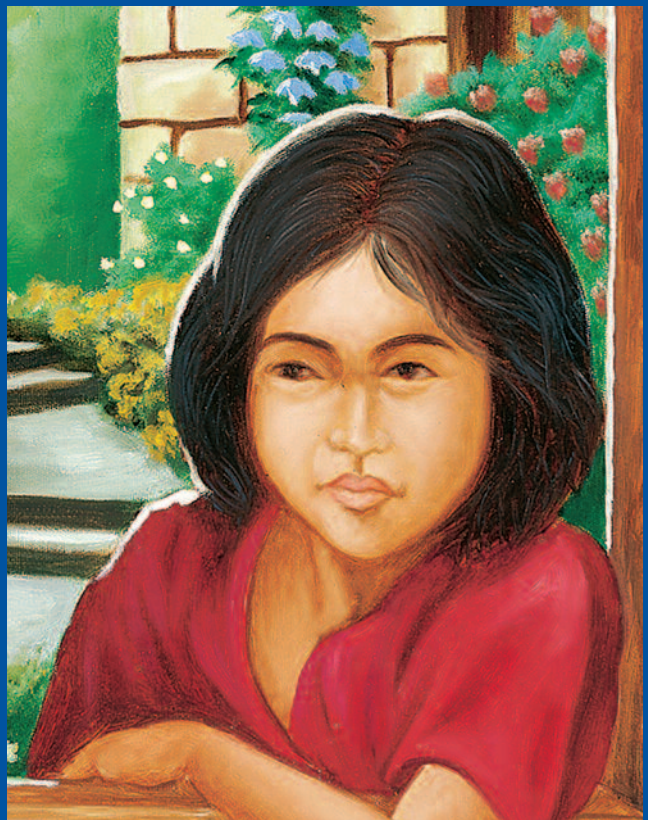
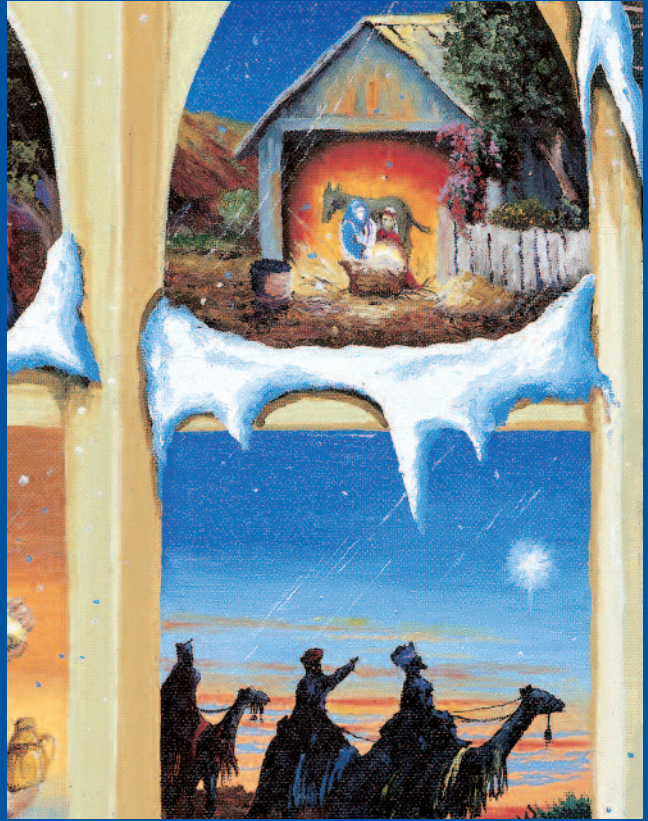


# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
WORLDWIDE

December 2017/195



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**Dear Artists,  
Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

*Once again, this year has turned out to be an important one for the Association with various events. The most outstanding of these was held in Barcelona, where we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Association.*

*Following the General Assembly in Barcelona, I'm pleased to say that we're now up to full strength on the Board. As always we work together with more or less lively discussions, but the important thing is that we have the same goal: to make our Association known throughout the world.*

*Leafing through this new information service,*

*- you'll notice that the number of exhibitions and other events has not grown any smaller;*

*- you'll also see that the book "60 years of VDMFK" was presented at the Frankfurt book fair in Germany. It is, after all, the largest book fair in the world;*

*- I invite you to heed the call of Board Member Tom Yendell and take part in the "First International Day of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists". You'll find all the information you need by reading through the brochure;*

*- you'll find that the "Painting school" column now has a new name. The theme is presented by Scholarship Holder Arnaud Dubarre;*

*- you'll will also find examples of post-card motifs which sell the most. Perhaps they will help you find inspiration.*

*We have now entered December 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the artists and publishers from the bottom of my heart for the services they have rendered to the Association this year.*

..



**VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.**

*moments of a year that is now drawing to a close and, with this in mind, make good resolutions for the New Year.*

*My best wishes to you all for the holiday season and may the year 2018 be a year full of joy and creativity!*

*Serge Maudet  
President of the VDMFK*



*Let's look back together on the magic*

# Miscellaneous

## Dear artists,

Following the 60th anniversary of the VDMFK, the Association would like to propose a new initiative for 2018. It intends to help boost the general public's awareness of mouth and foot painting artists, and their works, by instigating a new event which we would like to hold once a year.

To commemorate Erich Stegmann, the founding father of our Association, the VDMFK plans to stage an annual event which will be held on the same date, probably on 5 September. We shall be calling it "International Mouth and Foot Painter Day". We hope that by doing so, we can inspire all our mouth and foot painters, publishers and supporters to "do something" in support of this day of celebration. For example, artists could possibly post a photo that shows them painting their latest work on their personal social media wall, organise an exhibition of their work, provide a demonstration of their painting techniques in a local gallery or a shopping mall, or write an article about themselves and their art work for a local newspaper, television or radio station. There are many things that each artist can do to draw attention to the Association and its wonderful work all over the world.

The social media offer a wonderful tool for spreading information about our exceptional organisation to the outside world. Many of our artists are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and so on. If we all post something on our pages to mark the occasion of Mouth and Foot Painter Day, our message may reach millions – if not tens of millions – of people worldwide.

This means that these good people already know us and are all the more willing to buy our products when they get our packs of Christmas cards.

We intend to stage the first event on 5 September 2018. If it proves successful, we will try to organise something special for each subsequent year. If you



**Board Member Tom Yendell calls on mouth and foot painters throughout the world to take part in Mouth and Foot Painter Day, which is due to take place for the first time on 5 September 2018.**

wish to help us prepare something, either by yourself or together with a group, we kindly ask you to send an e-mail to the head office of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. In that way, they'll know that you are looking forward to taking part in the event. The e-mail address is [office@vdmfk.li](mailto:office@vdmfk.li).

As you obviously know, the revenues of our Association are generated from the sale of cards, calendars and other items. To sell these products, we need customers. Therefore we must do everything possible with the aid of our publishing houses, and personally in our role as artists, to win over new customers.

We hope that you "can be part of a fantastic celebration of mouth and foot painters" and would be delighted for you to get personally involved in the event!

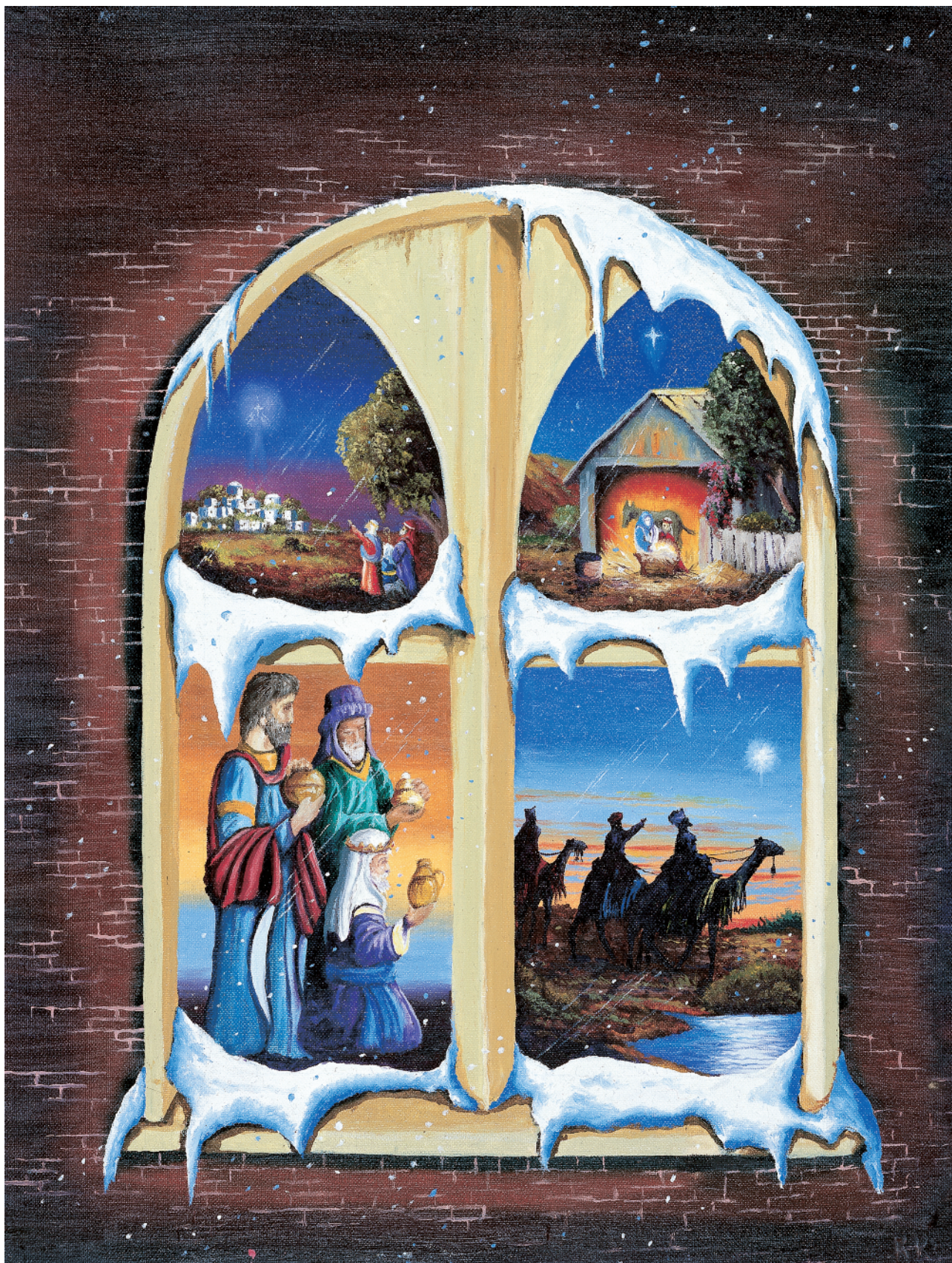
We are planning a prize for the best picture which reveals what mouth and foot painters actually do in life. Please

post your picture on our Facebook wall by entering "International Mouth and Foot Painter Day 2018". Don't forget to share it with your entire family, friends and fans and make sure that they also pass it on in turn!

