevor Wells. He was inducted into the Association in 1984, became a Full Member in 1987, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2000. Then, in 2013, he was appointed Vice President of the Association. We spent a considerable number of years travelling down the same road together. We shared difficult moments, but also times of great happiness along the way. I had the pleasure of performing a painting demonstration with him on one occasion. He particularly liked to paint winter landscapes with a precision that often left people speechless!

The second gentleman was Cristóbal Moreno Toledo, a member of the Association for fifty years. He was an artist with whom I shared my love of Impressionism. I always remember what I felt when I saw his works for the first time...

Trevor and Cristóbal were two great artists deeply rooted in our Association. In wishing to express my personal gratitude to them, the words of the French writer André Malraux come to my mind: "The unhappiness of having lost him should not make us forget the happiness of having known him."

Two personal remarks in regard to Impressionism: I like the way I can lose myself in this style of painting. Exuberant colours burst upon the canvas; radiant light penetrates everything while sometimes blurring shapes and forms



**VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.**

in the process; the third dimension which allows viewers to see the world in terms completely unlike the case of classical painting; the frequent use of daubs of paint to reflect colours in the water, allowing viewers to liberate themselves from the dictates of rigid shape; everyday life, in which a scene of simple life can be depicted and even Modernism with its cityscapes and modern constructions.

All of these things send a shiver down my spine and were one of the reasons why I decided to become a painter in the first place. Here, it is worth recalling some of the great exponents of Impressionism such as Monet, Cézanne, Renoir, Sisley, and many others.

In the previous edition of the VDMFK-Information I told you about a special anniversary, the sixtieth birthday of our wonderful Association. We're already thinking long and hard about the best

ways to organise the accompanying celebrations. To mark the occasion, we shall again be holding a painting competition and hope that many of you will take part in it. Details of the competition and how to enter it will be sent to you at a later date.

Before I now leave you to browse your way through the latest issue of the VDMFK-Information, I wish you and your family a happy and peaceful holiday at this time of the year.

Kind regards,

Serge Maudet  
President of the VDMFK



# Miscellaneous

## New Associate Member

USA

### Paré, Mariam

**Date of birth: 1 December 1975**  
**Painting Method: Mouth Painter**



***Mariam Paré shall become an Associate Member of VDMFK on 1 March 2016.***

Mariam was born on 1 December 1975. Critically injured in a shooting incident, she has been paralysed from the chest down ever since (C5 quadriplegia). Mariam was already studying history of art when she was shot and longed to become an artist. She came across mouth painting during her occupational therapy sessions. Nine years have passed since then, and the artist would still like to continue on her road to progress.

The VDMFK has supported her in the form of scholarship grants since 2006. Mariam has also participated in a number of exhibitions and workshops. She designs her own cards and gives inter-

views. Her interesting designs and themes are realised through an extremely wide array of different techniques. Today, she leads an independent life in suburban Chicago (IL).

## Artists' activities

MEXICO

- A collective exhibition entitled 'Pictures with hands / Inclusive brushstro-

kes' was held at the Universidad Panamericana in Guadalajara (Jalisco) and featured works by artists from the local state (21 September-9 October 2015). The show displayed works by the following Scholarship Holders: **Moisés Velasco Estela, Juana Teresa Huerta,**

**Ixmael Martínez Ibarra, Jorge Eduardo Olvera Martínez, Moisés Lozano Martínez, Luís Carlos Pérez Navarrete, Antonio Nuño Sánchez, María del Carmen Nuño Sánchez, Rubén Zavala Rodríguez and Saúl López Montañéz.**

## Artists' activities

IRAN

### Etezasoltaneh, Zoreh (Scholarship Holder)

- Zohreh held an intriguing solo exhibition of her works at one of Iran's histo-

ric sites, located around 500 km away from the national capital of Teheran (17-22 October 2015). In addition, the foot painter also gave a number of painting demonstrations which were greatly admired by the visitors who came to the show.

## Artists' activities

MALTA

### Vassallo, Michael (Scholarship Holder)

- Michael received a commission from the Government of Malta to paint a work measuring 1x1 m. He presented his painting to the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry for the Family and

## Artists' activities

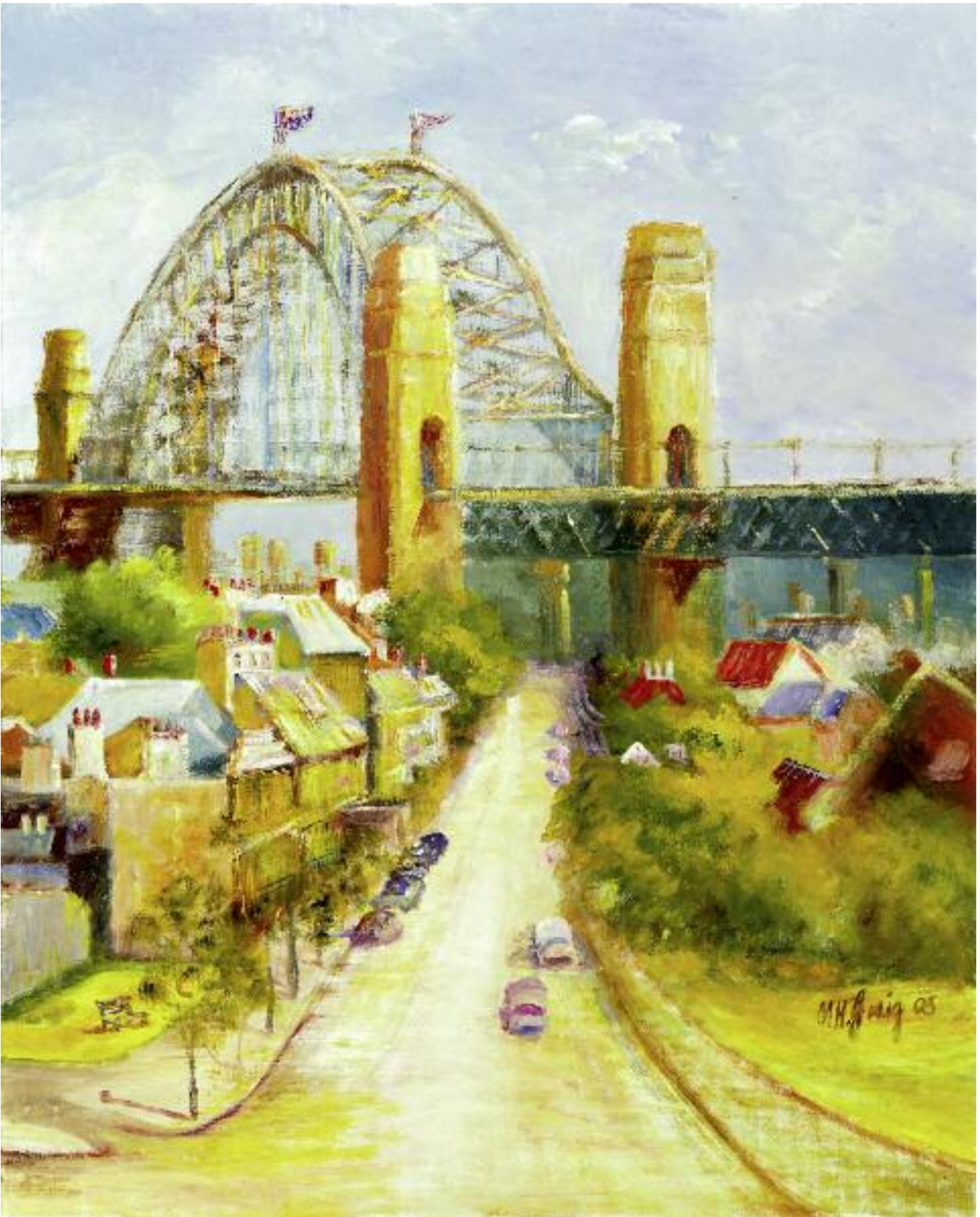
ITALY

- A joint exhibition of works by Italian artists was held at the Santuario di Montenero (8 September - 11 October 2015). It was opened by Padre Abate Don Giuseppe Casetta of the Vallombrosan Order (a Benedictine congregation). Organised by the 'La Funicolare' association in cooperation with the monks of the Santuario di Montenero and the VDMFK, the event took place at the pilgrimage church in the Sanctuary.

