

VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS
ACROSS THE WORLD

July 2021 / 202



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Foreword by the Vice-President

Dear artists and readers,

I write this to you all in my capacity as Vice-President. President Serge Maudet has asked me to stand in for him and compose this foreword to our bulletin on his behalf. He wishes to keep getting better after his operation. I think we all wish him a complete and speedy recovery!

Health has become a major concern in these times. The words 'Stay healthy! Stay safe!' have become a natural way of saying goodbye to everyone's nearest and dearest. Worries about COVID-19 still dominate our everyday lives, even among those who have not tested positive. Following the news and daily number of cases has become a kind of obsession. Given the constantly changing regulations, laws and measures, some may have become apathetic, despondent or even angry – which would be the wrong way to go in this case. We should always remain vigilant, mindful of the world around us and be there for each other.

In itself, living with physical disabilities means that we constantly face new challenges. Most of us have gone through more than a few moments of despair, yet we have overcome them. So why should COVID-19 get us down? No, there is no reason for us to be or feel pessimistic! The increasing number of vaccinations and quick tests provide additional security. Experience has taught us that we are all adaptable and capable of learning, and that we are, after all, masters in the art of living.

Working through the medium of art gives us strength, focuses our thoughts and feelings, and ultimately serves as a kind of emotional therapy. Some of us have translated our views of this time and our feelings into our very own visual language. We can rightly be pleased to be gifted with the opportunity to create art. Here we can draw strength, here we can live out the reality of our lives and work our way through problems. We can transpose our feelings into a form of expression that is under-



VDMFK Vice-President Thomas Kahlau, Mouth Painter from Germany.

stood all over the world. Seen from this perspective, a picture can radiate the kind of energy and confidence that warms the heart; and it can also communicate strength to the viewer. We help each other and send messages to the world through the act of painting.

One of these messages is hope – something which is so important to all of us, especially at times like these. The days will come when we meet again with each other to talk about other matters. In fact, this is already true in many places with a return to everyday life. What's more, there are so many issues to discuss, with some of them quite delicate. In our work as Board members of our Association, as employees in the office and in the publishing houses, we strive to create the basic conditions so that all of the Association's artists can continue to live our lives, even under difficult circumstances. The numerous

diligent and self-sacrificing helpers over here form the stable framework that supports us in our everyday lives. And where would we be without our loyal customers who continue to support us? This is always a reason to be grateful, patient and confident.

Stay healthy! Stay safe! See you again soon.

Thomas Kahlau
Vice-President of the VDMFK

Miscellaneous

Mouth painter Carl Ernst Fischer ("Cefischer") from Germany made a name for himself with his cartoons and picture stories of Oskar the Cat. These were also published in book form. Here, we reproduce three of his cartoons: something to laugh about in difficult times.



'Dream and reality' - another cartoon by Cefischer.



'1:0 for the mice'.



'Hat duel'.



Janice Penny Oman (Associate Member/Canada), 'Five roses', mixed technique, 35 x 28 cm.

Artists' activities

ARGENTINA

Barcia, Cesar Andres (Scholarship Holder)

- César Andrés was asked by the Association of Argentine Watercolourists to give an online demonstration of his watercolour technique via Zoom on 23 March 2021. Thirteen artists watched how he painted a work from start to finish. In addition, he was invited to participate in a major event to mark the occasion of the 115th anniversary of the municipality of Vicente Lopez. This featured a wide range of artistic activities that were attended by many people on 18 December 2020. Together with sixteen other artists, César Andrés was chosen to exhibit his works and provide live painting demonstrations.

Vrbica, Wolfgang (Full Member)

- Wolfgang participated in an international YouTube exhibition entitled La bitácora ('Journey log') on 8 May 2021.

BRAZIL

- The artists **Gonçalo Borges (Associate Member)**, **Leandro Camargo de Oliveira (Scholarship Holder)**, **Daniela Cristina Caburro (Scholarship Holder)**, **Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member)**, **Marcelo da Cunha (Associate Member)**, **Terezinha Fernandes (Scholarship Holder)**, **Débora Ferreira dos Santos (Scholarship Holder)**, **Ivanildo Gomes (Scholarship Holder)**, **Jefferson Maia Figueira (Scholarship Holder)**, **Luciano Alves dos Nascimento (Scholarship Holder)**, **Thiago Ribeiro Santos (Scholarship Holder)** and **Eliana Zagui (Scholarship Holder)** participated in a virtual exhibition which was held from 1 to 25 December 2020. In total, around 35,000 people visited this exhibition which also featured various attractions dedicated to the VDMFK.