Please send an e-mail by the end of March 2018 to [office@vdmfk.li](mailto:office@vdmfk.li) and let us know whether you wish to attend the event in 2018.

Tom Yendell  
Board Member of the VDMFK





Kyriacos Kyriacou (Full Member/Cyprus), 'The window with four scenes at the time of the birth of Christ', oils, 40x30 cm.



# Exhibition in Taiwan



**23 mouth and foot painters from Taiwan took part in the exhibition marking the 35th anniversary of the Taiwanese publishing house.**

**The Taiwanese publishing house staged a major exhibition of its artists' works to mark its 35th anniversary. The opening took place on 5 August 2017. The paintings remained on display until 20 August 2017.**

The Taiwanese publishing house celebrated its 35th anniversary this year. To mark the auspicious occasion, it staged a major exhibition at the Dr Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Taipei, one which featured works by mouth and foot painters from Taiwan. They were certainly eager

to be present at the opening of the exhibition and the Taiwanese publishing house had the honour of welcoming twenty-three of them. Numerous guests of honour were invited to this occasion, including Dr Frederick Chien, ex-president of the Control Yuan investigatory agency monitoring the Government, together with his wife; Mr Chen Xue-sheng, Member of Parliament; Dr Kuang-shih Yeh, former transport and communications minister; and Professor Chuan Yi Tang, President of Providence University. At the opening ceremony, Dr Kuang-shih Yeh said: "I have already

used the Christmas cards of the mouth and foot painters for a very long time. But today marks the first time that I have actually met them in person. I am deeply moved by their spirit." Other guests of honour were also delighted to take the opportunity and say a few words. Dr Chien encouraged the artists by referring to the quotation in the exhibition catalogue: «When God closed a door, he opened up a window somewhere else».



**The exhibition was opened by many guests, including Dr Kuang-shih Yeh, the former transport and communications minister.**



**A great number of visitors gathered for the opening of the exhibition at the National Dr Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall.**



# Workshop in France



*Participants at the publishing house's workshop in France.*

**The French publishing house ran its traditional workshop for French mouth and foot painters from 25 June until 1 July 2017.**

15 French artists gathered together in Le Croisic to take part in the fifth workshop run by their country's publishing house. The purpose of the workshop was to improve the artists' technique and maximise their potential. VDMFK President Mr Serge Maudet and painting teacher Mr Fabien Renault taught the whole week. Over the course of the week they noticed that the artists took part in the various courses with great



*Scholarship Holder Mr Marcel Rossé at work.*

concentration and motivation. The following mouth and foot painters took part in the French publishing house's workshop:

**Full Members:** Ms Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire and Ms Elodie Cazes.

**Scholarship Holders:** Mr Messaoud Belabbas, Ms Brigitte Burot, Mr Arnaud Dubarre, Mr Daniel Lapeyre, Ms Annick Leclerc, Mr Emmanuel Le Floch, Mr Christophe Maillard, Mr Michaël Marseille, Mr Joseph Martins, Ms Christine Minet, Mr Alain Raharinjatovo, Mr Marcel Rossé and Ms Cécile Vichon.



*The two Scholarship Holders Mr Messaoud Belabbas (on the right) and Mr Daniel Lapeyre during the workshop.*



*VDMFK President Mr Serge Maudet (on the left) and Full Member Ms Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire in conversation.*



# Workshop in Germany



*The photo shows German mouth and foot painters who took part in the workshop, their carers as well as the staff and Florian Stegmann, director of the German publishing house. In addition, VDMFK President Serge Maudet and VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga were keen not to miss out on the possibility of attending the event.*

The German publishing house celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. Consequently, the annually held workshop in Potsdam marked this occasion.

The German publishing house staged its annual workshop in Potsdam from 21 to 27 August 2017. Even though various artists were obliged to pull out of the event for health reasons, **Full Members Lars Höllerer, VDMFK Board Member Thomas Kahlau, Full Member Antje Kratz, Associate Member Markus Kostka, as well as the two Scholarship Holders Selma Aman and Waldemar Merz**, took part in the workshop. VDMFK President Serge Maudet and VDMFK Managing Director Mario Famlonga did not wish to miss out on the opportunity of paying a visit to the mouth and foot painters from Germany. The workshop's theme was "From the photo to the picture." In this regard, the choice of motif, composition, the expression of individual perception and finally the implementation of all this in individual paintings were paramount. Moreover, the days in Potsdam also featured a boat cruise to Berlin. The conclusion of this week was, as ever, the barbecue, at which the feeling of community was celebrated around the campfire.



*The mouth and foot painters received expert instruction at the workshop.*



*VDMFK President Serge Maudet looking over the shoulder of VDMFK Board Member Thomas Kahlau and admiring his painting skills.*





Ann Lund Christensen (Full Member/Denmark), "Angels singing", watercolour, 27x21 cm.



# New Associate Members

## CHINA

### Huang, Guofu

**Date of birth:** 9 June 1970

**Place of birth:** Chongqing

**Mouth and foot painter**

**Scholarship Holder since:** 2015

Mr Huang Guofu was born in Chongqing on 9 June 1970. In 1974, at the age of four, he lost both arms as a result of an electric shock. Despite these adverse circumstances, Mr Guofu completed his primary education, and after several years of self-study also completed his secondary education. At the age of twelve, on his own initiative, he began practicing how to paint and create calligraphy with his mouth. Mr Guofu had the honour of studying under master painters in his early years. In his twenties he studied under some very famous Chinese artists such as Wang Yiyang, Chen Mo, Hu Yichuan and Lin Chenghan, to name just a few. He was therefore able to learn several



***Mr Huang Guofu will become an Associate Member of the Association on 1 March 2018.***

different painting styles and is also familiar with brushwork as far as the ink and water painting technique is concerned. Mr Guofu's works are already being collected by hundreds of people, both in his home country and abroad. He had the opportunity to attend the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai and present a

variety of his paintings. Many further exhibitions and awards testify to his incredible creative ability and drive. The artist's motifs are diverse and include, among other things, birds, animals, landscapes, and typical buildings in his hometown of Chingqing.

## POLAND

### Siejtbatallow, Walery

**Date of birth:** 8 June 1965

**Place of birth:** Denisovka (KZA)

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

**Scholarship Holder since:** 2012

Mr Walery Siejtbatallow was born in Denisovka, Kazakhstan, on 8 June 1965. He suffered a cervical spinal injury after jumping from a hill into a river and has been confined to a wheelchair ever since. In order to escape his immobility, he first began writing with a pen in his mouth. This subsequently led to him having the idea to use this method to paint and draw as well. He is a self-taught mouth painter who was first inspired by a colourfully illustrated children's Bible to draw motifs of Christ and other biblical scenes. In the following years, he expanded his art to glass window paintings and portraits of his

friends. Later on, he began using oil paints when painting. His first painting using this technique was an icon, and further award-winning icons soon followed. In recognition of his work, the artist was visited by the Archbishop Anthony of Ural and Guryevsk, during the course of whose visit he was permitted to receive a high religious order. Mr Siejtbatallow has held numerous exhibitions which have been held in high regard by the public. Important figures from his home country of Kazakhstan have repeatedly sponsored his exhibitions.



***Mr Walery Siejtbatallow will become an Associate Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2018.***



# New Scholarship Holders

The following mouth and foot painters will become VDMFK Scholarship Holders on 1 March 2018.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### Sekulic, Mladen

**Date of birth: 6 March 1990**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Mladen Sekulic was born on 6 March 1990 in Vlasenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has suffered from arthrogryposis multiplex congenital since birth. He underwent five operations before his fifth birthday. All five operations were on his legs, from his heels to his hips. He attended primary school from 1997 until 2001, when he was forced to take a two year break due to his deteriorating health. Afterwards, he continued his primary education at a facility for the education and rehabilitation of disabled children and teenagers in Podgorica from 2003 until 2011. Mr Mladen Sekulic also completed middle school there. During his time at school in Podgorica he participated in all of the painting groups and workshops and took part in four group exhibitions. Upon completion of middle school he obtained the professional title of legal specialist. He paints motifs of his everyday surroundings in acrylic and coloured pencil.