For the very first time, the exhibition of paintings from all over Italy was staged between the votive panels of the Madonna di Montenero. The exhibition featured works by the following mouth and foot painting artists: **Mario Barbujani (Full Member), Mario Cav. Barzon (Full Member), Luigi Calloni (Full Member), Francesco Canale (Scholarship Holder), Lorena Guarise (Scholarship Holder), Santina Portelli (Full Member), Giulio Volpin (Associate Member), Roberto Zomero (Associate Member) as well as by the late Tranquillo Fregoni (Full Member).**



Social Solidarity. This presentation took place in the course of a small exhibition which was held at the Ministry.



*Margaret Greig (Full Member/Australia), 'Harbour Bridge', acrylic, 50x40 cm.*



# Exhibition in Denmark



**Numerous guests attended the opening of the international exhibition at Copenhagen City Hall.**

**An international exhibition was held at Copenhagen City Hall from 29 October to 7 November. Several VDMFK Board Members attended the opening.**

Copenhagen City Hall hosted an international exhibition which was held from 29 October to 7 November 2015. On display were a total of 142 works by artists from all over the world. The exhibition, entitled 'Oh Ballerina', was inspired by the name of the eponymous work by Danish Full Member Ms Ann Lund Wahlberg ('Ballerina'). Ten mouth and foot painters took part in the opening of the exhibition, at which they also gave painting demonstrations. The

Danish Honorary Consul in Liechtenstein, Ms Doris Jäggi-Lind, acted as patron of the show. Copenhagen's Mayor of Culture and Leisure, Mr Carl Christian Ebbesen, and the Danish Minister for Culture, Mr Bertel Hårder, took the opportunity to speak a few words on the occasion of the opening. Minister Hårder was also presented with 'Ballerina', an original painting by Ann Lund Wahlberg.

In addition, the director of the Danish publishing house Ms Stine Viereck, Full Member Ann Lund Wahlberg and the two Board Members, President Serge Maudet and Mr Thomas Kahlau, spoke to the many guests in attendance at the



**Swedish Scholarship Holder Ms Lena Maria Klingvall gave a vocal performance at the opening.**

opening, which included VDMFK Director Mr Mario Famlonga. President Maudet had the honour of opening the exhibition. Swedish Scholarship Holder Ms Lena Maria Klingvall provided the vocal entertainment for the event. The exhibition attracted many visitors from start to finish. Various Danish artists gave painting demonstrations during each day of the exhibition. Furthermore, the exhibition was attended by 175 schoolchildren who themselves tried to paint with their mouth or foot after one such demonstration. Their pictures were subsequently also exhibited at the show.



**VDMFK President Mr Serge Maudet had the honour of officially opening the exhibition.**



**Ms Ann Lund Wahlberg presenting her work 'Ballerina' to Mr Bertel Hårder, the Danish Minister for Culture.**

# Exhibition in Denmark



*Board Member Tom Yendell gave a painting demonstration at the opening of the exhibition.*



*Ms Stine Viereck, director of the Danish publishing house, delivering her speech at the opening of the exhibition.*



*Board Member Thomas Kahlau giving his talk.*

## Participants attending the opening of the exhibition:

**Board Members:** Serge Maudet (President, France), Ruth Christensen (Denmark), Thomas Kahlau (Germany), Tom Yendell (Great Britain).

**Full Members:** Ann Lund Wahlberg (Denmark)

**Scholarship Holders:** Edda Heidrun Backman (Iceland), Panajiota Intzilaki (Denmark), Brandur Bjarnason Karlsson (Iceland), Lena Maria Klingvall (Sweden) and Yvonne Vendel-Jensen (Denmark).



*The international exhibition was held at Copenhagen City Hall.*



# Workshop in Austria

**'A very special workshop entitled "Painting on the Mountainside" was held in Austria from 27 to 30 October 2015. Eleven mouth and foot painting artists and artists from Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia gathered for a training workshop at the health resort Bad St. Leonhard im Lavantal.**

This intensive workshop was opened by Austrian Ambassador to Slovenia Dr Clemens Kojas and his wife Martina. Under the expert artistic supervision of Prof Marijana Popovic of the University of Arts in Belgrade, the painters received individual lessons and training in line with their current levels of artistic achievement. Prof Popovic focused on asking advanced students questions about fundamental issues such as "What are you trying to express with your picture?". She offered young artists such as Ms Lea Otter (Scholarship Holder/Austria) a solid basis for future creative work. In addition to practical training, Prof Popovic paid special attention to discussing and exploring general themes from the perspective of "What is art?". The participants enjoyed a memorable team-building evening on 28 October. Following the idea: "Can't be done? Oh yes it can!", the First International MFK bowling tournament was held with the help of small ramps and minimum support from assistants. Austrian mouth painter Paulus Ploier summed up his thoughts after the workshop: "Of course the workshop was tiring, but so it should be. I can take a lot of interesting ideas home with me and above all feel inspired by the fresh perspective on things which I received over the three days. So a new door has opened for me: Thinking holistically has helped me shift my mental horizons. I can only hope such workshops are repeated."



**Austrian Full Member Mr Paulus Ploier at the workshop.**



**Slovenian Full Member Mr Vojko Gašperut went to Austria to take part in the workshop.**

## Participants at the workshop:

**Full Members:** Vojko Gašperut (Slovenia), Heinz Halwachs (Austria), Paulus Ploier (Austria), Benjamin Žnidaršič (Slovenia).

**Associate Members:** Silvo Mehle (Slovenia).

**Scholarship Holders:** Dejana Backo (Serbia), Lea Otter (Austria), Martina Pavlovic (Slovenia), Stjepan Perkovic (Croatia), Thomas Pezeshki (Austria), Željko Vrtelj (Slovenia).



**Austrian Full Member Mr Heinz Halwachs during the painting course.**





Gonçalo Borges (Associate Member/Brazil), 'A Yellow and a Red Christmas Bell', watercolour, 34x23 cm.

# New Scholarship Holders

The following mouth and foot painters shall be granted the status of VDMFK Scholarship Holder as of 1 March 2016.

## AUSTRIA

### Otter, Lea

**Date of birth: 28 May 2000**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Lea Otter was born prematurely and spastically paralysed in Innsbruck on 28 May 2000. Severe restrictions to her motor system were only noticed as she grew older. She attended kindergarden at a private school belonging to the Capuchins which she continues to attend. In 2014 she completed two 'taster' weeks at the creative workshop in Innsbruck at which she demonstrated further proof of her great interest in painting. Lea enjoys working with her self-made implements, such as an easel and paint pots. Her carers and her grandmother, whom she has lived with ever since she was born, try to do all they can to relieve her path through life and to support her creative work. Travel, music, painting, and horses bring a great deal of happiness to Lea's life, which probably explains why her choice of picturesque colours is so vibrant and bright.

## BELGIUM

### Talbi, Sarah

**Date of birth: 23 September 1982**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Sarah Talbi was born in Brussels on 23 September 1982. She was born without upper limbs (arms and hands), forcing her to do everything with her feet, including eating, writing and drawing. Sarah enjoyed a happy childhood. Even so, her everyday life was marked by health problems and multiple surgical procedures on her back as well as ongoing pain and fatigue. Sarah is also highly talented when it comes to foreign languages. She is a licensed translator (English and Spanish) and has taken the

classic path towards a career. Thanks to the Internet, she happened to discover countless tutorials and tips on how to draw. In her apartment she explored and discovered shapes, perspective and shadows. She met and struck up a friendship with Full Member Fanny Bourgeois from France, who encouraged Sarah to take her first steps in drawing. She has attended a drawing class for adults at the Academy of Fine Arts in Saint-Josse (Brussels) since January 2015. She enjoys painting using the pastel technique and produces etchings. Sarah exhibited her first works in June 2015.

## BRAZIL

### Camargo de Oliveira, Leandro

**Date of birth: 25 May 1980**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Leandro Camargo de Oliveira was born in Itapetininga (São Paulo) on 25 May 1980. He lives with his parents. He broke his neck in a motorcycle accident and suffered an injury of the C4 and C5 vertebrae on 6 February 2002. He received the full support of his family right from the very start. Shortly after his accident he had trouble accepting the fact that he would be forced to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. When he heard about the AACD (Association for the Support of Children with Disabilities), he realised that he was not the only one with such a disability. He began to live again and left the AACD after 3 months. Leandro started to paint at the urging of one of his sister's friends. She offered him some books and cassettes with painting lessons. In 2013 Leandro appeared on a TV programme where he met art teacher Rico Ribeiro. After seeing his efforts at painting, the teacher decided to give Leandro a course of free Internet lessons. The artist became aware of the Association through various social media channels. Last year he decided to make his dream come true to carry out and put all his effort into mouth painting.