Chagas, Maria Goret (Associate Member)

- Maria Goret gave a number of online painting demonstrations in the course of the last few months. In addition, she participated in the online 45th Portinari Week which was organized by the Government of the Federal State of São Paulo, the Secretariat of Culture and Creative Industries and the Museu Casade Portinari from 15 to 23 August

2020, among others. In addition, Maria Goret participated in the 16th Biennale of Fine Arts for Persons with Disabilities in Kraków / Poland, for which she received an honourable distinction.

Maia Figueira, Jefferson (Scholarship Holder)

- Jefferson had a busy 2020. He participated in various group exhibitions from January to March in that year. From April 2020 onwards, he shifted most of his activities to the Internet by participating in web projects or giving painting demonstrations online. To this end he used his blog, which can be accessed via <http://www.inclusivas.com>. Jefferson also used his blog to announce that he would once again be providing painting demonstrations and staging exhibitions in public. One example of these occurred between 5 and 12 June 2021 in Porto da Barra, where an art festival was held in partnership with the local restaurants and artists. He exhibited his paintings and gave painting demonstrations at this venue.

INDONESIA

Subadri, Sabar (Associate Member)

- Sabar Subadri staged a solo exhibition and provided demonstrations of his painting skills at the Grand Wahid Hotel in Salatiga. His artworks were exhibited in the hotel lobby from 15 to 18 April 2021, with Sabar carrying out painting demonstrations in person on 16 and 17 April. Despite the pandemic, this event attracted a great deal of attention on the part of the public and local media.



Artists' activities

CROATIA

Perkovic, Stjepan (Scholarship Holder)

- Stjepan Perkovic participated in an online gallery competition for the best abstract painting covering the themes of light, space and time in February 2021. 1,206 artists from all over the world took part. His watercolour 'Urban Space' (on the right) received a special certificate of recognition. In addition, the artist was awarded the Luxembourg Art Prize in both 2019 and 2020, which he received through his participation in the eponymous competition. Stjepan was also honoured on 3 December 2020, when he was declared the winner



of a special prize entitled 'Equally different - for leaders with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina'. This prize was awarded by the 'UDAS' organisation of amputees and is supported by the EU.



COLOMBIA

Zuleta Ruiz, Diego Fausto (Scholarship Holder)

- Diego Fausto participated in an exhibition in the city of Medellín which was organized by the 'Pontifical Bolivarian University' of Medellín in November 2020. This was dedicated to the theme of 'Research & Creation in Design, Bodies and their Interactions'.

GERMANY

Mittelbach, Werner (Scholarship Holder)

- 'Art in green Springtime is garden time!' This idea was also on the minds of the painters in the Schwabmünchen art club, so without further ado they created artworks for the garden around their building. To this end, all the club members were asked to design at least one-metre-long boards of any shape according to their taste. Werner, a mouth painter, also took up this challenge: He created two painted boards – with one of them featuring flowers in bloom. The artistically designed wooden artworks will remain set up in the garden until at least the end of July.

INDIA

Pulikkathody, Jesfer (Scholarship Holder)

- Jesfer Pulikkathody exhibited some of his paintings at World Art Dubai, which was held in the city's World Trade Center from 7 to 10 April 2021. World Art Dubai is an art fair that is intended to bring together regional and global artists and galleries with Dubai's international community. Featuring over 2,000 artworks, the seventh edition of World Art Dubai had something to offer everyone. Jesfer was able to show his experimental works in the fields of abstraction, installation and wearable art. About ten thousand visitors from different countries came to see the exhibition.

Ramakrishnan, Narayan (Scholarship Holder)

- Narayan participated in an online art event that had been organized by 'Artfeat'. It consisted of a motivational event for children from state schools and for other art lovers. Narayan presented his foot paintings and received multiple comments on these. In addition, the participants were brought closer to drawing and painting.

INDONESIA

Amanatullah, Muhammad (Scholarship Holder)

- At the request of the Indonesian social services agency, Muhammad agreed to be the centre of a YouTube channel discussing the theme of breaking through borders. In this way, his story, his painting skills and his enthusiasm during the Corona period were visually presented and brought closer to the viewers. Muhammad was also the speaker of a Zoom seminar held on the occasion of disability day at which he presented several of his paintings.