## CHILE

### Contreras Suarez, María Constanza

**Date of birth: 17 June 1983**

**Mouth and foot painter**

Ms María Constanza Contreras Suárez was born on 17 June 1983 in Valparaíso, Chile. She was adopted when one month old by Jorge Contreras and Sabina Suárez because her birth mother abandoned her after the birth. Ms Suárez had both arms amputated and was also diagnosed with scoliosis and

hip dysplasia. Because of her advanced scoliosis she was forced to undergo a series of complicated operations between the ages of four and thirteen. Since she learned to use the fine motor skills of her feet (of which she preferred to use her left foot for writing and drawing), her posture was badly impaired and her spine severely deformed. At the age of six, Ms Suárez began to attend primary school where she was encouraged to perform all kinds of activities with her feet. At the age of thirteen, she took part in a painting workshop run by the rehabilitation institute for children in Valparaíso where she was introduced to painting with acrylics and oil paints for the first time. She began to experiment with different self-taught techniques. She painted everything, from pastel paintings to graffiti on the wall of her own room. She began to experiment with mouth painting when working on the wall because up until that point she had only used her feet to paint. In 2011, she was granted the opportunity to paint the bodies of several students who were invited to attend a carnival celebration by the Chilean department of education. Since then she has also become recognised as a bodypainting artist and has been invited to paint actresses and other people on several occasions. Ms Suárez began working as a sociologist in a school in 2015.

## COLOMBIA

### Betancur Olave, César Augusto

**Date of birth: 10 September 1978**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr César Augusto Betancur Olave was born in Cali on 10 September 1978. He is the father of two daughters, the younger of which lives together with him. He was severely injured by a bullet which hit him in the neck during a street shooting. The bullet damaged his spinal cord which resulted in a loss of mobility in his hands and so he requires help with his daily life. In 2014 he became acquainted with the VDMFK

Scholarship Holder Ms Maria Eugenia Reyes. She gave him painting lessons over the course of a year, and in this time he improved his painting technique. He paints his colourful subjects in oil.

### Gonima Lopez, Angela Maria

**Date of birth: 28 July 1950**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Ángela María Gonima López was born on 28 July 1950 in Medellín (Colombia). She was very shy and not very communicative during her childhood. She would often play alone, but she did find great joy in painting. Ms Ángela María Gonima López had a perfectly normal family and work life until she was involved in a serious car accident in 1983. The car overturned on the street and she was knocked against the windshield, which resulted in a C5-C6 injury of her spinal cord and made her a tetraplegic. It was at this moment in her life that she resolved to use her passion for painting to rehabilitate. She has painted under the guidance of VDMFK Scholarship Holders Mr Hernán Darío Vélez García and Mr Hector Jairo Tamayo Ospina since then. Her oil paintings are very colourful.

## GERMANY

### Mittelbach, Werner

**Date of birth: 30 September 1959**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Werner Mittelbach was born on 30 September 1959 in Augsburg. After he finished secondary school he began an apprenticeship as a carpenter. In 1975, after a medical examination, it was discovered that he had an acute muscle weakness on the left side of his torso. After completing his apprenticeship and passing his master's examination he was forced to give up his work and apply for disability benefits at the end of 1984 due to health concerns. In 1991 he was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy

*Continued on page 12*

# New Scholarship Holders

(SMA), a genetic condition. Until the end of 2016, Mr Mittelbach painted and drew by hand. His arm strength and hand mobility steadily worsened over the years, which is why he began to experiment with mouth painting, starting in December 2016. He has only been able to paint with his mouth since then. Mr Mittelbach has been volunteering with an audit group for several years. The group works together with the district administrative office of Augsburg to advise communities in the district on the planning and building of streets and public buildings when it comes to accessibility. He prefers the mixed technique for his diverse motifs.

## JAPAN

### Tanaka, Junya

**Date of birth: 27 January 1999**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Junya Tanaka was born in Iyo City on 27 January 1999. He was hit by a car in front of his house at the age of seven. All four of his limbs have been paralysed since then (C4 quadriplegic). On the advice of his primary school teacher, Mr Tanaka began to draw the Japanese characters with his mouth (calligraphy). This led to him beginning to paint with his mouth as well. He took painting lessons once a week. After graduating from school, Mr Tanaka started thinking about his future. He met Mr Fumiyuki Makino (a Scholarship Holder of the Association) at an exhibition. This encounter with the artist affirmed his decision to apply to the VDMFK. He makes use of diverse painting techniques in his varied motifs.

## MEXICO

### Fontes Molina, Luis Rogelio

**Date of birth: 14 August 1988**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Luis Rogelio Fontes Molina was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, on 14 August 1988. He is the youngest of seven children and the father of a little girl. In 2008, at the age of 19, he suffered a spinal cord injury of the C4-C6 vertebrae. His stay in a rehabilitation centre helped him to find his way again. His two sisters have taken care of him since 2013. Thanks to an invitation from Ms Lidia de Jesus Chaidez Lopez (VDMFK Scholarship Holder), he learned of Paso Firme's Erich Stegmann painting workshop and began to take painting lessons there. Painting and his newfound friends have helped him look at his life more positively and increase his self-confidence.

## NEPAL

### Lama, Amir

**Date of birth: 3 March 2000**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Amir Lama was born in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 3 March 2000. He was born with arthrogryposis multiplex congenital. All four of his extremities were affected. Mr Lama is the oldest of three siblings. He is reliant on the help of his family as a result of his severe disability. In particular, his mother and grandmother take special care of him. Mr Lama attended five years of school. As a result of frequently being alone at home, he began to sing – and paint with his mouth. The Karuna Foundation in Nepal, a partner organisation of UNICEF, displayed interest in Mr Amir Lama and his talent after the powerful earthquake in Nepal in April 2015. They brought him to a hospital for medical examination and treatment. Based on the examinations, he was provided with a special cart. Thanks to this cart, he is no longer reliant on the help of his

family the entire day. The Association has enabled Mr Lama to take singing and art lessons. He enthusiastically paints pictures of nature and landscapes of his homeland. His pictures were shown at an exhibition in May 2016.

## NORWAY

### Løseth, Wenche

**Date of birth: 10 June 1960**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Wenche Løseth was born in Ulsteinvik, Norway, on 10 June 1960. As a young girl she was very active and involved in sports. She trained to become a technical draughtswoman. Ms Løseth went on to become an extremely busy professional woman and mother of three girls. Yet she had a serious stroke in 2000, resulting in the complete paralysis of her body. She is cared for at home by her mother. Wenche Løseth wrote a book with the title *Tsunami in the Body*, which came out in 2007. She began to paint in 2011. Ms Løseth has trained a great amount and can currently communicate with others through talking.



# New Scholarship Holders

## PHILIPPINES

### Tongco, Julius

**Date of birth: 27 November 1975**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Mr Julius Tongco was born in Tagbilaran City in the Philippines on 27 November 1975. He graduated with a Bachelor of Sciences in Maritime Transportation in 1995. He was hired by the Eurasian Maritime Corporation in 1997. On 23 August 2004 he suffered a spinal cord injury in a diving accident. He has been paralysed from his shoulders to his feet ever since. During one of his visits to the orthopaedic hospital he saw a mouth painter practising his art. Mr Tongco wanted to do something which would allow him not to have to hide away from the public. His parents set up a small table in front of his wheelchair precisely for this reason, on which they arranged sheets of white A4 paper, coloured pencils, cheap brushes and a watercolour paint box for children. Mr Tongco finds inspiration for his paintings in nature.

## POLAND

### Kropidłowska, Marika Brygida

**Date of birth: 19 March 2002**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Ms Marika Brygida Kropidłowska was born in Wałcz on 19 March 2002. She is in the second year of grammar school, where she is one of the best students. She gets good marks in her classes. She does well in competitions in which she participates and has won awards for them. Although she was born without arms, she is a girl who loves to laugh and is full of happiness. She has a very positive attitude towards people and the world. Marika is ambitious and conscientious. Some years of education still lie before her because a good education is very important to her. Her passions are painting and photography, and she dedicates every free minute to these two interests. She began painting

in her childhood, but is only now developing techniques, and she is experimenting with her painting.

## RUSSIA

### Papizhuk, Anastasiia

**Date of birth: 8 August 1998**

**Painting method: Foot painter**

Ms Anastasia Papizhuk was born in Ussuriysk, Russia, on 8 August 1998. She grew up without a father, and her mother died in 2007. On 14 April 2001 she was involved in a tragic accident at a transformer station where she lost both arms. Ms Papizhuk spent the years from 2006 to 2010 in an orphanage. As a teenager she regularly took Taekwondo lessons. With great ambition and joy she managed to gain a black belt. She participated in national and international competitions. Her greatest success was second place in the world championships as well as the title of the Russian vice-champion. Ms Papizhuk studied economics at the state university in Vladivostok. Her subsequent psychology and pedagogy studies at the Far Eastern Federal University came to an end after two successful years as a result of her pregnancy. In 2015 she gave birth to her son. She discovered painting during her recovery in the hospital. A doctor motivated her to write and draw with a pencil in her mouth. She is fully motivated in the further development of her painting talent. She prefers watercolours for her diverse motifs.

## SINGAPORE

### Tan, Janetta Si Ling

**Date of birth: 15 September 1990**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Janetta Si Ling Tan was born on 15 September 1990 in Singapore. She was involved in a car accident on 19 February 2010. The driver had fallen asleep and crashed into the guardrails. The car spun a few times and overturned. She was the first one thrown from the vehicle and, as a result, she suffered a severe spinal cord injury of the C5-C6 vertebrae which left her paralysed from the chest down. Ms Si Ling Tan is a left-sided tetraplegic and permanently requires a wheelchair. She was in hospital for nearly a year, which forced her to interrupt her studies. In the middle of 2011 she decided to face her challenges and continue her Bachelor degree studies with a necessary scribe and special assistance from her university. At the same time she underwent physiotherapy at the Handicap Welfare Association (HWA), where she heard about mouth painting for the first time. Although she was completely interested in art, she knew very little about it at the time and her full school schedule kept her from exploring the subject fully. In 2014 she finally received her degree with honours in mathematics and economics. While she was being treated in physiotherapy, she met Mr Stanley Lim Min-Chieh (VDMFK Scholarship Holder), who was also being treated at the same facility. She came to know him better and was reintroduced to mouth painting. With his patience, guidance and sympathy, as well as the encouragement and support of her therapists and social workers, she took up mouth painting and found joy, peace and enthusiasm with each brushstroke she laboriously placed on the canvas.