### Correa da Silva, Barbara

**Date of birth: 8 June 1997**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Barbara Correa da Silva was born with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (congenital joint contractures) in Rio de Janeiro on 8 June 1997. She already underwent her first operation at the age of four months, followed by six further operations in successive years. She has been unable to move her arms, hands and legs up until today. Barbara went to a Brazilian charity association for rehabilitation following courses of physiotherapy and occupational therapy until she was nine years old. Barbara comes from a very poor family. Her mother takes care of her and her father, at home due to his inability to work. Diagnosed with cancer, he has not been able to recover from the delicate operation, contrary to expectations. Barbara is a cheerful and resourceful young woman. She attends a normal school. She began painting when she was ten years old and is very enthusiastic about taking painting lessons. Barbara recently had the opportunity to visit an exhibition of mouth and foot painting artists at which she came into contact with the painters. She began painting with acrylics but now prefers to paint with oils.

### Da Silva Alcantara, Márcio

**Date of birth: 12 August 1971**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Márcio da Silva Alcantara was born in Campinha Grande (Paraíba), Brazil on 12 August 1971. At the age of eight he set off with his parents to Rio de Janeiro, where they tried to escape the poverty of their city. He started working very early on to support his parents in scratching together the barest of livelihoods. Márcio joined the army when he turned eighteen years old but left it at the age of twenty to pursue a new career. He was involved in a motorcycle accident on 19 July 1993 when he tried to flee the scene of a robbery. The collision with a car broke his C5 and C6 vertebrae, leaving him quadriplegic. Over the past twenty years he has had to learn to see life through different eyes.



# New Scholarship Holders

He had to learn to do everything without his legs, arms and hands. His mother gave him support at this time. He became aware of the Association through his friend Jefferson Maia Figueira (a VDMFK Scholarship Holder), who also encouraged him to start painting with his mouth. Curious to learn and paint by himself, Márcio bought some materials via the Internet and began painting in 2013. Since then he has surprised himself and others with his talent. He is eager to learn and would like to improve his painting skills. He says painting has truly mitigated the difficulties of being a quadriplegic – the pain, prejudices and tough day-to-day struggle to survive.

## Silva, Lucas Luciano

**Date of birth: 22 December 2001**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Lucas Luciano Silva was born with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC, congenital multiple joint contractures) in the city of Lago da Pedra (Maranhão) on 22 December 2001. Lucas cannot move his arms and hands and – to a certain extent – his legs, either. He can walk, though only with great difficulty. His skills became evident for the first time when he was three years old and used writing implements with his foot to scribble something down. Lucas paints with his left foot as well as his mouth. He uses white for the primer, then applies a few drops of paint straight on to the canvas where he mixes them until he has achieved the colour he desires. His father has set up a small area as a workshop in the family apartment for him in order to support his growing passion for art. Lucas has not had any formal painting lessons until now but hopes that he will have the opportunity to have these at some stage. He loves painting and sometimes manages to organise small exhibitions in his town. He uses this opportunity to talk with people interested in his life and his paintings. He found out about the Association during a hospital stay when he met Scholarship Holder Maria Goret Chagas.

## COLOMBIA

### Chaves Bolaños, Jairo Fernando

**Date of birth: 10 August 1976**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Jairo Fernando Chaves Bolaños was born in Ancuya in the Andes of north-west Colombia on 10 August 1976. He spent most his life in this municipality and also completed both his primary school education and later his secondary studies there. Jairo suffered electrical burns to his upper limbs in September 2006 while doing his job. His right and left forearm were amputated as a result of the injury and related complications. In 2007 he travelled to Bogotá where he visited the national office of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painters. This meeting enabled him to look on his disability and the way he was leading his life in an entirely different way. Back in his village, he started mouth painting with the support of his family. Thanks to art, his life received a brand new 'daub of colour' and he is convinced that no-one should ever feel defeated by any situation in life.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Sedlácková, Barbora

**Date of birth: 24 April 2002**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Barbora Sedlácková was born in České Budejovice on 24 April 2002. She lives there with her parents and her three siblings. At the age of three-and-a-half she was diagnosed with 'Dejérinne-Sottas' disease, a motor and sensory neuropathy which affects all four limbs. She has been confined to a wheelchair ever since she was six and is dependent on assistance from other persons. Barbora embarked on her first attempts to paint and write with her mouth at this time. She is now just as fast as other, healthy children. Her favourite subjects are folk traditions, animals and nature. She has already taken part in painting competitions and held solo exhibitions on numerous occasions.

## GERMANY

### Aman, Selma

**Date of birth: 21 June 1978**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Selma Aman was born in Berlin on 21 June 1978 and due to a lack of oxygen has been disabled since birth. This caused her to suffer spastic contractures (tetra spasticity) of the upper and lower extremities. As a result, she cannot use her hands. After completing secondary school, Selma obtained the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce certificate as an office administrator. She took evening courses to gain her general certificate of secondary education and advanced technical college qualifications. Selma is studying law at the Berlin School of Economics and Law until 2016. She sits in a wheelchair and can briefly get up and move, though not on a permanent basis. Consequently, she paints as she sits on a completely ordinary chair at a table.

## MEXICO

### Moreno Chavez, Johan Erik

**Date of birth: 24 June 1983**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Johan Erik Moreno Chavez was born in Coyotepec on 24 June 1983. He graduated from high school before starting to work for some companies. Johan had a steady job, was married and father to a daughter by the age of 27. He broke his C4, C5 and C6 vertebrae while diving into a swimming pool on 1 January 2011, leaving him quadriplegic. Less than a year later, he found himself watching an Internet video on which he saw a young mouth painter talking about his life. When Johan came home, he started drawing with his mouth – and became thrilled by what he saw and what he was able to achieve. Drawing relaxes him and keeps his mind occupied. He began buying oil paints and brushes, and started mixing paints on a

*Continued on page 12*

# New Scholarship Holders

piece of cardboard. All the time he relied solely on Internet videos. A member of staff at the publishing house in Colombia arranged for him to contact the VDMFK Scholarship Holder Juan González Cervantes. Johan embarked on painting lessons with him. Working very closely together, Juan taught him the technique of oil painting.

## NORWAY

### Grøtterud Skotland, Brit

**Date of birth: 19 March 1952**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Brit Grøtterud Skotland was born in Kongsberg, Norway on 19 March 1952. She grew up with five brothers and sisters on a farm in Hvittingfoss, Norway. She is married and has two children. After high school she enrolled at craft school where she learned how to weave tapestries. Brit was an active team handball player until her 25th birthday. She trained to be a social education worker and has worked with people with disabilities for over 35 years. She broke her neck when she fell from a cliff in 2011. She has been paralysed ever since her fall and spent over a year in hospital. Brit is unable to move her arms and legs as a result of her accident. At Sunnaas Hospital she met an art teacher who encouraged her to begin painting. While staying at the hospital she was visited by Eirin Heier, who works for the publishing house in Norway. Eirin motivated her to start painting by mouth. Brit started on her first picture a year after she had returned home. She found it very liberating and stimulating as well as a good exercise for her neck. Two years onwards, she has now produced fifteen paintings. In addition, she also paints silk scarves on two to three days a week and very much enjoys this aspect of her life.

## PERU

### Ramos Mori, Sara Raquel

**Date of birth: 24 October 2004**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Sara Raquel Ramos Mori was born with arthrogyriposis multiplex congenita in San Juan de Miraflores (Lima) on 24 October 2004. She spent the first four years of her life between operations and physiotherapy at the San Juan de Dios hospital in Villa el Salvador. Her mother and grandmother were always there for her. In July 2008 the family moved to the district of Pucusana where Sara attended nursery school. There she met Irma, a teacher who taught her to write with her mouth. At the age of six, Sara entered the reception class at the 'Carlos Manuel Cox' elementary school. When she was eight years old she moved back to Villa el Salvador with her family and continued her education at the 'Apostol Santiago' school, which was where she learned to draw. Sara likes to talk and play with her classmates, but also studies hard in order to get good grades. In addition, she loves to draw and paint.

## RUSSIA

### Protsenko, Yelena

**Date of birth: 1 May 1986**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Yelena Protsenko was born in the town of Khromtau, Kazakhstan, on 1 May 1986. She has suffered from infantile paralysis and spastic tetraparesis since birth. Despite the doctors' poor prognosis, Yelena Protsenko has – thanks to the care and love of her parents – learned how to keep her head still, to sit and talk and also to walk at the age of eighteen. Although she still has no control over her arms this does not prevent her from leading a fairly normal life. She performs all her activities, including painting, with her feet. Initially, she painted clumsy little flowers, houses and princesses. It wasn't until she had become a teenager that her father

asked a teacher to help him take care of Yelena after the death of her mother. As a result, she started reading teach-yourself books and studied for a few months at the high school of art in Aktobe. Yelena paints using different techniques such as watercolour ink pens, watercolours, oils, tempera and acrylics. She lives with her husband in their private apartment in Titan, where she takes care of the household and her pets. In addition she does various social work and holds master classes for children. She has achieved top places in art competitions on a number of occasions.