ISRAEL

Ganor, Netta (Associate Member)

- By receiving 3,960 votes for her painting "Togetherness", Netta won the Audience Award at the International Biennale Salon 'NAIVE 2021' in Bulgaria on 22 April 2021. The theme of the competition was living life against the background shadow of the coronavirus. Over 600 paintings were submitted, with only 80 or so making it to the final.

Continued on page 8

Artists' activities

ITALY

Portelli, Santina

(Full Member)

- Santina Portelli was named painter of the month for March 2021 by the 'Ramingo' intercultural association.

PHILIPPINES

Tongco, Julius A.

(Scholarship Holder)

- Julius participated with one of his paintings in an art exhibition entitled 'A Mother's Love Art Exhibit' which was held as part of the national art month at the Capitol building in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, on 15 February 2021. During the same art month, he participated in an exhibition entitled 'Padayon Bohol Art Fair' at the Island City Mall in Tagbilaran City on 1 February 2021. Julius also took part in an art exhibition which was held at the Ayala Malls in Manila on 8 May 2021.

SERBIA

Backo, Dejana

(Scholarship Holder)

- On 8 March 2021, a celebration was held to mark Novak Djokovic winning the Australian Open. It took place at



'Novak', the tennis star's restaurant in Belgrade. Scholarship Holder Dejana Backo painted a picture of the champion for this special event and presented him with the painting that evening. Novak Djokovic thanked her for her portrait of him. The picture also shows a butterfly. This is because a butterfly landed on Novak's shoulder at the Australian Open.

SINGAPORE

Yeo Kwok Chian, Aaron

(Scholarship Holder)

- The University of Social Sciences invited Aaron to hold a workshop, in the course of which he described his path towards becoming a mouth painter. He also gave a live demonstration, after which the participants themselves were able to engage in a practical painting session. The artist invited them to paint with their mouths so that they could experience at first-hand some of the challenges faced by a mouth painter. The success of this workshop led to the holding of a second one, with the aim of raising awareness of people with disabilities.

SLOVENIA

Gasperut, Vojko

(Full Member)

- Listeners to the 'VAL 202' radio station voted Vojko name of the month for April 2021. After first receiving the distinction of being name of the week, he beat the competition and became name of the month. We now have to wait until the end of 2021 to see if he is elected name of the year. Listeners cited the artist's impressive body of work as the reason behind their decision.

Vertelj, Zeljko

(Scholarship Holder)

- Despite COVID-19, Zeljko can look back on 2020 as a busy year, including his staging of a solo exhibition in January 2020 and a joint exhibition in February 2020. Furthermore, the artist attended various workshops to improve

his painting skills. In 2020, the municipality of Kocevje awarded Zeljko the mayor's plaque in recognition of his work. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, he was unable to receive this award in person.

Znidarsic, Benjamin

(Full Member)

- 24 April 2021 - a municipal holiday - saw the opening of a solo exhibition by Benjamin Znidaršić at the Gallery of Original Art in the Croatian city of Zlatar, where the painter presented 33 of his more recent paintings from his large body of work to art enthusiasts. The exhibition was officially opened by the mayor of Zlatar, Ms Jasenka Auguštan-Pentek, and ran until 5 May 2021.

USA

Barrera Ruiz, Rebeca

(Scholarship Holder)

- Rebeca Barrera Ruiz was honoured through an exhibition of her paintings in a one-woman show as part of a celebration of women in art. The event was broadcast on the local TV station, so that many people could admire the artist's mouth painting and participate in the event despite COVID-19. One of the highlights was the screening of a short video clip of Rebeca painting at home.



Jovito Sasutona (Associate Member/Philippines), 'Fish sellers', watercolour, 37 x 27 cm.

We mourn for

GREAT BRITAIN

Chambers, Steven Paul

Date of birth: 26 November 1961

Passed away on: 29 December 2020

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Full Member since: 2005

Steven Paul Chambers was born in the village of Denham, Buckinghamshire, on 26 November 1961. Steven suffered from arthrogryposis, a disease that affects the muscles and joints. As a result, he only had limited use of his arms and legs. One of the reasons why he became interested in art as a young boy is because his grandfather was already working as an artist. His parents encouraged him to pursue an artistic career. The fact that he was disabled, they thought, should not be an obstacle to him making full use of his creative skills. After finishing school, Steven went on to study art at Amersham Art College. It was at this time in 1979 that he met a nurse who told him about the Association. The VDMFK awarded him a scholarship about two weeks later. Steven became an Associate Member of the VDMFK in 1996.



Steven Paul Chambers passed away on 29 December 2020. He had been a Full Member of the Association since 2005.