*Continued on page 14*

# New Scholarship Holders

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### de Beer, Catherine Lizette

**Date of birth: 3 March 1976**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Catherine Lizette de Beer was born in Durban, South Africa, on 3 March 1976. She has been a tetraplegic since the car accident she had on 10 May 1997. After her accident she was first taken care of by her mother and then by her brother. She has lived in a residential care home since their deaths. In the care home she became acquainted with the now deceased VDMFK artists Scholarship Holder Mr Gert J.J. Olivier and Full Member Mr Justice May, who awakened her interest in painting. In 2011 she took art lessons for the first time. She prefers to paint her varied motifs with oil paints.

## SPAIN

### Álvarez Rojas, María Paz

**Date of birth: 14 September 1961**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms María Paz Álvarez Rojas was born with arthrogryposis on 14 September 1961. This illness affects the muscles and bones of the extremities. She learned from a young age how to make do with her mouth, and for her, her mouth is like her hands. She paints, writes and eats with it, applies makeup and can even operate her computer and cell-phone with the help of a stylus. She has belonged to a theatre group since 1992 and has participated in over twenty productions. In 1989 Ms María Paz Álvarez Rojas began to paint with the support of an able-bodied friend who gave her painting lessons. She had already painted her first picture in 1991.

## USA

### Bell, Donna

**Date of birth: 17 March 1964**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Donna Bell was born on 17 March 1964 in Port Sulphur, Louisiana. She grew up in Vidalia, Louisiana, where she also went to school. In the summer of 1979 she was riding in a car with her sister and a friend when they had an accident. She was the only one injured. Since that day she has been paralysed from the shoulders down (C3-C4). She spent some time in the Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson. After some time at home, she tried to write her name with her mouth, and was positively surprised by the result. Ms Bell subsequently began to write letters to her friends and this led to her drawing and then painting.

### Gregorich, Stephanie Anne

**Date of birth: 7 February 1968**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Ms Stephanie Anne Gregorich was born with arthrogryposis and scoliosis in Joliet, Illinois, on 7 February 1968. As a result of her condition, her limbs are stiff and immobile, and her bones and muscles severely weakened. She learned to write and paint with her mouth at a young age. Ms Gregorich graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's degree in special education. After that she worked for 20 years as a private teacher and taught for three years at a primary school. Her interest in mouth painting was awakened when she saw a mouth painter of the VDMFK on TV. She is a self-taught painter. When painting, she feels a deep inner peace. She prefers to paint her varied motifs with oil paints.



# VDMFK personalities

In this section we are honoured to introduce to you mouth and foot painters, who have rendered outstanding services to the VDMFK in the course of its over 60-year history. This time we present former Board Member Charles Pasche from Switzerland.

Board Member Charles Pasche passed away on 13 September 1981. He had served on the Board of the VDMFK since its inaugural meeting in 1956. Charles was born without arms in Céligny near Geneva on 11 October 1915. He learned to write the first few letters of the alphabet at school with his right foot. Charles attended an art school in the vicinity of Geneva. He became an acclaimed artist, whose agility and skill in using his toes exceeded that of more than a few fingers. The assuredness with which he used his feet to work on the writing and drawing board staggered everyone. Charles enjoyed painting still lifes of flowers and the magnificent alpine landscapes of Switzerland. He was able to present his works at numerous exhibitions in Switzerland and all over the world.



***Charles Pasche from Switzerland was one of the founding members of the VDMFK. He was already voted onto the Board of Directors during the inaugural meeting, and remained a Board Member until his death in 1981.***



***Charles Pasche, 'Paesaggio indiano', oils, 40x44 cm.***



***Charles Pasche, 'Vaduz Castle', oils, size unknown.***



***Charles Pasche, 'Flowers in a tin vase', watercolour, size unknown.***

# We mourn for

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## CANADA

### Guillemette, Michel

**Date of birth:** 27 March 1947

**Passed away on:** 22 April 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Having led a life like most other young people, Michel Guillemette had a diving accident, as a result of which he broke his spine and was left quadriplegic at the age of 19. After several years in a sanatorium, he became interested in a rehabilitation programme which enabled him to learn to write with his mouth. A therapist suggested that he tries painting. And so he discovered his talent, "which is going to enable me to live a more independent life later on," as he said at the time. In 1985, he turned to an art teacher, who taught him for five years and perfected his art. In 1987, he received a scholarship from the VDMFK. In 2004, he became a Full Member of the Association. Landscapes, which he mainly painted in oils, were Michel's preferred subjects. He managed to display his works at numerous public exhibitions. As a result, he



**Full Member Michel Guillemette passed away on 22 April 2017.**

started to become more widely known. One of his greatest successes came about in 2000, when he received a request from the Canadian post office to paint a picture of the birth of Jesus, which served as a template for a

Christmas stamp. In addition, he also held talks at schools, where he told his life story, hoping that this would help the pupils to build a better future for themselves. Michel Guillemette passed away on 22 April 2017.

## NEW ZEALAND

### van der Hulst, Peter William

**Date of birth:** 16 September 1956

**Passed away on:** 26 February 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Only two years after the birth of Peter William van der Hulst, his family emigrated from the Netherlands to New Zealand in search of a better life. After completing his school education, he worked as a diesel mechanic. In 1975, he suffered a serious traffic accident which left him paralysed down the neck. Consequently, he was confined to a wheelchair. At the beginning of the 1980s, he learned to paint with his mouth under the guidance and support of a number of art lovers. He was awar-

ded a scholarship from the Association as early as 1982. About ten years later, he was awarded the status of Associate Member. He had been a Full Member of the VDMFK since 2000. Peter's favourite subjects for his oil paintings were the flowers and landscapes of New Zealand. Together with his wife, he travelled across the country to photograph various motifs. He then used the pictures in his studio as a template. In his later years he also became interested in portrait painting. Peter was a member of the Waikato Society of Arts and organised an annual exhibition in Hamilton, at which all of New Zealand's mouth and foot painting artists could exhibit their works. He frequently contributed to exhibitions throughout New Zealand by holding talks and painting workshops for schools and groups. Peter William van der Hulst passed away on 26 February 2017.



**Full Member Peter William van der Hulst left us forever in February 2017.**



## NEW ZEALAND

### Hickey, Raymond

**Date of birth: 29 October 1941**

**Passed away on: 5 August 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Raymond had a car accident which resulted in a spinal injury when he was 25. This left him completely paralysed, and forced him to spend several years in various hospitals as a result. He undertook his first attempts at painting during this period. The Association first awarded him a scholarship in 1990. Only four years later, he became an Associate Member of the VDMFK. In 2000, he was granted Full Member status. In his paintings, Raymond preferred to draw on motifs from the typical New Zealand landscape, which he depicted in an Impressionist style. In addition, he liked to paint flowers, portraits and, on occasion, the sea. In this regard he mainly used both oil and watercolour techniques. Painting brought him great success. For example, he participated among other things in a wide range of exhibitions, at which he frequently re-



***Full Member Raymond Hickey passed away on 5 August 2017.***

ceived awards for his paintings. Furthermore, he regularly staged exhibitions with local artists from Howick. In addition to painting, Raymond was also interested in music. He composed music on his computer, which he also used for

painting every now and then. Moreover, he always listened to music in the background while he painted, especially the music on his computer. Raymond Hickey passed away on 5 August 2017.

## SLOVENIA

### Mehle, Silvo

**Date of birth: 17 May 1971**

**Passed away on: 16 January 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Silvo Mehle was born in Ljubljana on 17 May 1971. Silvo had been forced to live with the consequences of tetraplegia ever since he suffered a fracture and dislocation of his 3rd and 4th cervical vertebrae in a traffic accident which occurred in 1992. The accident left all his limbs paralysed. He began painting with his mouth under the guidance of Slovenian VDMFK Full Member Vojko Gašperut in December 2001. Silvo constantly managed to pursue his artistic career with great success and took enormous pleasure in his work. The



***Silvo Mehle had been an Associate Member of the VDMFK since 2011. The artist passed away in January 2017.***

# We mourn for

## SPAIN

### Navarro, Luis Lorenzo

**Date of birth: 25 August 1953**

**Passed away on: 21 March 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Luis Lorenzo Navarro was born in Abezames on 25 August 1953. Luis was a primary school teacher. In 1989, he suffered a serious circulatory disorder of the arms and legs and was no longer able to move his limbs. Due to his illness, he also had a ventilator which enabled his blood to circulate. Luis began painting with his mouth in September 1990. He taught himself how to paint. The Association first awarded him a scholarship in 1993. He had been a VDMFK Associate Member since 2011. Luis mainly preferred to paint in oils. His favourite motifs comprised the landscapes of his native Spain as well as people. Luis Lorenzo Navarro passed away on 21 March 2017.



*Associate Member Luis Lorenzo Navarro passed away on 21 March 2017.*

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

## AUSTRALIA

### Swanepoel, Marion

**Date of birth: 22 September 1943**

**Passed away on: 5 April 2016**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Marion Swanepoel was born in Kent (England) on 22 September 1943. Marion taught at secondary schools and then decided to study biology at university. After graduating, she emigrated to South Africa, and later to Australia, where she taught biology. Her career came to an abrupt end when she was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy. In 1993, she became seriously interested in painting and was initially still able to paint with her hand. However, as a result of her disease, she was no longer able to use both hands and

found herself confined to a wheelchair. Marion started out on her first attempts to paint with her mouth and taught herself to paint in 1994. The VDMFK first awarded her a scholarship in 1996. Her favourite motifs were taken from nature and also consisted of collages with pressed flowers on greeting cards. Marion's works were used for Christmas cards by the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of South Australia over the course of eight years. She also participated in a number of exhibitions and received awards. Marion Swanepoel passed away on 5 April 2016.