## SERBIA

### Pavlovic, Jelena

**Date of birth: 26 February 2004**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Jelena Pavlovic was born without arms on 26 February 2004. She lives with her parents and brothers and sisters in Ostra. Jelena is a very bright and cheerful girl who would like to be an artist. She paints with her feet and carries out everyday chores in the same way. Despite her disability she attends school classes like everybody else.

## SOUTH KOREA

### Lim, Kyung Sik

**Date of birth: 20 June 1977**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Kyung Sik Lim was born in Bucheon on 20 June 1977. He completed primary and secondary school as well as vocational school. He was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident at the age of nineteen in 1995 and suffered a complete C4 quadriplegia. Kyung has no longer been able to use his upper and lower limbs since then. While spending two years in the rehabilitation centre, he found out about the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists when he met Full Member Jeong Park. From 2007 he had to live in a facility for people with disabilities, where he began painting a little with his mouth. He



# New Scholarship Holders

taught himself to paint by watching video clips on YouTube which showed him how to draw pictures by using his mouth. In 2011 Kyung attended a once weekly painting class which was held by a well-known college of visual arts. He became more and more interested in mouth painting and gradually improved his painting skills. He particularly likes to create landscape pictures with oil paints. Kyung Sik Lim has already displayed his works at a number of solo and collective exhibitions.

## USA

### Hamilton, Moses Kai

**Date of birth: 6 January 1976**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Moses Kai Hamilton was born at the rural North Shore of the Garden Island of Kauai on 6 January 1976. Mo, as his friends call him, spent the first years of his childhood without a care in the world. Art played a large role in his life. He had already begun sketching at a very early age and continued to do so until the fateful day of 18 October 2002 when he suffered a severe spinal cord injury in a car accident. This left him a permanent quadriplegic. First, he was even unable to breathe unaided, so he required a respirator. He was introduced to mouth painting at this time. This revived his passion for art. Moses has said that his first attempts to paint were frustrating since whatever he created lacked shape and definition. But with effort, he developed a highly personal style with round, expressive figures which represent the journey of Hawaiian people as they live, love and practise their way of life. He can paint with his mouth because he still has minimal control over movement below his neck. He depends on his family who help him prepare his paints, move his brush and adjust the canvases as well as the light screens. Moses enjoys life to the fullest with his family and his friends on Kauai's north shore. You can find his art in shops and galleries on the island of Kauai.

### Soby, Peter

**Date of birth: 22 December 1967**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Peter Soby was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 22 December 1967. He loved painting lots of things starting right from childhood. Art was always part of his life. In August 1987, between his first and second year at college, he dived into a much too shallow lake. His spinal cord was severed between the fifth and sixth vertebrae. Yet he still pursued his artistic interests in the wake of the accident. He helped develop business attire for disabled people and continued to perform as a DJ. Although he was no longer able to play keyboards, piano or guitar, he taught himself to play the harmonica. Peter uses a neck holder to keep the harmonica in place. During this time he produced and directed eight feature films, over twenty short films, about thirty music videos, some twenty plays and several commercials and Internet videos. Peter found out about the VDMFK in the course of a Skype conversation with his friend Miriam Pare (VDMFK Scholarship Holder), who mentioned the Association. She encouraged him to paint again. It took quite some time until he learned to control the brush and express his ideas on the canvas.

# The significance of painting

**The significance of painting as seen by mouth and foot painter Krzysztof Kosowski, Full Member from Poland.**

## The significance of painting

*I was asked to write some words about the significance of painting. Well, as always in such situations, you're a little taken aback at first by the question and the topic you've been asked to think about... and then, of course, you firmly believe you already know everything about your own painting and its significance both for yourself and your target group – but is that always really the case?*

*My work as a painter is a little wayward and begs to differ with some of the facts on the ground. I try to depict the world not in a realistic way – meaning not as it is – by painting still lifes, landscapes, portraits or flower arrangements. Instead, my intention is to present the world more from the vantage point of a child, full of passion, curiosity and joy at discovering new secrets. Naturally, typical moments of contemplation and brooding and twinges of sadness also appear in my paintings. They merely point to the later stages of our lives, to time ticking by and to the transience of our*

*existence; frequently, they're symbolised by damaged and broken vessels or cups, or things of that sort.*



**Krzysztof Kosowski (Full Member/Poland), 'Before leaving', oils, 81x81 cm.**



**Krzysztof Kosowski, Full Member from Poland.**

*When I paint I wish to introduce a certain narrative thread and feed it with metaphors, symbols of life's magic and motives from fairy tales, legends and dreams – and sometimes I can't resist adding a touch of irony or satire. Even so, I always try to create an optimistic, confident atmosphere captured in warm autumnal colours.*

*So the meanings and patterns I try to weave into my paintings are things that all of us know and are familiar with. They include motifs such as fountains, wells, labyrinths, towers, scarecrows, old and living trees, secret doors and keys to treasures and secrets.*

*In other words it isn't so easy for me to write about the significance of painting. After all, I find myself constantly discovering new secrets of pain-*



# The significance of painting

ting each day. I start to understand the significance they have for the different stages in my life. In fact, I feel more like a researcher and explorer forced to resort to poorly positioned signposts and blotchy maps in his attempt to discover and find meaning in each tube of paint, on each palette, and to regard each white canvas stretched onto a frame as one begging to be filled with a highly distinctive artistic vision. On this scenic journey I would rather compare myself to a snail struggling to find its destination, trying not to lose all its bearings and endeavouring to decipher the words leaping out from a signpost bearing the legend: "The significance of painting" – 3 km behind the wood on the left.

And now, if it's OK with you, I'll retreat back into my shell for a nice hot cup of tea or coffee and continue to mull over painting and its significance – if it indeed has any at all?!

Sure, at this point I could take a piece of paper and jot down some phrases about the process of creating art and how it has a positive impact on us as people, on our lives and on our bank accounts. Or write something about art's therapeutic effect on our struggle to regain our motor skills or about the feeling of being given colourful wings that help us escape from our humdrum daily lives – for a brief moment at least. But I think that the whole point and significance of our works and my paintings is only really expressed in the eyes and smiles of the viewers of our works and paintings; in

the many friendly and sometimes critical comments, opinions, and remarks. And I believe that painting (meaning: my paintings and the works of my esteemed colleagues) would serve little purpose and have no meaning without people who like our art and sometimes even ourselves. For it would only be a kind of art for art's sake, like coffee that has no scintillating smell or flavour, or like a colourless flower.

So when I see the joy and happiness on the faces of people who look at my work, I feel the true purpose and significance of my paintings. The meaning that emerges from the interaction between the artist and the viewer – who ultimately is the "recipient" of our dreams and desires as captured on the painted canvas. It's during such

moments I feel I've actually met Puss in Boots or seen into the eyes of Alice in Wonderland – even though I'm really standing on the other side of the mirror.

Krzysztof Kosowski  
Full Member/Poland



Krzysztof Kosowski (Full Member/Poland),  
'First snow', oils, 60x60 cm.

## Krzysztof Kosowski

Date of birth: 5 August 1963

Place of birth: Jabłonowo Pomorskie

Full Member of the VDMFK since 2015

Mouth and foot painter

Krzysztof suffered severe burns due to an electrical accident which occurred in 1972. As a result, both his arms had to be amputated. As of 1978 he attended high school in Wrocław before he

began studying art history for two years at Wrocław University. Shortly after his accident, he started painting, a bit at least, with his mouth. From 1985 onwards he increasingly focused his attention on mouth and foot painting – and taught himself how to do both. Krzysztof became a Scholarship Holder of the Association in 1988 and was awarded Associate Membership status in 2010. He has been a Full Member of the VDMFK since 2015. In addition to

painting, Krzysztof follows a wide range of interests including music, orientalism and world religions.

Krzysztof mainly paints in oils, mixed media, watercolours and ink. His favourite subjects are fantasy motifs as well as subjects and themes taken from fairy tales. He has frequently presented his works at solo and collective exhibitions held in Poland throughout his artistic career.

# We mourn for

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Wells, Trevor C.