He mainly liked painting landscapes, especially coastal landscapes, in an impressionist style. Although he mastered a complete range of painting techniques, Steven mainly preferred to paint watercolours. In addition to painting, he

also pursued numerous hobbies including keeping reptiles, breeding birds, building go-carts and repairing car engines.

Deceased Scholarship Holders

CANADA

Laird, Rickey C.

Date of birth: 20 April 1957

Passed away on: 5 February 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2012

Rickey C. Laird was born in Wolfville (Nova Scotia) on 20 April 1957. Due to a car accident in 1974, he suffered a spinal injury of the C4 to C6 vertebrae that rendered him tetraplegic – leaving him unable to use his upper extremities. From 1983 to 1987, he attended what is now Mount Royal University in Calgary (Alberta) and gained a diploma in rehabilitation sciences. Rickey embarked on his first attempts to paint with

his mouth in May 2008. In the process, he discovered his talent for painting. He took private art lessons at the Applied Communication Arts organisation from that time onwards and sought to improve his skills through self-study. His preferred painting techniques were oils and watercolours, which he mainly used to create and develop Canadian landscapes and floral themes. Rickey displayed his works to the public on several occasions at local exhibitions. Moreover, he became engaged in the voluntary sector, leading to him being appointed chairman of Calgary's disability and seniors' transportation committee, chairman of the local health council in the same city, and executive director of the disabilities committee in Halifax (Nova Scotia).

COLOMBIA

Barrera, Carlos Arturo

Date of birth: 12 March 1953

Passed away on: 2 March 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 1985

Carlos Arturo Barrera was born in Cali (Valle del Cauca) on 12 March 1953. Due to an accident Carlos had suffered from paralysis of the arms and legs (tetraplegia) since August 1972. He attended secondary school and devoted a year to studying architecture. Carlos taught himself to paint with his mouth in 1976. He participated in several exhibitions and enjoyed playing chess in his spare time.

Gómez Pérez, Belisario

Date of birth: 29 November 1942
Passed away on: 3 December 2020
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 2007

Belisario Gómez Pérez was born in Fresno (Tolima) on 29 November 1942. At the age of 18, Belisario went into the Colombian army but was discharged at the age of 20 because he was no longer able to meet the army's physical requirements. In 1981, he was involved in a shooting incident that caused a lesion of the spinal cord at the level of the C5-C6 vertebrae, leaving him tetraplegic. He began painting with his mouth in 1998 and managed to perfect his skills through sheer and constant effort. Belisario preferred to paint in oils.

FINLAND

Leppänen, Marjukka

Date of birth: 26 August 1953
Passed away on: 10 May 2021
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 1986

Marjukka Leppänen was born in Joensuu, Finland, on 26 August 1953. She had suffered from spastic movement disorders since birth. Despite Marjukka undergoing several operations, none proved successful. She required support in order to carry out each of her daily activities. Marjukka could sit in a wheelchair and also stand on her feet, providing someone helped her to do so. Marjukka attended primary school as well as a basic course in English, Finnish and psychology for two years. She began painting with her mouth in 1981 and subsequently studied art for four years at the local adult education centre. Marjukka took part in various exhibitions. Her other interests included writing poetry.

GREECE

Marinou-Paleologou, Eleni

Date of birth: 18 February 1943
Passed away on: 26 May 2021
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 1998

Eleni Marinou-Paleologou was born in Serres (Greece) in 1943. Even as a young girl her artistic talent did not go unnoticed and she took art and painting lessons from her brother Kostas Paleologos, who was a painter and professor at the Athens Art Academy. Already a well-known artist before her disability, Eleni participated in many joint exhibitions or held exhibitions herself. In 1987 she had a serious car accident and was therefore forced to give up painting. She had never recovered from her injuries and also began to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis, causing her to completely lose the use of her hands. In 1993 she tried to paint for the first time with her mouth, because she was determined to devote her life once more to painting – her true purpose in life.

MEXICO

Magdaleno, Joel Ramos

Date of birth: 4 September 1967
Passed away on: 3 January 2021
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 2000

Joél Ramos Magdaleno was born in Zamora (Michoacán) on 4 September 1967. While studying to become a civil engineer, Joél was involved in a serious accident that resulted in the complete paralysis of all his limbs. In 1992, he began painting with his mouth and discovered his artistic talent. Joél took part in several exhibitions held in Zamora (Michoacán) and Ocotlán (Jalisco), and was awarded various prizes for his artistic achievements.