## ESTONIA

### Samatauskas, Tarmo

**Date of birth: 8 January 1988**

**Passed away on: 19 September 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Tarmo Samatauskas was born in Tallinn on 8 January 1988. During his final sixteen years of life, Tarmo lived in a little town by the name of Saue. When he was nine years old, he came across a group of drunken hunters. They confused him with a stray dog and fired shots at him. As a result, he was struck by bullets in his torso, head and neck. One of the bullets that hit his neck caused a severe trauma which resulted in paralysis (tetraplegia). Since his spinal cord was injured at the C4-C5-C6 level, he was unable to use his body from the shoulders down. Tarmo came across art for the first time during his rehabilita-



# We mourn for

tion. One of his therapists told him to try drawing with his mouth. At the time, this was a great idea which immediately stirred his imagination. It also helped him strengthen his neck and shoulder muscles. After completing his rehabilitation, Tarmo began to draw again. Tarmo had also begun to paint a lot again in his spare time over recent years. Given that he had a lot of free time at home, it became an increasingly interesting activity for him – and, as he realised, a great therapy. It helped him calm down and have a focus in life. Consequently, it became his favourite pastime. In thinking about his future, he especially wanted to dedicate himself to art, drawing and painting, and find different ways and techniques for developing his skills. Tarmo Samatauskas passed away on 19 September 2017, only a few months after becoming a Scholarship Holder of the Association.

## GERMANY

### Illig, Michael

**Date of birth:** 7 April 1979  
**Passed away on:** 12 June 2017  
**Painting method:** Foot painter

Michael Illig was born in Tübingen, Germany, on 7 April 1979. After completing his secondary school education, Michael passed the journeyman's examination for the painting trade. In February 2002, he suffered severe open brain wounds and serious injuries to his face as well as other parts of his body in a traffic accident. This left him in a persistent vegetative state for years. The severity of his disability was 100%. For four years, he mainly painted in a square format with dimensions of 25x25 cm. As of spring 2009, he began painting in a larger format (40x40 cm) and on watercolour paper. Since his pictures relate stories and desires, he would choose entire sentences as the titles for his pictures. His other hobbies included playing Monopoly on the computer, listening to music and following his favourite football club, FC Bayern Munich. Above all, he wanted to

delight people with his pictures. The Association first awarded him a scholarship in 2010. Michael Illig passed away on 12 June 2017.

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Wood, Richard

**Date of birth:** 27 July 1970  
**Passed away on:** 6 January 2017  
**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Richard Wood was born on 27 July 1970. He became a tetraplegic as a result of a diving accident in 1991. During his rehabilitation, Richard began painting with his mouth and discovered how much he enjoyed it. Just one year later he was already taking painting lessons, which enabled him to make considerable progress. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 2000. Richard specialised in painting portraits and landscapes in acrylics. He staged successful solo exhibitions at the Burton Art Gallery in Bideford, Devon. Richard Wood passed away on 6 January 2017.

## HUNGARY

### Horváth, Károly

**Date of birth:** 22 April 1954  
**Passed away on:** 15 February 2017  
**Painting method:** Foot painter

Károly Horváth was born in Kalocsa on 22 May 1954. Károly contracted polio in 1956, which left his arms severely paralysed, though his legs slightly less so. He attended school through to the 8th class. Károly began learning about art in 1970 and took painting lessons from 1977 to 1980. Subsequently, he began painting with his feet in 1982. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 1994. Károly was able to take part in a number of exhibitions and also staged some notable solo exhibitions. His hobbies included watching television (sports programmes), videos and listening to music. Károly Horváth passed away on 15 February 2017.

## JAPAN

### Makino, Fumiyuki

**Date of birth:** 29 January 1966  
**Passed away on:** 4 June 2017  
**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Fumiyuki Makino was born on 29 January 1966. On 22 August 1982, Fumiyuki suffered an injury to the neck which resulted in his limbs being paralysed. He attended high school in the Okayama Prefecture, Japan and began learning how to paint in oils under guidance in 1985. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 1988. Fumiyuki painted with his mouth. He took part in exhibitions. His hobbies were listening to music and watching cartoons. Fumiyuki Makino passed away on 4 June 2017.

## NORWAY

### Johnsen, Ingeborg Alvær

**Date of birth:** 13 June 1950  
**Passed away on:** 26 November 2016  
**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Ingeborg Alvær Johnsen was born in Bergen on 13 June 1950. Having been born with AMC (arthrogryposis multiplex congenital), Ingeborg was unable to move her arms or legs. She began developing an interest in mouth painting in 2002 and always continued to teach herself from that time onwards. She became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2006. The artist painted a wide repertoire of motifs, ranging from landscapes, flowers to still lifes. Ingeborg Alvær Johnsen passed away on 26 November 2016.

*Continued on page 20*

# We mourn for

## SLOVENIA

### Medved, Angela

**Date of birth:** 27 May 1932

**Passed away on:** 3 April 2017

**Painting method:** Foot painter

Angela Medved was born in Spodnje Jablane, Slovenia, on 27 May 1932. Both her arms had been paralysed since birth. Angela attended elementary school and began writing with her feet at the age of 10. She also learned to knit using her feet. With the help of a journalist who supported her financially, Angela was able to buy a knitting machine, which enabled her to make a living. She first became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 1986. Angela participated in a number of exhibitions in Slovenia and also excelled by staging a number of successful solo exhibitions. She also used her feet to work on tapestries, macramés, needlepoint tapestries, sewing and crocheting, and, what's more, taught herself to paint. Angela Medved passed away on 3 April 2017.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Webster, Thomas Henry

**Date of birth:** 30 June 1949

**Passed away on:** 19 January 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Thomas Henry Webster was born in Johannesburg on 30 June 1949. In 1981, Thomas broke his neck in a diving accident. Afterwards, he lived in a care centre for ten years and worked for a computer company. In 1990, Anne-marie Roos, an art teacher, encouraged him to learn painting and gave him private lessons. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 1995. Thomas preferred to paint landscapes and floral motifs. Thomas Henry Webster passed away on 19 January 2017.

## SOUTH KOREA

### Kim, Sung-Yae

**Date of birth:** 3 January 1947

**Passed away on:** 4 August 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Sung-Yae Kim was born in Cheongsong on 12 January 1947. She completed both her primary and secondary school education. Sung-Yae began suffering from rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 27. Her illness became dramatically worse, however, so that she was permanently confined to a wheelchair at the age of 30. Initially, she still painted with her hands. However, as her condition noticeably deteriorated, she was eventually no longer able to use her hands. She began to paint with her mouth in 1993. The VDMFK first awarded her a scholarship in 1996. Sung-Yae preferred to paint both in oils and watercolours. Sung-Yae Kim passed away on 4 August 2017.

## USA

### Maaele, Peter

**Date of birth:** 3 January 1978

**Passed away on:** 19 March 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Peter Maaele was born on 3 January 1978. Peter became a tetraplegic as a result of a boating accident which he had in 1999, when he tried to dive into shallow water for a dare. As part of his rehabilitation, he began painting with his mouth in February 2000. The Association first awarded him a scholarship in 2003. Since he had always been fascinated by the artistic genius of the concertos and symphonies of classical music composers and was already "musically active" before his disability, he began writing his own compositions. In painting and music he saw "infinite possibilities" which he enjoyed to the full. To briefly quote the mouth painter: "I was born a musician and have now learned to play again. Painting is as reju-

venating as it is therapeutic, and it reveals a talent that I have yet to develop and do not wish to waste." Peter Maaele passed away on 19 March 2017.

### Simms, Perry

**Date of birth:** 29 August 1945

**Passed away on:** 5 May 2017

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Perry Simms was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 29 August 1945. A serious motorcycle accident in 1976 brought about a decisive turning point in his life. He came off from the road on his bike at high speed and was hurled about 50 metres into a group of trees, where he broke his C4 and C5 cervical vertebrae. The impact of the crash immediately left him paralysed. After his devastating accident, Perry attended a college and discovered his deep interest in anthropology, science and psychology. Moreover, he had always been fascinated by art and so he began painting with his mouth in 1977. The VDMFK first awarded him a scholarship in 2004. Perry Simms passed away on 5 May 2017.



# Deceased publishers

## COLOMBIA

We deeply regret to announce that our veteran publisher Mr Víctor Manuel Hernández Rico from Colombia has passed away.

Mr Víctor Manuel Hernández Rico was born in the city of Bucaramanga (department of Santander) in Colombia. He began his school career at the Colegio General Santander in Honda, where he greatly enjoyed his experiences and forged friendships which would also last over the course of time, and which those who have survived him remember with great affection.

At the age of 24 years he gained a degree in educational sciences, majoring in educational management and planning, from the Universidad de Pamplona (department of district of Norte de Santander). In a professional regard he made a name for himself at major Colombian businesses such as Carvajal S.A. and the Grupo Editorial Iberoamérica publishing concern. In 1999, he started working as manager and publisher for the Asociación de Pintores con la Boca y con el Pie for Colombia, whereby one of his main goals was to position the VDMFK as the most outstanding association of mouth and foot painting artists in Colombia.



***Víctor Manuel Hernández Rico, publisher from Colombia, passed away in 2017.***

During his 18-year tenure at the VDMFK, he distinguished himself through his charisma, his discipline and his organisation. His moral values – and, in particular, his appreciation of each Member of the Association – filled his life with satisfaction. Moreover, his commitment to the promotion of growth and the advancement of his

employees should not be forgotten. In addition to the VDMFK and his family, one of his passions was artistic and art-oriented photography. Self-study and knowledge were among the great qualities of Mr Víctor Manuel Hernández Rico, both as an expert and as a human being.