**Date of birth: 1 November 1956**

**Passed away on: 13 September 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

**VDMFK Board Member since 2000**

After leaving school, Trevor C. Wells embarked on an apprenticeship to become a joiner and started playing for the Uxbridge Rugby Club. He completed his apprenticeship in 1976. Two years later, while playing rugby, he broke his neck in an accident and remained paralysed from the neck down. He subsequently spent seven months in hospital before being referred to a unit for young disabled people where he was encouraged to paint as part of his occupational therapy in 1984. He was awarded a scholarship from the Association in the same year before becoming a Full Member in 1987. This opened up a completely new career for him as a mouth painter. In 1990 Trevor was discharged from the home for disabled people and moved to Chesham in Buckinghamshire. In 2000 he attended a VDMFK Delegates' Convention in Sydney at which he was accorded the



***Board Member Trevor C. Wells passed away on 13 September 2015. He had been a Board Member of the Association since the year 2000.***

honour of being voted onto the Board of the Association. He had held the office of Vice President of the Association since 2013.

Trevor's preferred motifs were landscapes. In general, he most preferred to

capture these using acrylics. What lent his pictures such special charm was the precision with which he observed nature. Frequently he would base his paintings on photographs. Above all, his winter landscapes – a favourite motif – are characterised by his mastery of colouristic effects. Trevor was able to present his many works at solo and joint exhibitions throughout the world.



***Trevor C. Wells, 'Sunshine in Winter', oils, 50x60 cm.***



## SPAIN

### Moreno-Toledo, Cristóbal

**Date of birth: 21 June 1941**

**Passed away on: 1 August 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Cristóbal Moreno Toledo was born with muscular dystrophy. He began learning how to paint and write with his mouth at elementary school. He threw his heart and soul into this and taught himself to get even better at painting by teaching himself. Later on, Cristóbal took part in distance learning courses held by the Instituto Parramón in Barcelona. His style of painting was strongly influenced by Impressionism; it featured extended brush strokes, all of them open and lavish, with plenty of paint and warm colours in shapes sometimes bordering on the expressionistic. He instinctively selected his themes from a range of landscapes, portraits to depictions of the female nude. The techniques he most liked to use were drawing, oil painting, engraving and watercolours. Parallel to his art, Cristóbal also worked in and with literature, writing a number of poetry books, novels and short stories. Cristóbal also created engravings and ceramics alongside making videos and iron sculptures.



**Full Member Cristóbal Moreno-Toledo passed away on 1 August 2015.**

He received a VDMFK scholarship in 1963 and was granted Full Member status by the VDMFK barely two years later. This status offered him the opportunity to present his work to a broader public at numerous VDMFK exhibitions and solo exhibitions. Furthermore, Cris-

tóbal gladly passed on his knowledge and skills to others. He held several drawing and painting courses for mouth and foot painting artists. Cristóbal Moreno-Toledo passed away on 1 August 2015.

## AUSTRALIA

### Hodkinson, Jim

**Date of birth: 7 September 1949**

**Passed away on: 1 October 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Jim's family emigrated from the UK to Australia when he was only ten years old. He remained in Australia throughout his lifetime. His arms and legs were left paralysed following a swimming accident in 1973. He was hospitalised for two years as a result of his quadriplegia. Afterwards, Jim lived in a home for people with spinal injuries. This marked a new beginning in his life. He often attended painting and drawing classes during

his rehabilitation phase and developed a great liking for drawing with a pen in his mouth. He continually strove to improve his artistic talent. Among a number of other things, he spent three years at a college where he learned the art of drawing nudes and oil painting. He received a VDMFK scholarship in 1991. Nine years later, he became an Associate Member of the VDMFK, meaning he was able to exhibit his work to a broader public, drawing the attention of the media. In addition to participating in numerous exhibitions, Jim also appeared on local radio and was frequently the subject of articles and reports in the local media. Jim Hodkinson passed away on 1 October 2015.



**Jim Hodkinson, Associate Member of the VDMFK, passed away on 1 October 2015.**



# We mourn for

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

### ARGENTINA

#### Sánchez, María Angelina

**Date of birth: 18 September 1958**

**Passed away on: 19 October 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

María Angelina Sánchez was born in Chaco on 18 September 1958. She suffered from a form of poliomyelitis which left her paralysed in both arms and legs. María attended primary school and went to high school. María first tried painting with her mouth as a teenager and began to receive a scholarship from the VDMFK as of 1995. Over a number of years she attended art classes held by the renowned painting master Héctor Fridman among others. María took part in many exhibitions, as a result of which many of her activities received regular coverage in the media. María Angelina Sánchez passed away on 19 October 2015.

### COLOMBIA

#### Londoño Muñoz, Oswaldo de Jesús

**Date of birth: 12 September 1967**

**Passed away on: 21 July 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Oswaldo de Jesús Londoño Muñoz was born on 12 September 1967. He became quadriplegic as a result of a gunshot wound which he suffered on 16 March 2001. Confined to a wheelchair, he had next to no movement of his upper limbs while his lower limbs were powerless and immobile. He became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2009. Oswaldo de Jesús Londoño Muñoz passed away on 21 July 2015.

### GREAT BRITAIN

#### Harvey, John Anson

**Date of birth: 5 June 1969**

**Passed away on: 6 July 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

John was born in Wokingham on 5 June 1969. He joined the Royal Engineers at the age of 16 and served eight years in the corps. In September 1992, a serious accident left him paralysed from the neck down; he was no longer able to use his upper or lower limbs from that time on. A good friend suggested to him that he take up painting with his mouth, which he started to do in 1993. His pictures took a long time to improve at first but John, unfazed by this, created works which gradually got better and better with each canvas. He became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder on 1 March 2015. John mostly drew and painted portraits of muses or figures – some of which were deeply imaginative. He also liked to paint fantasy figures such as dragons, phoenixes and Pegasus. John Anson Harvey passed away on 6 July 2015.

### HUNGARY

#### Czibolya, Erzsébet

**Date of birth: 3 October 1954**

**Passed away on: 23 September 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Erzsébet Czibolya was born in Hatvan/Hungary on 3 October 1954. She contracted polio in 1959. Subsequently, all her limbs were completely paralysed. She began to become interested in mouth painting in 1996 and taught herself to paint in a series of self-study courses. Erzsébet became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 1999. Erzsébet Czibolya passed away on 23 September 2015.

#### Torma, Gyula

**Date of birth: 17 October 1962**

**Passed away on: 20 September 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Gyula Torma was born in Győr/Hungary on 17 October 1962. He was diagnosed with muscular atrophy in 1992 which left him in a situation where he was still able to walk a few steps but could no longer use his hands to perform everyday tasks. He first tried painting with his mouth in the autumn of 1998 and soon found that he very much enjoyed the experience of creating pictures, so he started taking painting lessons on his own initiative. Gyula became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2002. He held a number of solo exhibitions during his lifetime. Gyula Torma passed away on 20 September 2015.

### INDIA

#### Neminath H. Phalke

**Date of birth: 2 July 1964**

**Passed away on: 18 September 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Neminath H. Phalke was born in Varkhadi/India on 2 July 1964. He was left completely paralysed in all four limbs. Neminath taught himself how to paint with his mouth in 1988. He was first awarded a VDMFK scholarship in 1992. His paintings featured depictions of landscapes, flowers and animals from his native country and his work was exhibited on several occasions. Neminath was always highly interested in sports, music, and literature. Neminath H. Phalke passed away on 18 September 2015.

### ITALY

#### Filippini, Mara

**Date of birth: 25 October 1974**

**Passed away on: 7 June 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mara Filippini was born with spinal atrophy on 25 October 1974. Consequently, she was unable to use her arms and legs. She was a certified accountant and university graduate of educational sciences. Early on, as a young teenager, she discovered her interest in mouth

# We mourn for/Readers' letters

painting and steadily improved her artistic skills from that time onwards. As a result, the VDMFK started awarding her a scholarship in 2010. Mara's artistic talent is clearly evident in her paintings. Mara Filippini passed away on 7 June 2015.