Moreno Orozco, Susana

Date of birth: 15 March 1971
Passed away on: 7 January 2021
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 2007

Susana Moreno Orozco was born in Los Mochis (Sinaloa) on 15 March 1971. She finished elementary and secondary school before going on to study at the local technical college. She was diagnosed with rheumatic arthritis at the age of 22. As her medical condition worsened, she found herself no longer able to walk at the age of 26. This meant she was confined to a wheelchair. Given that the disease also prevented her being able to use her hands, she became dependent on the help of others. Ms Perla Fabiola Espinoza Vega (a mouth painter and VDMFK Scholarship Holder) introduced Susana to the magic of mouth painting. Encouraged by Perla, Susana began taking regular painting lessons under her guidance.

Olvera Martinez, Jorge Eduardo

Date of birth: 16 January 1970
Passed away on: 8 February 2021
Painting technique: Mouth painter
Scholarship Holder since: 2014

Jorge Eduardo Olvera Martínez was born in Mexico City (Ciudad de México) on 16 January 1970. He obtained a degree from the Faculty for Biological and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Guadalajara and, prior to his severe accident in 1999, worked as an agricultural engineer. In a car accident, he suffered a spinal cord injury at the level of the C5, C6 and C7 vertebrae which left him tetraplegic. During his stay in hospital, Jorge met VDMFK Scholarship Holder and mouth painter Mr Ixmael Martínez Ibarra. In a personal conversation with the artist in 2010, Jorge expressed a serious interest in mouth painting. He began to take painting lessons once a week under Martínez Ibarra and learned more about

We mourn for

the nature and activities of the VDMFK. From that time onwards, Jorge made enormous progress and endeavoured to work even more intensively on his paintings.

Valenzuela Ruiz, Dora Beatriz

Date of birth: 17 January 1973

Passed away on: 21 May 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2015

Dora Beatriz Valenzuela Ruiz was born in Los Mochis (Sinaloa) on 17 January 1973. She completed primary school but was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 18. The disease worsened increasingly over the years so that she was no longer able to use her hands. In 2008, Dora Beatriz began using her mouth to paint. Her friend Maria de los Angeles Romero, herself a VDMFK Scholarship Holder, taught Dora Beatriz to hold a brush with her mouth. One year later, Dora Beatriz began taking art and painting lessons under teacher and mouth painter Lidia de Jesús Cháidez Lopez (a VDMFK Scholarship Holder). Dora Beatriz participated in several joint exhibitions.

POLAND

Galos, Jerzy

Date of birth: 6 November 1964

Passed away on: 23 May 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2004

Jerzy Galos was born in Kossowa, on 6 November 1964. He attended the vocational school for civil engineering in Oswiecim, which is also where he began working as a mechanic and driver. In 1986, he started working at the coal mine in the village of Bierun Nowy. In 1992, he suffered a spinal fracture in an accident resulting in complete paralysis (tetraplegia). In the course of several years of rehabilitation, his doctor persuaded him to take an interest in painting. Jerzy painted his first works with his

mouth in 1999. He participated in numerous exhibitions and competitions throughout the country. He also held several remarkable solo exhibitions. Jerzy preferred to paint in oils, watercolours or tempera. His preferred motifs were landscapes and flowers.

SLOVENIA

Janezic, Gregor

Date of birth: 31 August 1982

Passed away on: 9 March 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2019

Gregor Janežič was born in Celje (Slovenia) on 31 August 1982. Before his accident on 3 August 1998, he was a highly gifted football player and played in goal for the national team. The accident occurred when he was swimming with his colleagues and he jumped from a jetty into shallow water; he sustained an injury to the C3-C4 cervical vertebrae, which left him confined to a wheelchair from that time on. He became a member of the Paraplegia Association of South-West Styria (Slovenia), which enabled him to take part in various meetings and meet new friends. At one such meeting, he met Vojko Gašperut and Benjamin Žnidaršič and was very impressed by their mouth paintings. Subsequently, he also tried to paint with his mouth at home, first with the aid of YouTube videos and later through tips from the artist Severina Trost-Progard. Gregor was invited by Rotaract club Celje to exhibit eight of his pictures and received the "Promising Young Painter" award.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha, Theodor Ludwig

Date of birth: 16 November 1959

Passed away on: 9 June 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 1995

Theodor Ludwig Botha was born in

Orkney (North West province, South Africa) on 16 November 1959. The qualified motorcycle mechanic was seriously injured in a rugby match in 1987. He broke his neck and was confined to a wheelchair as a quadriplegic from that time on. Following his accident, he worked as a janitor and later as an employee of a company. For health reasons, however, he had to resign from his job and move to a care centre. He found himself no longer able to use his hands. At the suggestion of mouth painter Gerd Volschenk, Theodor began painting with his mouth and was supported in doing so by Ms Annemarie Roos, an art teacher.