## VENEZUELA

It is our sad duty to announce that our publisher Mr Jairo E. Velásquez from Venezuela has passed away. Mr Velásquez was born in Los Puertos de Altigracia in the state of Zulia on 18 August 1947. After his school education, he studied surveying, management and accounting in Zulia. At the same time, he familiarised himself with sales activities. He began his professional career in this field. After his first marriage in 1970, which bore him two sons, he decided to devote himself completely to selling academic books and founded his own publishing sales and distribution company, in which he worked as a publisher. In 1979, he mar-



***Jairo E. Velásquez, publisher from Venezuela, passed away on 30 June 2017.***

ried a second time and moved to Caracas, where his two daughters were born. In 1989, he relocated to Barquisimeto as a result of the socio-political instability which was prevalent in the capital. In 1999 he took on the task of representing the VDMFK in Venezuela and devoted himself to this new activity with great enthusiasm. Mr Velásquez had enormous integrity and was a cheerful person. He was always willing to help with all the means available to him. In 2015, he and his wife Saira Lee de Velásquez moved to Medellín (Colombia), where he quietly spent the final two years of his life until he died from a heart attack on 30 June 2017.

# The significance of painting

**The significance of painting as seen by mouth painter Kyriacos Kyriacou, Full Member from Cyprus.**

## **What painting means to me**

*If truth be told, I hadn't given the matter much thought until now. So I didn't have an immediate answer ready to the question. But then, after some consideration, I realised what a huge influence painting has had on my life.*

*I've painted most of my life. In fact painting has become a good friend to me. It has offered me many opportunities. Some of them are obvious, such as the possibility to earn a living and express myself to the great big world out there. I think these important things also hold true for most art painters. As a mouth painter, I believe that we are obliged to face other challenges than the ones which ordinary art painters have to overcome in their careers. You could say that painting has a certain therapeutic value and helps us overcome the problem which we're confronted with as mouth painters. In this regard, painting has also helped me gain a lot of confidence and face life on fair terms. The ability*

*to paint and create works which people admire is one of the great gifts which painting has given me.*

*The joy you get when you bring a blank canvas to life is founded in the feeling of having accomplished something. It is a constant source of surprises. As an artist, you never stop*

*learning and the next blank canvas always holds a new experience.*

*What painting means to me is something I can't really express adequately in words. After all, painting is so multifaceted and offers so many answers. It's a part of me and I'm a part of it. I can't imagine spending my time without painting.*

*I look back on the past few years and see the path I've taken in my work as an artist. I'm not quite sure where it'll lead me. But one thing I know for sure: it'll be a beautiful journey.*

*Being an artist has opened up many doors to me. It has enabled me to visit many people and speak with them. It's a great feeling to have the opportunity of showing your works at exhibitions around the world. Each painting is a little piece of oneself, one which you share with others.*

*I find that painting has given me a sense of pride and achievement, but I certainly don't wish to come off sounding arrogant when I say this. In the village where I live today, and through-*



**Kyriacos Kyriacou has been a Full Member of the Association since 1981.**



**Kyriacos Kyriacou (Full Member/Cyprus), 'Two laden boats on rocky beach, oil, 33x46 cm.**



# The significance of painting

hout the island, I'm recognised as the mouth painting artist. I really believe people think far less in terms of me being a wheelchair user and far more in terms of me being a person. Schoolchildren visit me at home to watch me work. The media are interested in my work. That gives you the feeling of having accomplished something, of having value, which is extremely important. Most important of all, however, is the message to others that disability does not mean the end, but a beginning.

**L**ife, with all its twists and turns, never ceases to amaze me. In 1999 I met my wife Blance. That was one of the best things that ever happened to me in my life. We are now proud parents of twins, my son Pantelis and my daughter Alexandra. Each and every day is a blessing. When I see my children while I'm working, I realise just how much everything is connected. The journey I mentioned before continues and, although I don't know how my life would have been without painting, I am grateful that painting has been there in my life. I've got a feeling that the circle is now complete. I owe so much to the brush and canvas.

**T**he freedom given to us by the amazing organisation we belong to as artists must not be underestimated. Financial independence is a reward that should never be underrated. So let me take the opportunity at this point to thank all of you who have made my financial independence possible. It means so much to me. We must never



**Kyriacos Kyriacou (Full Member/Cyprus), 'Violet, yellow + light blue flowers, blue background', silk painting, 30x43 cm.**

forget how important it is, because I'm certain that without it, life would be far more difficult. Such opportunities should not be taken for granted, and so we can count ourselves extremely fortunate to have this support.

**S**o much was taken from me on the day I had my accident. A single moment changed my dreams and a new life began. I had no idea what the future held for me, and the prospect of a life stuck in a wheelchair was deeply frightening. But with luck and persistence, the future eventually became bearable once more. Painting helped me on this new Odyssey. As always, the importance of the family should never be underestimated. Most of the things I have achieved would have pro-

ved impossible without their unconditional help. Their love and constant support has made all this possible. So the question as to what painting means to me has really prompted me to think. And quite simply, I suppose the answer is: everything.

Kyriacos Kyriacou  
Full Member/Cyprus

## **Kyriacos Kyriacou (Cyprus)**

Date of birth: 4 November 1956

Place of birth: London

Full Member since: 1981

Painting method: Mouth painter

Kyriacos Kyriacou was passionate about sport in his teenage years and a keen rugby player. At the age of 15, he had a diving accident which left him paralysed in the hands and legs. During his reha-

bilitation in hospital, he started painting and drawing with his mouth. Afterwards, he attended a private school of art and went on to take private art lessons. The Association awarded him a scholarship in 1979. Two years later, he became a Full Member of the VMDFK. His artistic work reflects two different wisdoms in life as experienced and perceived by Kyriacos. On the one hand, his paintings are influenced by the world of the Aegean islands. Here, he

often selects the motif of blue boats anchored before coasts of white karst. On the other, he prefers the motif of Britain's countryside with its lakes and rivers, as well as typical old English villages and small towns with their reddish brick houses. In this setting, he mainly uses oils as his painting medium. Kyriacos has displayed his works at several public exhibitions around the world.

# Artists' activities

## ARGENTINA

### Barcia, Cesar Andres (Scholarship Holder)

- Scholarship holder Mr César Andres Barcia was one of over 100 artists who attended the Openarts event which was held at the Norcenter Lifestyle Mall in Buenos Aires from 9 to 11 June 2017. He presented his works at this group exhibition. This was the third time in a row that he had taken part and had been able to present his paintings to many visitors. Mr Barcia had already participated in the Horse & Dog Art Parade in Buenos Aires with his works in April 2017. The parade was held on the grounds of the "La Rural" exhibition and congress centre .

## BRAZIL

### Gomes, Ivanildo (Scholarship holder)

- Mr. Gomes staged a number of exhibitions in 2016. One of them took place at the Parliament of the Federal State of São Paulo, which attracted some 2,000 visitors. The other exhibitions, which were mostly held in São Paulo, also attracted very many people.

## CHINA

- To mark the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, an exhibition by the Chinese members of the VDMFK was held at the Chongqing art museum on 1 December 2016. The event came about through the initiative of **Scholarship Holders Mr Huang Guofu and Mr Xiao Feng Gui**. They were ably supported by **Full Member Mr Jingsheng Liu and Associate Member Mr Jie Yang**. The works on display were created by China's mouth and foot painters. In addition, the exhibition was only able to be staged through the support of Chinese businesses. It turned out to be a complete success. The event not only underlined the unity among Chinese mouth and foot painters and reaffirmed

## BRAZIL

### Chagas, Maria Goret (Scholarship Holder)

- Brazilian Scholarship Holder Ms Maria Goret Chagas was presented with an Award of Merit by the honorary president of the Divine Académie Française des Arts, Lettres et Culture. She received this honour for services she had rendered to society. The ceremony took place at the Four Seasons Hotel George V in Paris on 19 October 2016. In addition to this award, she also exhibited a selection of her works at a vernissage which was held in Le Carrousel du Louvre, a shopping centre which is located in the basement of the Louvre. There she was joined by a further 24 Brazilian artists from 19 to 23 October 2016.

"It is an indescribable, unique emotion, a mixture of fear, joy and gratitude for the recognition. The heart beats louder. It is Brazil in France. It is the VDMFK, the gift which rewards outstanding achievement," said Ms Chagas.

their determination to develop themselves further, but also effectively promoted the spirit of mouth and foot painters.

### Gui, Xiao Feng (Scholarship Holder)

- 2016 was a busy year for Mr Xiao Feng Gui. Among other things he participated in an exhibition at the Tang Yun gallery in Hangzhou, which was held during the meeting of the G20 countries from 15 to 25 July 2016. Alongside seven other VDMFK artists he took part in the exhibition at the Chongqing art gallery which was held on 1 December 2016. In May 2017 he exhibited his works as part of a joint exhibition which took place in Huzhou. The exhibition also featured works by **Scholarship Holders Mr Jingsheng Liu, Ms Lin Cheng Mei and Mr Huang Guofu**.



***Brazilian Scholarship Holder Ms Maria Goret Chagas in front of the Louvre in Paris with her Award of Merit.***

## CROATIA

### Perkovic, Stjepan (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Stjepan Perkovic participated in the Parallax international art fair which was held in London's Chelsea Old Town Hall from 20 to 22 October 2017. About 170 artists took part. During the event, Mr Perkovic gave various painting demonstrations which drew great attention. In addition, he participated in an international exhibition which took place in Athens from 2 to 7 October 2017. At this event, he painted in front of a group of Greek art lovers. He exhibited his works at the international Art Expo in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana. Altogether, a total of 140 artists took part in this event which lasted from 18 September to 1 October 2017. Among them was VDMFK **Full Member Mr Vojko Gašperut**. Last but not least, Mr Perkovic was in New York in April 2017, where he presented his



works at the World Wide Art & Artavia show. This exhibition was held from 21 to 24 April.

## FRANCE

### Boussin, Nicolas (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Nicolas Boussin exhibited some of his works on the subject of diving in November 2016. Mr Boussin re-explored the theme of diving starting from scratch and combined painting with various objects.

### Dubarre, Arnaud (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Arnaud Dubarre held several solo exhibitions in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, he presented his works in Le Breuil in April, in Poitiers in May, in Vitry-sur-Seine in June, in Échallat in August, in Paris in September and in Fumel as well as in Brive-la-Gaillarde in November. All these exhibitions were combined with his painting demonstrations, which met with great interest. In addition, he took part in the competition during the 13th exhibition of the regional painters of Chabonais. Among 19 competitors, he managed to achieve third place in the "Amateurs" class.