## MEXICO

### Trasviña Mata, Jesús Enrique

**Date of birth: 15 July 1987**

**Passed away on: 21 September 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Jesús Enrique Trasviña Mata was born in the City of Los Mochis (Sinaloa) on 15 July 1987. He attended primary and secondary school and started to work at the age of 16. On 21 July 2006, he fell from a height of fifteen feet because a piece of iron had detached itself from the piece of scaffolding he was working on. He broke his neck in the accident, leaving him quadriplegic. His spinal cord was almost completely severed at the level of the 4th and 5th cervical vertebrae, leaving him paralysed from the shoulders down. In the course of an 18-month stay at a rehabilitation centre he managed to recover a little from his ordeal and learned how to sit in a wheelchair. Sadly, his emotional and psychological state of mind did not improve. He refused to come out of his room for a period of two and a half years. Mouth painter Ms Lidia Chaidez López, a VDMFK Scholarship Holder, heard about the fate of the young man and invited him to "come along" to art classes. Jesús started off by holding a pencil in his mouth to create drawings. He eventually became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2011. Gradually he began to enjoy mouth painting and regularly attended painting classes given by Lidia Chaidez López at the vocational school of art. Jesús Enrique Trasviña Mata passed away on 21 September 2015.

## POLAND

### Mynarek, Damian

**Date of birth: 23 November 1990**

**Passed away on: 5 June 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Damian Mynarek was born in Pyskowice/Poland on 23 November 1990. Confined to a wheelchair due to paralysis in all four of his limbs, his inability to breathe normally meant that he constantly had to depend on a respirator. He managed to attend elementary school up to sixth grade, after which he was dependent on private tutors. Damian began to enjoy painting and drawing with his mouth in 1998. He became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2003. Damian Mynarek passed away on 5 June 2015.

## SPAIN

### Bernal Benítez, María del Carmen

**Date of birth: 22 August 1964**

**Passed away on: 12 July 2015**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

María del Carmen Bernal Benítez was born in Cádiz/Spain on 22 August 1964. She attended elementary school. On 27 July 1988, Maria was involved in an accident which left her quadriplegic from that time onwards. She began to paint with her mouth in 1988 and eventually taught herself to paint. She became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 1993. Maria participated in a number of exhibitions during her lifetime. María del Carmen Bernal Benítez passed away on 12 July 2015.

## Readers' letters

### For you

*The phone rang and a friend of mine told me you'd gone – forever. I was stunned. I couldn't think of a word to say when I took the call. I couldn't find the words. I never thought you'd shuttle off this "mortal coil" and leave us so early to fly off up there into the sky. Well, you're an artist with the wings of an angel. You now paint the landscapes of paradise with the colours of the rainbow. And although I'm a poet, I still can't find, at least not at this moment, the right words to express to you my pain – not just mine, but the pain of all the painters who came to know and like you. You left an indelible memory in our hearts which time cannot erase. Adieu, Tranquillo, our dear friend: we all wish you a safe journey to this new world of yours, where suffering and death can no longer reach you. Dear Tranquillo, your passing away hit us hardest with a sound only the heart can hear.*

*Luigi Calloni (Full Member/Italy) recalling Full Member Tranquillo Fregoni who passed away on 10 February 2015.*

### One of the hardest things to find

*For many artists, achieving fame is the great goal of their lives; for many politicians, it is grabbing and clinging on to power; for the lascivious, it is getting their rocks off on sexual pleasure. These are the forces which move the world. But in terms of the bigger picture – and without wishing to underestimate the beguiling attraction of fame, power, wealth or pleasure – the greatest accomplishment in life is to be happy by bringing happiness to others. Even more importantly, life requires us to have a heart full of love and selflessness – even though this is one of the hardest things to find.*

*Italo Violo Villalobos  
Scholarship Holder from Venezuela*

# VDMFK personalities

**In this section we are honoured to introduce you to mouth and foot painters who rendered outstanding services to the VDMFK in the course of its nearly 60-year-old history. This time around we present Board Member Bruce G. Peardon from Australia.**

Board Member Bruce G. Peardon passed away on 13 May 2001. He was elected to the Managing Board of the Association at the Delegates' Convention which was held in Rome on 1 April 1992. Bruce was born on 28 February 1945. After attending school he trained as a radio technician and subsequently completed his military service in the Royal Australian Navy. In 1962 he seriously injured his cervical vertebrae in a car accident, as a result of which his arms and legs remained paralysed. He met and struck up a friendship with mouth painters Mr Bill Mooney and James K. Meath during his long stay in hospital. Bruce learned how to write and paint with his mouth from these two artists, who told him about the



***Bruce G. Peardon from Australia served as a Board Member of the VDMFK from 1992 until his death in 2001.***

Association which first granted him Scholarship Holder status in July 1965. Consequently, as a recognised artist, he became a Full Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 1972. In addition to cheerful depictions of wildlife and children, Bruce very much enjoyed painting subjects taken from his Australian homeland and from the mythology of his country. He presented his works at exhibitions all over the world. Moreover, Bruce wrote three highly successful illustrated books for children: 'Charlie the Chimney Sweep and Sooty', 'Teddy's Night Lost in the Bush' and 'Old Billy's Enchanted Valley'. The books, which appeared in five languages, became bestsellers.



***Bruce G. Peardon (Full Member/Australia), 'Oliver & Treehouse', watercolour, 40x30 cm.***



***Bruce G. Peardon (Full Member/Australia), 'Tiger'; technique and size of the painting unknown.***



## ARGENTINA

### Barcia, César Andrés (Scholarship Holder)

- César Andrés Barcia presented his works and gave painting demonstrations at the Open Arts event which was held in a shopping mall in Buenos Aires (26-28 June 2015). In addition, he was invited to hold workshops for high school students in Tortuguitas (Greater Buenos Aires).

### Moya, María Celeste (Scholarship Holder)

- María Celeste Moya held a solo exhibition at the Biblioteca Popular Sarmiento in San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca (Catamarca; 4-6 June 2015) which drew in some one hundred visitors a day. Local city councillor, Mr Carlos Sánchez, was the guest of honour.

### Paz, Rosa Mirta (Scholarship Holder)

- Rosa Mirta Paz exhibited her works in the town of Tres Isletas (Chaco). This gave her the opportunity to perform a number of delightful painting demonstrations which amazed local children (2-3 July 2015).

## BRAZIL

- **Mr Eduardo Moreira de Melo (Scholarship Holder)** was awarded a silver medal at the 450 Encantos Mil ("450 years of a Thousand Enchantments") exhibition staged by the Sociedade Brasileira de Belas Artes (SBBA; Brazilian Society of Fine Arts; 9 April 2015). Bronze medal holders were **Mr Jefferson Maia Figueira (Scholarship Holder)**, **Mr Carlos Eduardo Rosa Fraga (Scholarship Holder)** and **Ms Eusuclemia Rufino Vieira (Scholarship Holder)**.

- **Artists Mr Marcelo da Cunha (Associate Member)**, **Mr Eduardo Moreira de Melo (Scholarship Holder)** and **Mr Victor Pereira Santos (Scholarship Holder)** presented their works at the Praia par todos ("One Beach for

Everyone") exhibition in Barra da Tijuca on 25 January 2015.

- A number of Brazil's mouth and foot painting artists were invited to present their works as part of the celebrations marking the 450th year of the City of Rio de Janeiro. Based on the theme "Landscapes of Rio", the exhibition was held at the Centro Cultural UNISUAM and was attended by some 1,500 visitors (4 March-3 April 2015). The participants comprised **Mr Marcelo da Cunha (Associate Member)**, **Mr João Paulo da Silva Fontenele (Scholarship Holder)**, **Mr Eduardo Moreira de Melo (Scholarship Holder)**, **Mr Victor Pereira Santos (Scholarship Holder)**, **Mr Carlos Eduardo Rosa Fraga (Scholarship Holder)**, **Ms Eusuclemia Rufino Vieira (Scholarship Holder)** as well as **Ms Danielle Dias de Souza (Scholarship Holder)**.

### Borges, Gonçalo (Associate Member)

- Gonçalo took active part in a wide array of exhibitions:

a) around 900 visitors came to see his works which were shown on the premises of the Kimberly-Clark corporation in São Paulo (24 March 2015).

b) exhibition at the Feira Internacional de Reabilitação (International Rehabilitation Fair) in São Paulo (9-14 April 2015).

c) exhibition and presentation at the Escola municipal José Rubens in São Paulo. This event was attended by some 350 parents, pupils, teachers and visitors (24 April 2015).

d) solo exhibition at the Universidade Metodista de São Bernardo do Campo (UMESP; 7 May-4 June 2015). The show attracted some 3,200 visitors.

### Chagas, Maria Goreti (Scholarship Holder)

- Maria presented her works on four occasions:

1. as part of a collective exhibition at the Centro Cultural Franca (3-20 March 2015).

2. as part of the der Salão de Abril de Belas Artes exhibition held in the Centro Cultural Franca (7-24 April 2015). Maria

received an award at the exhibition.