Cornish, Winston Lenred

Date of birth: 13 October 1940

Passed away on: 14 March 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2010

Winston Lenred Cornish was born in Brakpan, South Africa, on 13 October 1940. He and his family moved to Zimbabwe when Winston was three years old. All his years at school were spent there. As a pupil, Winston was considered an extremely talented young artist. He received commendations for his art and technical drawing skills. Winston married in 1965 and moved back to South Africa with his wife a year later. He began working as an artist around this time. While on holiday he was involved in a swimming accident on 1 January 2000. A young surfer caught Winston in the neck with his surfboard, leaving him tetraplegic. Given that he was no longer able to move his arms, he was encouraged to try painting with his mouth. Mouth painting filled him with inspiration and became his main purpose in life.

SWEDEN

Holmgren, Olle

Date of birth: 27 January 1946

Passed away on: 31 January 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scholarship Holder since: 2000

Olle Holmgren was born in Tomelilla (Skåne) on 27 January 1946. He was first diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1970. The disease took a severe course, so much so that he was completely paralysed by 1979. Olle started out writing his name with a pen between his lips but soon moved on to having a go at painting with his mouth. Having discovered his great passion for art, Olle decided to attend a college of art in order to further develop his skills. As such, he successfully participated in a number of exhibitions.



The famous painting by late Full Member Cristóbal Moreno Toledo, mouth painter from Spain.

The significance of painting

The significance of painting as seen by mouth painter Sara Jane Parsons, Associate Member from the USA.

What painting means to me

My life stretched before me like a long, dark tunnel after becoming quadriplegic in a car accident. I had no idea where I was going or what I was doing. Then I discovered I could draw and paint, and a whole new brighter, lighter world opened up for me. Drawing and painting gave me new life.

Prior to becoming quadriplegic, I was a very physically active person. I swam competitively starting at age 5. When my family moved to Minnesota I took to downhill and cross-country skiing in the winters, and canoeing and windsurfing in the summers. I would run and ride my bike all year round. I exercised daily with the idea that if I did sit-ups and push-ups everyday, I should be able to do them for the rest of my life. Becoming paralyzed from the shoulders down made me frustrated, angry, and depressed. My junior high art teacher took me to a one-day watercolor class, and while the class was somewhat disappointing to us



Sara Jane Parsons, Associate Member from the USA.

both, I was hooked.

Painting became my new sport. Suddenly, I had purpose and direction. Here was something I had never really done before becoming disabled,

and I just wanted to get "good at it." If I wasn't drawing or painting, I was dreaming about it. An attendant with a degree in fine arts encouraged me to take a figure drawing class, and I fell in love. I was attending 2 to 3 figure drawing sessions a week. And when I wasn't at a session, I was painting at home using seashells for models.



Sara Jane Parsons (Associate Member / USA), 'Yellow rose', watercolours, 24 x 37 cm.

Initially, I chose to use watercolor as my primary medium because it is so readily available. It doesn't matter if my paint dries up, as I can easily bring it back to life. The simplicity of it is so attractive, especially in contrast to my daily life, which can be so logistical and complicated. I am set and ready to go with just water, pigment, and paper.

Now, however, I am swimming in completely uncharted waters, and learning to paint with oils. With the support of the VDMFK I am able to

The significance of painting

work with an artist/mentor, Frank Eber. Painting with oils is so completely different from painting with watercolor, it is helpful to have his enthusiasm and guidance as I navigate this new process, which is proving to be both challenging and exciting. I feel I am just scratching the surface of what I will be able to do with this medium.

Becoming a part of the VDMFK as a mouth painter changed my life again. Not only is it an honor and incredible opportunity to be a part of an international association of artists, but I have the support needed to pursue my love of making art. Thanks to VDMFK I am working with Frank Eber, I am able to attend classes and workshops, and I can truly concentrate on painting.

Painting is something I never knew I could do prior to becoming disabled. It challenges me. It fills me with ambition and purpose. It leads to new friends and connections. It constantly opens me up to new worlds and new experiences, and above all, brings me joy. I will forever be working on getting good at it.