### Martins, Joseph (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Joseph Martins took part in the exhibition at the Beach Garden in Biarritz. In addition, he showed his works in the town hall of Ars-en-Ré from 3 to 19 April 2017.

## GERMANY

- The VDMFK was bestowed with a great honour. The book marking the 60th anniversary of the Association and first presented at the General Assembly in Barcelona during April 2017 was also on display at the Frankfurt Book Fair, where it formed part of the exhibition. Among other things, painters who form the heart of the book are presented in words and images together with their artistic works. In addition, the book pro-

## GREECE

### Iliadis, Triantafillos (Full Member)

- Mr Triantafillos Iliadis had the great honour of giving a private painting demonstration in front of the President of Greece, Mr Prokopis Pavlopoulos. For



*Full Member Mr Triantafillos Iliadis during his painting demonstration for Mr Prokopis Pavlopoulos, the President of Greece.*

vides a short, pictorial outline of the history of the VDMFK as well as an insight into the work and life of the three deceased Presidents.

## GREECE

### Iliadis, Triantafillos (Full Member)

- At the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Triantafillos Iliadis staged an exhibition in the cultural centre of Panorama from 3 to 10 March 2017. The show was opened by the local mayor. This exhibition was a great success, since it was held simultaneously with a conference in which people from all over the world took part. As a result, the Mayor asked him whether he could extend his presentation for a further two days, until 12 March. During the exhibition, Mr Iliadis also gave painting demonstrations and received an award from the Mayor. Mr Iliadis commented: "This has been one of the best exhibitions in my career." The mouth painter staged a

this he was received in the offices of the President on 20 December 2016. The President showed great interest. Mr Iliadis used this opportunity to convey much important information about the Association to the President.

further exhibition on the island of Kos from 14 to 20 May 2017. He had the honour of being the first artist permitted to exhibit his works in the newly created gallery.

## INDIA

### Ramakrishnan, Narayan (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Narayan Ramakrishnan exhibited his works at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan school (Bengaluru) from 19 to 27 May 2017. The main guest at this event was a well-known artist who said he was grateful for Mr Ramakrishnan's works and encouraged the mouth painter to keep on educating himself. During the week, many art lovers and friends met up at the school to see Mr Ramakrishnan's work.

*Continued on page 26*

# Artists' activities

## INDONESIA

### Amanatullah Muhammad (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Muhammad Amanatullah exhibited a selection of his works as part of an event which was staged in Gresik from 2 to 4 April 2017. The theme of his exposition was Art Mart. During this presentation of pictures, he also gave painting demonstrations which attracted considerable attention in the local media.

### Agus, Yusuf (Associate Member)

- Mr Yusuf Agus can look back on having carried out a wide range of different activities in 2017. These included an opening exhibition, which was held at the Trans Luxury Hotel in Bandung on 10 June 2017 and organised by the Saraswati gallery.

He presented his paintings both at festivities to mark the 449th anniversary of Madiun from 22 to 25 July 2017 and also in the Eka Kapti Ngawi building from 26 to 30 July 2017. From 13 to 22 October 2017 he participated in the PSLI (Pasar Seni Lukis Indonesia) event, which was held in the International Convention Hall and opened by Deputy Governor Mr Saifullah Yusuf. The 10th PSLI formed part of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the Province of East Java.

### Subadri, Sabar (Associate Member)

- Mr Sabar Subadri performed a demonstration of his painting skills at the Kyai Langgeng Flower Garden theme park in Magelang in October 2017. This attracted a great deal of attention and aroused great interest among the tourists present at the event. Moreover, Mr Subadri was bestowed with the great



***A great honour for Associate Member Mr Sabar Subadri: a visit from Mr Ganjar Pranowo, Governor of the Province of Central Java.***

honour of receiving the Governor of the Province of Central Java, Mr Ganjar Pranowo, in his gallery on 12 February 2017. Together with the Governor, acting Salatiga Mayor Mr Achmad Rofai

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Jansz, Keith Christopher (Full Member)

- HRH The Duke of Cambridge – a very special guest – unveiled the newly engraved Founders' Pillar at the public place for celebration, commemoration and contemplation in Central Milton Keynes, known as the Milton Keynes Rose, on 26 September 2017. The pillars at this memorial site symbolise dates or events which are of significance to the local population. Hence this new symbol marks the 50th anniversary of the formal opening of the New Town of Milton Keynes.

At the same time, Mr Jansz together with Ms Valerie Williamson, one of the first British Paralympic athletes, were also invited to highlight the significance of Milton Keynes Disability Awareness Day, which is held every 14 July with the intention of raising awareness for people with disabilities, in a particularly special way.

By choosing the motif of Padstow harbour, Mr Jansz alluded to the father of Prince William – the Duke of Cornwall –



***Full Member Mr Christopher Keith Jansz (in the middle) with Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, at the unveiling of the Founders' Pillar.***

in order to provide a demonstration of his painting technique. In addition, he told the Prince that he is no longer able to use his hands due to a paralysis caused by a neck fracture in a car accident which occurred in 1995. The Prince also spoke with Mr Jansz about how the latter had managed to face unknown challenges after such a serious injury and give his career a new direction. As

Mr Jansz remembers it, "After the Prince had looked closely at my painting, he said "Wow, that's fantastic!" He was fascinated by my ability to capture Cornwall's light – something which pleases me beyond measure, but which I aspire to realise with great accuracy throughout my work."



# Artists' activities

and other officials were honorary guests. During the one-hour visit, Mr Pranowo expressed his appreciation of Mr Subadri's works and listened with interest to his remarks about the Association. Mr Subadri gave a painting demonstration. "It is a great honour for me to be visited by such important figures in my gallery," was his comment. In addition, the artist participated in a group exhibition entitled "Ambivert", which was held by a group of young artists called "Salatiga Coret". This event was held in the R.J. Katamsi gallery at the Art Institute of Yogyakarta from 1 to 10 March 2017. Mr Subadri had the honour of holding a speech at the opening ceremony and performing a demonstration of his drawing skills.

## ITALY

### Guarise, Lorena (Scholarship Holder)

- Scholarship holder Ms Lorena Guarise staged an exhibition at the Hotel del Riale, Parabiago, from 2 to 8 October 2017. The event was sponsored by the Municipality of Parabiago and the Parabiago Lions Club. Ms Guarise's exhibition attracted many visitors and was well organised.

### Zomero, Roberto (Associate Member)

- Mr Roberto Zomero held a solo exhibition at the Rivolta d'Adda town hall from 16 to 28 September 2017. He also gave several painting demonstrations at this event. The pupils of the town participated with great interest in the show and admired the artistic skills of the mouth painter.

## JAPAN

- The Japanese publishing house held an exhibition at its head office, at which a total of 100 pictures were on display, from 23 January 2017 to 6 April 2017. Several Japanese artists gave painting demonstrations in the course of these weeks.

- An exhibition staged in Tokyo from 17 to 19 February 2017 was also accompanied by various Japanese artists giving painting demonstrations. The event was organised by Mitsubishi Electric Building Techno-Service and held in the atrium of the KITTE building. Among those giving painting demonstrations were **Associate Member Mr Hironori Koshoji and Scholarship Holder Mr Toshiaki Umemiya.**

### Morita, Machiko (Full Member)

- 2016 turned out to be a highly eventful year for Ms Machiko Morita. In addition to participating in group exhibitions, she also carried out six solo exhibitions during which she also gave painting demonstrations. Hence she was able to present 39 of her works at the Takarazuka theatre gallery from 8 to 18 May 2016. She went on to exhibit 46 of her works once again in the same gallery from 8 to 14 June 2016. A further exhibition took place at the L'ours du bois gallery in Tokyo from 1 July to 31 August 2016.

### Yamaguchi, Kahoru (Scholarship Holder)

- Ms Kahoru Yamaguchi held a solo exhibition in the Doux Art gallery in Tokyo from 26 February to 3 March 2017. Here she displayed 40 of her works.

## MEXICO

### Uribe Aguayo, José Gerardo (Full Member)

- Mr José Gerardo Uribe Aguayo opened a solo exhibition at the Casa Museo Gene Byron (Guanajuato) on 4 December 2016. The show lasted two months. Here, he exhibited 43 of his works featuring the techniques of watercolours, oils and acrylics. The opening of his exhibition also attracted a great deal of attention in the media.

## PHILIPPINES

### Feruelo, John Roland (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr John Roland Feruelo received an award from the Vice President of Taiwan, Mr Chen Chien-jen, at the international Artistic Creation exhibition in Taipei on 3 October 2017. This honour was conferred as part of an invitation to the international art fair for people with disabilities.

## POLAND

### Galos, Jerzy (Scholarship Holder)

- Mr Jerzy Galos received an award for his work "The Shepherd Boy" in Poland's nationwide competition "The Joy of Art + The Art of Joy" which was held in 2016.

### Kmiecik, Stanisław (Full Member)

- Mr Stanisław Kmiecik exhibited his works in the Polish city of Kraków for two weeks at the start of 2017. He presented twenty pictures and gave painting demonstrations.

### Sapinska, Agnieszka (Scholarship Holder)

- Ms Agnieszka Sapinska staged various solo exhibitions in 2016. Each of them lasted one day. The shows were held in Plichtów, in Głowno, in Piotrków Trybunalski and in Gmina Czystary, as well as in other places. Ms Sapinska also took the opportunity to give painting demonstrations at each of these exhibitions.

*Continued on page 28*

# Artists' activities

## SINGAPORE

- The SG100 Foundation organised an event which took place at Our Tampines Hub on 2 January 2017. Exhibiting their works and offering painting demonstrations at the event were the three **Scholarship Holders Ms Christina Lau Lay Lian, Mr Stanley Lim Min Chieh and Mr William Ngo.**

- Two artists, **Full Member Mr Tan Kok Leong and Scholarship Holder Ms Christina Lau Lay Lian,** presented their works and gave painting demonstrations on the occasion of Community Day, which was held at Temasek Polytechnic on 7 July 2017. Among the guests of honour on this day was Dr Janil Puthuchery, Minister of State for the Ministry of Communications and Information.