3. at an exhibition held at the mayoral office in Franca (28 April-28 July 2015).

4. Maria held a solo exhibition featuring 25 of her own works entitled Talento e Expressão ("Talent and Expression") at the Centro Cultural Franca (9-26 June). Her show attracted some four hundred visitors and was extensively covered in the local media.

### Maia Figueira, Jefferson (Scholarship Holder)

- Jefferson was extremely busy carrying out numerous activities during the first six months of 2015, including:

- an exhibition featuring a painting demonstration at the Faculty of Education of the Centro Universitário da Fundação de Ensino Octávio Bastos (13 January 2015).

- participation in the Brazilian publishing house' exhibition stand at the Salão Bike Show in downtown Rio de Janeiro (29 January-2 February 2015).

- a collective exhibition featuring a painting demonstration at the Ninth Rio Artes Manuais at which he participated alongside **Mr Eduardo Moreira de Melo (Scholarship Holder)**; 18-22 March 2015.

## ESTONIA

### Järvpõld, Tiia (Scholarship Holder)

- Tiia held a solo exhibition at the Tartu raekoda (Tartu town hall) in early 2015. She had previously presented her works at the Tartu Kutsehariduskeskus (the vocational education centre in Tartu which mainly provides training courses for employed people in the fields of education and social work).

## GERMANY

### Markus Kolp (Associate Member)

- Markus took part in the collective Paradiesische Verhältnisse ("Heavenly Circumstances") exhibition alongside the

*Continued on p. 22*

# Artists' activities

artist community of the Kunstverein Schwabmünchen. The exhibition, which opened on 13 November 2015, was scheduled to run until around mid-January 2016. In addition, Markus also participated in the Süßes ("Sweet") collective exhibition held at a restaurant in Klosterlechfeld (Bavaria) with his painting: Wer ist der nächste ("Who's next").

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Jansz, Keith

**(Full Member)**

- June 2015 marked the 20th year since the car accident which left Keith paralysed from the neck downwards. He broke his fifth and sixth cervical vertebrae. Mindful of the significance of these 20 years, he decided to hold two solo exhibitions, one in Oxford and one in Northampton, at which he presented his works to the general public. While the exhibition in Oxford was entitled British Paintings (4-13 June 2015), the name he gave to the exhibition which he held in Northampton was The Inspiration of Light (24 April-5 July 2015).

### Moriarty-Simmonds, Rosaleen (Scholarship Holder)

- A great official honour was bestowed on Rosaleen ("Rosie"): Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II conferred upon her the Order of the British Empire (the OBE) at Windsor Castle on 17 July 2015 in recognition of her services for equality and the rights of people with disabilities.

## GREECE

### Iliadis, Triantafillos

**(Full Member)**

- Triantafillos Iliadis presented his works and gave painting demonstrations in front of pupils, parents and teachers at an elementary school in Kavala (5-10 May 2015). The exhibition was so successful that the Deputy District Governor of the City of Kavala invited him to

exhibit his works in the district government building. Attending the opening of the exhibition on 25 May 2015 were the district governor, the mayor, the major-general as well as representatives of the church. The exhibition closed on 31 May 2015. At the final ceremony, Triantafillos also had the honour of being presented with a plaque from the major-general.

## HUNGARY

### Szabó, Szonja

**(Scholarship Holder)**

- Szonja received the Prima Award in 2013. As an extra bonus, the Mayor of Tata offered her the opportunity to stage an exhibition in the German town of Gerlingen, Tata's twin town. Szonja gladly accepted this chance to present her works in Germany.

## INDONESIA

### Subadri, Sabar

**(Associate Member)**

- Sabar opened his Galeri Sabar Subadri Saung Kelir on 4 August 2015. The gallery was opened in the presence of the Mayor of the City of Salatiga and featured painting demonstrations by the artists **Mr Muhammad Asroel (Associate Member)**, **Mr Faisal Rusdi (Scholarship Holder)** and **Mr Agus Yu-suf (Associate Member)**. Sabar named the new gallery Galeri Sabar Subadri Saung Kelir. It features a library and offers a room for local artists.

## ISRAEL

- Two artists, **Mr Ronen Argalazi (Scholarship Holder)** and **Mr Yitzhak Adir (Full Member)**, were invited to a rock concert performed by Israeli singer Ms Si Himan. Izik presented the singer with one of his works during the performance.

### Argalazi, Ronen (Scholarship Holder)

- Ronen held a solo exhibition in Tel

Aviv. At the opening, he had the honour of presenting one of his works to Ms Tzipi Livni, Israel's former foreign minister. In addition, Ronen took part in the "A Day in the Life" Sister Cities Art Competition (USA) and the contest.

### Ganor, Netta

**(Associate Member)**

- Netta held a presentation on the VDMFK as well as her book for children at her publisher's office. The presentation was accompanied by an exhibition of her works.

### Levy, Yohai

**(Associate Member)**

- Yohai held a speech about the VDMFK and gave painting demonstrations when he opened his gallery right next to his home. Numerous mouth and foot painters from Israel attended the opening.

## SINGAPORE

### Chia, Yong Liang

**(Scholarship Holder)**

- Yong Liang participated in the Dr Tan Tsze Chor Art Awards conferred by the Singapore Art Society. He received the Outstanding Work Distinction award and his artwork was exhibited in the Art Awards exhibition (14-19 November 2015).

## SOUTH KOREA

### Oh, Soon Yi

**(Full Member)**

- Soon Yi Oh staged a highly successful solo exhibition at the Coo Gallery in Manhattan, New York (7-13 August 2014).



*Henri-Claire Hembert (Full Member/France), 'Three Sailing Boats', oils, 18x12 cm.*



# Information from the office

## Submission of originals

**The office of the Association kindly asks all artists 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  
Attn. Mr. Kurt Schöpfer (VDMFK)  
Heldastrasse 66  
CH-9471 Buchs  
SWITZERLAND**

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  
Email: [vdmfk@vdmfk.li](mailto: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.

## Hans Massberger accorded a great honour

Hans Massberger has worked for and been a part of the VDMFK ever since it was first established in 1957. Among his many activities he has also served – and continues to serve – as a jury mem-



ber. What few people know is that Hans also works as a painter. He has now been accorded a great honour: the internationally renowned Albertina museum in Vienna recently bought three of his works. The museum and the VDMFK go back a long way together. In 2007, for example, the Albertina hosted the international exhibition to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Association. This was not the first time that a prestigious museum has bought Hans' works. After all, the Staatliche Graphische Sammlung München already acquired one of his watercolours many years ago.

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

## **Foot painting with the palette knife**

My suggestion in this issue is that you try working with a new tool, the palette knife. This implement is particularly useful for foot painters. Foot painter Mr Henri-Clairy Hembert participated in this course by kindly making himself available for the photos. Above all, he continually adjusts the palette knife to his style of painting.

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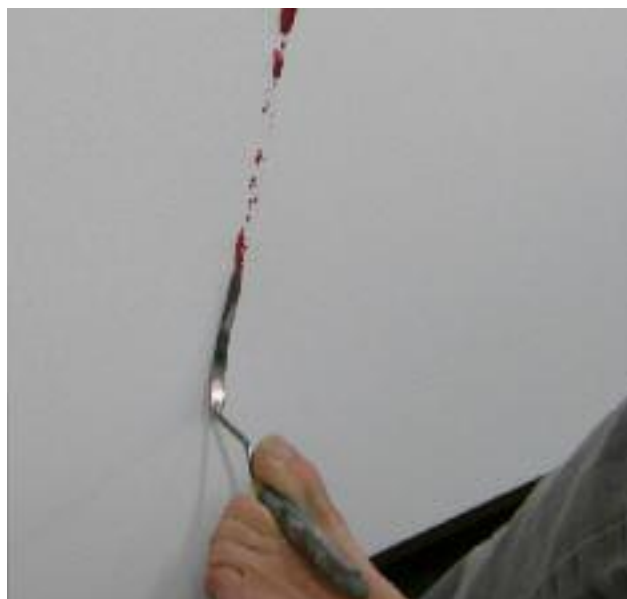
### Tools you need:

- a cotton canvas (paint adheres better to cotton).
- various palette knives; the two kinds I suggest here can change depending on how well your foot can grip objects.
- a large or several small pallets for mixing paints
- a cloth for wiping off excess paint from the knife
- 25 ml tubes of paint (since large amounts of paint are required).



### Using the palette knife:

The flat side is used to drag and spread the paint in order to create coloured backgrounds or areas. The cutting edge is used for drawing. Any kind of geometric shape can be produced in this way.