Sara Jane Parsons
Associate Member/USA



Sara Jane Parsons (Associate Member / USA), 'Yellow rose', watercolours, 24 x 37 cm.

Parsons, Sara Jane (USA)

Date of birth: 4 January 1964

Place of birth: Redwood City

Associate Member since: 2021

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Sara Jane Parsons was born in Redwood City on 4 January 1964. At the age of 20, Sara Jane was involved in a traffic accident which left her tetraplegic and

consequently no longer able to dye, knit or sew, her hobbies at that time.

She discovered mouth painting while studying law in California and found it offered a welcome change to her daily routine. A friend encouraged her to enrol in a painting course, where she discovered her passion for drawing life figures and models. After the course was over, she contacted painting

groups with the aim of painting figures among fellow artists. The Association first awarded her a scholarship in 2009. Sara Jane became an Associate Member of the VDMFK in 2021.

Her work has been recognised at local, national and international level. She paints flowers, figurative works, portraits and landscapes, for which she mainly uses watercolours.

VDMFK personalities

Honorary Member Wladimiro Bubola was considered a strong supporter of the VDMFK and its artists in Italy.

Wladimiro Bubola, who came from a wealthy Florentine family, was deeply impressed by the artistic works of the Association's mouth and foot painters. As a patron, he wanted to publicise their work throughout Italy. In 1961, Wladimiro began organising a series of exhibitions for the Association in Italy. His colleague, Prof Rosella Alberti, a painter and sculptor from Milan, always supported Wladimiro in her words and deeds. Wladimiro transported the pictures throughout Italy in a minibus which he personally funded. He held exhibitions in Florence, Rome, Verona, Venice, Palermo, Varese and Milan as well as in other places, including the Swiss canton of Ticino, where he staged highly regarded exhibitions in Lugano, Bellinzona or Mendrisio. The vernissages were always attended by senior figures from the world of politics, culture and the church – and, obviously, by Italian artists of the VDMFK, who exhibited their different painting styles and techniques.

Wladimiro's commitment to the VDMFK and Italian mouth and foot painting artists did not go unnoticed by the VDMFK Board, which is why it moved to make Wladimiro Bubola the first Honorary Member of the VDMFK at the Association's second Delegates' Convention in Bombay in 1969. President Arnulf Erich Stegmann justified this motion with the following words: "Wladimiro Bubola has long organised art exhibitions which solely feature the works of mouth and foot painting artists. For example, he has held exhibitions in almost all the cities of Italy as well as Ticino in Switzerland. These have aroused a great deal of attention among the public, in the press, and on radio and television. [...] Wladimiro Bubola has organized and managed these exhibitions without the financial help of the VDMFK, which only provides originals of its artists. [...] Mr Bubola also founded a VDMK gallery in Florence on his own initiative. He spared



VDMFK Honorary Member Wladimiro Bubola (on the right) with VDMFK founder and President Arnulf Erich Stegmann at the opening of an exhibition.

no effort to realise this project. In 1966, however, floods devastated the gallery which was about to open. Wladimiro Bubola would not allow this setback to discourage him. He restored the gallery to its former state and many damaged paintings were renovated. The magnificent opening in 1967 was a reward and testimony to his tireless work. Wladimiro Bubola continues to plan exhibitions in various Italian cities. We therefore recommend that this important supporter of the VDMFK be awarded honorary membership in due recognition." The President's recommendation received the unanimous support of the delegates, making Wladimiro Bubola the first Honorary Member of the Association.

The gallery referred to by Stegmann opened its doors to the Florentine public in 1967. The Right Reverend Bishop Fernando Puccini officiated at the formal inauguration of the gallery. Legendary mayor Prof Piero Bargellini opened the exhibition and congratulated Wladimiro Bubola, the director of the VDMFK gallery, for his initiative. A.E. Stegmann painted a portrait of Prof

Bargellini in front of the vernissage guests. Wladimiro Bubola also set up a permanent exhibition at Via Bartolini 49 in Milan.

Wladimiro Bubola went blind and was no longer able to continue his beloved work. He passed away in 1995. "The VDMFK looks back with joy and gratitude on this period in its history," was how late jury member Hans Massberger commented on Wladimiro Bubola's commitment to the VDMFK.



Coen de Rooij (Associate Member/Netherlands), 'Village scene in autumn', acrylics, 50 x 40 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**

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.

Presentation of painting techniques

Soonyi Oh, VDMFK Board Member and Foot painter from South Korea, offers practical ideas for mouth and foot painters. This time around she explores the question: "How do I paint an apricot blossom flower?"



1. Use vigorous and thick brushstrokes to depict the stem of an apricot blossom flower with the light and shadow of an ink.



2. Paint the second and third branches, each with a small variation in their thickness, and continue by painting their twigs.



3. Paint branches on top of each other with a natural variation.



Presentation of painting techniques

4. Paint apricot-coloured flowers on the twigs.



5. Next, paint the bird's eyes. Next, paint the bird's eyes.



6. Paint the head of the bird horizontally in brown.

Presentation of painting techniques

7. Paint the bird's feathers by mixing a brown paint with an ink.



8. Paint the bird's abdomen with light and the shadows with ink. Paint the tail of the bird with ink.



9. Paint the bird's feet according to the position in which the bird is sitting.



Presentation of painting techniques

How do I paint a bird?



Unlike paintings which serve more or less solely as visual representations, literary painting is philosophical and intellectual in nature. The latter genre underpins the basic system of oriental painting; it elevates painting from the

visual to the rational level. In the oriental approach to painting, external expression is regarded as an important element of literary painting. In addition, it implicitly represents the inner world of the artist through a form

of expression that emphasises the vigour of brushstrokes and shadow changes. This approach to painting tends to embody art through the free expression of feelings and meaning.

We received the following letter from Scholarship Holder Mr Mridul Ghosh, mouth painter from India.

Painting and Me

Hello, my name is Mridul Ghosh. I was a soldier in the Indian Air Force and now I work as a mouth painting artist. At the moment I am in a rehabilitation centre for paraplegics where I am receiving long-term care.

The field I have chosen for my second life after my accident is mouth painting. As a painter, I am freeing myself for my vast new possibilities and have come to see various possible and imaginary dimensions that are otherwise not open

to a normal eye. I have become more mature and analytical and my behaviour has also changed in other ways, e.g. I listen more attentively and look more closely at my surroundings.

Now, I'm in a wheelchair, I capture my dreams and ideas on canvas by wielding the brush from my mouth. My artworks are colourful and created with a lot of imagination. For a painter, every day is a new quest, a new beginning, combined with the great hope of reinventing myself with the combination of different colours. I want to live my life to the fullest and get to know areas that have remained closed to me until now. I am amazed at my creative output. When I finish a painting, I don't rest but imme-

diately start a new one. It's an endless field, the more you discover, the more creative you become. That's the beauty of painting. It has given me a whole new perspective.

I am a traveller who wants to keep travelling until the end of my life. I pray for the blessings of the Holy Spirit so that I can bring more and more fascinating colour combinations to the canvas and into my life. O Lord, make my life meaningful.



Roberto Zomero (Associate Member/Italy), 'Sea at sunset', oils, 40 x 50 cm.



María del Pilar Benítez Velozo (Associate Member/Argentina), 'Mother hare with baby in a basket full of colourful flowers', acrylics, 30 x 24 cm.

Publishers' activities

SWITZERLAND

- The Swiss publishing house held its second online workshop for artists in February 2021. This event was organised under the motto 'A bit of courage now and then'. The publishing house drew on the success of the first digital artists' workshop in 2020 as an opportunity to offer such an event again.

Contents and themes

Each seminar was conducted on a fixed weekday over a period of three weeks, with the thematic focus placed on 'templates, models and theme-related motifs.' The idea was to select motifs which would establish a temporal reference in keeping with the season and therefore contribute to the success of the seminars. Based on this guiding principle, the motif 'winter' was selected. Under the guidance of Editha Tarantino as course instructor, our artists developed their ideas for paintings in phases of joint creative work during the three days of the seminar. Motivated by the mutual exchange of the group, each participant benefited in an extraordinary way, as can be seen in the highly impressive works they created.



Antoine René Leisi, Scholarship Holder from Switzerland, seen here painting his winter motif.



Scholarship Holder Bracha Fischel seen here painting her winter motif during the online workshop held by the Swiss publishing house.



Lars Höllerer, Full Member from Germany, also took part in the workshop which explored the theme of winter.

In addition to the selected topics of technique (background painting of the canvas), colour theory and perspective, questions raised by our artists also formed part of the online seminar. These included, among other things, proportions and the feeling of depth, the weighting of painting areas in the picture, working spontaneously, allowing things to emerge, being intuitive and courageous, and the independent creation of in-depth works.

Further online seminars planned for 2021 include:

June 2021: Flowers/Lakes

October 2021: Pictures of summer/buildings

December 2021: Still lifes