*Continued on page 26*

# Painting school

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## *Painting a landscape*

Use a pencil or brush to draw a rough sketch of the landscape.



Alternatively, apply the paint you wish to use for the background directly to the canvas and draw the foreground with the palette knife.



Once the background has been completed, draw the mountains and make them stand out by applying a darker coat of paint for the background.



Should you wish to soften the foothills, you only need to spread the paint by gently dragging it with the flat side of your palette knife.



Use a lighter shade to go over the sunny side of the mountain.





Notice carefully how the paint is placed at the edge of the palette knife.



Now create the sunless side of the mountains; apply a slightly stronger tone than the one you used for the sunny side.

Once you have placed the shadows you can paint the foreground, once again by using the flat side of the palette knife.

This concludes our first exercise with the palette knife. The result is not very complex but nonetheless provides a satisfactory image of a pretty mountain landscape.

In the next issue we shall deal with motifs such as bouquets of flowers and greened facades, while continuing to use the palette knife.



# History of the VDMFK

## Vancouver 1995: Ninth Delegates' Convention and Third Artists' Meeting

VDMFK delegates assembled in Vancouver to hold the Ninth Delegates' Convention from 8 May to 13 May 1995. This meeting of delegates was linked to the third Artists' Meeting of the Association. Consequently, all Full Members, all Associate Members and all Scholarship Holders from the United States and from Canada were invited. The VDMFK held an international exhibition at the Vancouver Museum as part of this dual event. At the vernissage, the Association was able to welcome Dr Hedy Fry, Member of the Canadian Parliament for Vancouver Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, as well as Mr Bill Barlee, the Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture. The latter two senior officials in Canadian political life also opened the exhibition.

At the plenary session of the Delegates' Assembly the VDMFK announced that it was supporting 424 artists from all over the world at that time. In addition, the delegates were required to hold an elec-



**As part of the event the VDMFK held an international exhibition at the Vancouver Museum which was opened by Dr Hedy Fry, Member of the Canadian Parliament for Vancouver Centre and Mr Bill Barlee, Minister of Small Business, Tourism and Culture.**

tion to the Managing Board because of the need to occupy the vacant seat left by the death of Board Member Mr Erich Macho. Since Prof Manuel Parreño, foot painter from Spain, was the only candidate standing for office, he was elected by acclamation to the Managing Board. The other Board Members did not have to be confirmed in office under the statutes of the Association. Thus the Managing Board was composed as follows following the Vancouver Dele-

gates' Convention: President Ms Marlyse Tovae, Mr Eros Bonamini, Mr Charles Fowler, Ms Ruth Christensen, Mr Bruce Peardon, Prof. Manuel Parreño and Legal Consultant Dr Herbert Batliner.

The Third Artists' Meeting of the Association took place in the wake of the Delegates' Convention. It was opened by Full Member Myron Angus from Canada. He said how he was glad that almost all artists from the North American region had been able to come to this meeting. As had become a tradition at Artists' Meetings, the present Full and Associate Members as well as the Scholarship Holders in the North American region had the opportunity to address questions to the Managing Board, of which active use was made. President Tovae also used the opportunity to address a few words to all those attending the meeting. In the course of her speech she talked about the aims of the Artists' Meetings which were to enable the participants to get to know each other and to foster more intensive contact with the VDMFK. The conclusion to this dual event comprised an excursion to Whistler Mountain and a city tour of Vancouver.



**Full Member Prof Manuel Parreño (right) was elected for the first time to the Managing Board in 1995. Standing at his side are VDMFK President Ms Marlyse Tovae (centre), Mr Eros Bonamini, Mr Charles Fowler, Ms Ruth Christensen, Mr Bruce Peardon and Legal Consultant Dr Herbert Batliner.**





*Young-Soo Kim (Associate Member/South Korea), 'A Still Life', watercolour, 38x31 cm.*



# Publishers' activities

## SPAIN

- In 2014 the Spanish publishing house held a total of six joint exhibitions featuring works by Spanish mouth and foot painters. This series of exhibitions began with a show lasting two weeks in León. The opening took place on 16 January 2014). The focal point of the activities shifted to Villaverde (Madrid) when the artists' works were shown at the Centro Cultural Santa Petronila (11-28 February 2014). After this, the works were displayed in Torrejón de Ardoz (10-29 April 2014). A further collective exhibition took place in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Álava) and was held in the Sala Luis de Ajuria exhibition building (12-30 July 2014).

The Galería Alfareros in Almería (Andalucía) served as the venue for a



**The exhibitions in Spain were accompanied by painting demonstrations.**

subsequent joint exhibition (10-24 September 2014). Here the Spanish publishing house had the great honour of welcoming the Vice-President of Andalucía among other visitors to the exhibition. The many activities held over the course of 2014 ended in Haro (La Rioja) with the staging of a collective exhibition (4-24 November 2014). All six exhibitions were highly successful, not only in terms of the number of visitors who came to the exhibitions but also in regard to the extensive media coverage they received, with each event being reported on local radio stations and TV channels. Various regional and national newspapers also wrote articles about the exhibitions.

## USA / CANADA

- The US publishing house organised a tour of exhibitions, painting demonstrations and interviews which led mouth painter Ms Mariam Paré (Scholarship Holder) to the cities of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Orlando, St. Petersburg, Vancouver and Toronto (September to October 2015). Mariam was supported by the following artists:

**Mr Antonio Davis (Scholarship Holder/USA), Ms Cindy Bernhardt (Scholarship Holder/USA), Mr Christopher J. Kuster (Scholarship Holder/USA), Mr Cody Tresierra (Full Member/Canada) and Ms Theresa Helen Matthias (Full Member/Canada).**

**nada).** On the NBC Today Show in New York City, Mariam presented the two host anchors with a portrait. Mariam and Cody were welcomed by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia when they appeared in Vancouver and Mariam and Theresa also met the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in Toronto.

**Right: Ms Theresa Helen Matthias (Full Member/Canada) presents the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Ms Elizabeth Violet Dowdeswell, with one of her works.**



## SLOVENIA

- The Slovenian publishing house staged an exhibition in the city of Murska Sobota (3 September - 14 October 2015). Held at the gallery of the same name, the show marked the fulfilment of the publishing house's five-year dream finally to put on an exhibition at this prestigious gallery. On display were 22 pictures by 11 Slovenian painters. Each painter contributed two paintings



**Scholarship Holder Mr Željko Vertelj, seen here at the exhibition opening in front of the two works which he submitted.**

of his or her choice. The eight Slovenian mouth and foot painters who attended the exhibition opening were:

**Mr Vojko Gašperut (Full Member), Mr Benjamin Žnidaršič (Full Member), Mr Silvo Mehle (Associate Member), Ms Angela Medved (Scholarship Holder), Ms Tina Pavlovic (Scholarship Holder), Mr Erik Pibernik (Scholarship Holder), Ms Dragica Sušanj (Scholarship Holder) and Mr Željko Vertelj (Scholarship Holder).**

# Publishers' activities

## FRANCE

- The French publishing house held an international exhibition at the pavillon Joséphine in Strasbourg's Parc de l'Orangerie from 17 to 20 September 2015. 120 works by mouth and foot painters from all over the world were on display. Mr Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, acted as patron of the event. A number of VDMFK artists from France gladly took up the opportunity to go to Strasbourg and attend the opening, at which they held painting demonstrations. These included **Ms Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire (Full Member)**, **Mr Henri-Claire Hembert (Full Member)**, two Scholarship Holders **Mr Arnaud Dubarre** and **Mr Marcel Rossé** as well as VDMFK President **Mr Serge Maudet**. **Ms Élodie Cazes (Full Member)** and Scholarship Holders **Mr Messaoud Belabbas**, **Ms Brigitte Burot**, **Mr Emmanuel Le Floch**, **Mr Daniel Lapeyre**, **Ms Annick Leclerc**, **Ms Lénaïc Léger**, **Ms Stéphanette Lièvre** and **Ms Christine Minet** were also present at the opening. Overall, around nine hundred visitors attended the exhibition, which was opened by Mr Florian Stegmann, director of the French publishing house. Among the guests at the preview was City Councilor Ms Seiler, who gave a speech on behalf of the Mayor and was presented with a work by Mr Rossé.



*Mouth and foot painters who had travelled from France to attend the opening of the exhibition in Strasbourg.*



*Many visitors attended the opening at which VDMFK President Serge Maudet also gave a small speech.*



*Visitors scrutinising the works of mouth and foot painters.*



*Ms Fanny Bourgeois (Full Member/France) giving a painting demonstration at the opening.*