- **Full Member Mr Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan and the two Scholar-**

**ship Holders Mr Raymond Khee Huat Tan and Mr Kok Tuck Chong**

took part in the 2017 Art Fiesta which was held at the Potong Pasir Municipal Hall on 17 September 2017.

**Chia, Yong Liang**  
**(Scholarship Holder)**

- Ms Yong Liang Chia managed to take part in the 2017 Dr Tan Tsze Chor Art Awards competition which was organised by the Singapore Art Society. She felt honoured to be awarded the prize for outstanding work and to have her work exhibited in the atrium of the MCI building from 7 to 10 October 2017.

**Ngo, William**  
**(Scholarship Holder)**

- On 7 August 2017 Mr Ngo participated in the 16th Asian and Oceanian Myology Center Annual Scientific Meeting which was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. He presented his works and gave painting demonstrations at the event.

## USA


**Davis, Antonio**  
**(Scholarship Holder)**

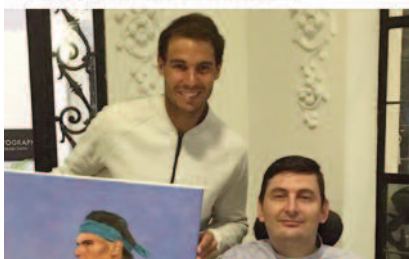
- Mr Antonio Davis took part in the Harlem Fine Arts Show in Chicago in December 2016. Over forty artists presented their pictures and gave painting demonstrations at the three-day exhibition. The event was so successful that Mr Davis was invited to travel to New York and exhibit his work at the Harlem Fine Arts Show. This exhibition was held from 15 to 19 February 2017.

## SPAIN

**Anghel, Florin**  
**(Scholarship Holder)**

- On 11 May 2017, Spanish mouth painter Mr Florin Anghel presented the well-known tennis star Rafael Nadal with a portrait he had painted of him. The current number one in the world rankings was delighted to accept the portrait and expressed his gratitude to the mouth painter on his Facebook wall.

 **Rafa Nadal**  
83 mins · 🌐  
Florin Angel pintó este cuadro con la boca. Muchas gracias Florin por este increíble regalo!!  
Florin Angel painted this drawing with his mouth. Thank you Florin for this incredible gift!!



*Rafael Nadal, number 1 in the world tennis rankings, is evidently delighted by his portrait painted by Scholarship Holder Mr Florin Anghel.*

*The Facebook entry posted by Rafael Nadal, in which he thanks Mr Anghel for painting his portrait.*





Dennis A. Francesconi (Full Member/USA), 'Winter landscape with snow bunnies', acrylic, 41x31 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 Schäpper (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.

## Collection of addresses

The Association's head office sent out a circular to the publishing houses, requesting their artists to note down the addresses of interested visitors and buyers at exhibitions or painting demonstrations. The following three artists collected the most addresses:

**1st place:** Mr Christopher Keith Jansz, Full Member, UK

**2nd place:** Mr Yesid Alexander Acero Durán, Scholarship Holder, Colombia

**3rd place:** Ms Mariam Paré, Associate Member, United States

The VDMFK head office wishes to thank all the artists for their participation and to congratulate the first three winners.



## Information from the office

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*A small selection of the most popular card designs in the most important sales markets.*



*Now be inspired!*

# Presentation of painting techniques

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Arnaud Dubarre, VDMFK Scholarship Holder and mouth painter from France, reveals tips and tricks for mouth and foot painting.

## Pastel painting

### Presentation:

I paint by holding the brush and the other holders in my mouth. You can't hold the pastel directly in your mouth and you can't buy special holders, they're not available. So I've made some adaptations which I'd like to share with you.



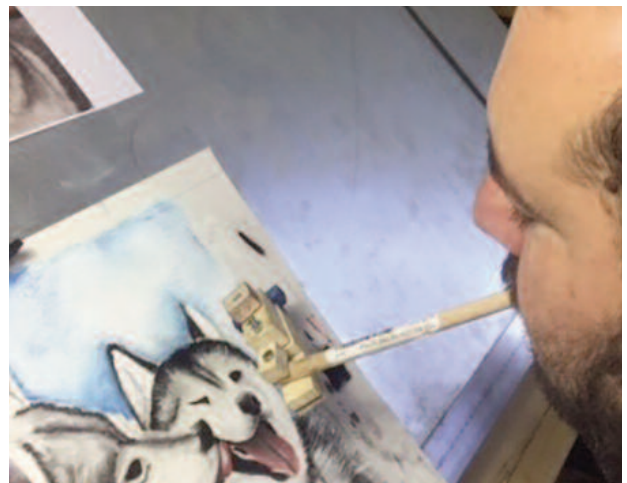
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### Wooden clamp:



This clamp that I invented can be adjusted to fit most sticks, regardless of whether they are rectangular or circular.

This means that you can work on large surfaces with the long side of the pastel stick and also with the tip, so you don't need to change the holder.





# Presentation of painting techniques

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## Precision clamp and crab clamp:

For more detailed work I prefer to go for the precision or crab clamp. These have the advantage that the pastel can be used up right to the end. They're available from any shop specialising in painting accessories.



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## Pencil or brush holder:

I have made a holder out of wood, which I use for pastel sticks as well as for brushes or rubber wipers.



*Continued on page 34*

# Presentation of painting techniques

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## Wiper:

You can't get around smudging in pastel painting. Most pastel painters do this with their fingers. After several attempts with my foot or the nose I found a stylus pen which fits perfectly. It has a soft end made of rubber which comes close to a finger's physical quality. The stylus pen is made by 'Bamboo' for use with tablets and mobile phones.



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## To sum up:

With a little practice, pastel is a nice material to work with. Even so, you must make a good sketch before applying the colour. If you would like to have instructions for making the wooden clamp or the pencil or brush holder, please send me an email: [arnauddubarre87@me.com](mailto:arnauddubarre87@me.com). Don't hesitate to get to know this powdered material, with which we can glide across the canvas!



Part 2 of the 'Health and care' section is by Lars Höllerer, Full Member from Germany.

## 'ROHO Quadtro Select' and medical sheepskin

*We all know the problem. People who are paraplegic have little or no skin sensitivity. They feel only minimal pressure or no pressure at all on their bottom when they are in a wheelchair.*

*Am I sitting the right way? – How long can I sit for? For we'd prefer to leave even the most fantastic party that little bit sooner if we're not sure whether we've been sitting too long again.*

*The point is that an incorrect sitting position can cause the skin to red- den, to swell or, in the worst case, to form a pressure point. Once this has happened, it's often quite tedious and laborious to stop the pinching and close the sore.*

*I've now been in a wheelchair for twenty-six years and have found myself asking such questions a lot of the time. Sometimes I sat on foam cushions, or on gel or air cushions in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Nothing really helped. So I often had to stay in bed because my bottom had reddened, or I had a skin irritation, or my scar, which had been caused by a pressure point, had come open again. Sometimes it was just for a day; but I could also end up spending weeks or months in bed at a time.*

*However, I've now finally found the best cushion for me. While trying yet again to test out a new seat cushion, I came across the 'ROHO Quadtro Select' (10 cm high) which I've been using for a good two years now.*

*The cushion itself has already been around for many years and is used by many wheelchair users here in Germany. It's designed for tetraplegic*



**Lars Höllerer, Full Member from Germany, recommends the 'ROHO Quadtro Select' seat cushion for wheelchair users.**

*people. For wheelchair users who are more agile (paraplegics), there's also the same cushion with a height of five centimetres. It's filled with a small air pump. When you sit on it, you let as much air out until your bottom has sunk well into the cushion. Then your carer only has to do a final check to see whether there's a gap of about two centimetres between your bottom (its lowest point, the coccyx) and the bottom of the cushion. That's the most comfortable way to sit.*

*But it was only by draping a medical sheepskin over the 'ROHO Quadtro Select' that I could really feel the sensational effect. Now it's as if I'm sitting on clouds!*

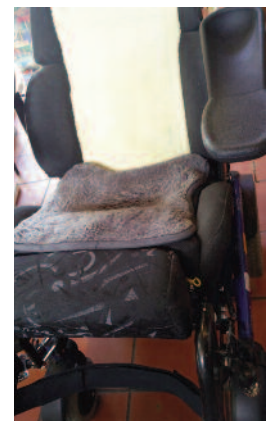
*I haven't had any more problems with my bottom since then. Even after thirteen hours in a wheelchair, my rear looks as if I had been sat straight into it. If you'd like to find out more, you can always send me an email ([roll.on@t-online.de](mailto:roll.on@t-online.de)). I can then take even more photos or make a video about this.*



**'ROHO Quadtro Select' seat cushion with air pump.**



**'ROHO Quadtro Select' seat cushion with cushion cover.**



**'ROHO Quadtro Select' cushion cover with the medical sheepskin draped over it (my wheelchair).**

**Would you also like to give health and care tips to other mouth and foot painters?**

Then please don't hesitate to send your ideas to the VDMFK office. We'll then publish them in one of the upcoming VDMFK brochures.

Thank you very much!

# History of the VDMFK

## **Lisbon 2002: 9th General Assembly**

### **Eros Bonamini is elected President of the Association**

64 Full Members and 38 Associate Members gathered from 21 to 26 October 2002 in Lisbon to hold the ninth General Assembly of the Association. The crucial agenda of this meeting focused on the election of the President, which was made necessary by the death of Marlyse Tovae, as well as elections to the Board. In accordance with the Articles of Association, the first ballot was held to confirm previous Board Members Ruth Christensen and Eros Bonamini in their office. Both were unanimously confirmed in their respective positions and thanked with great applause for the services they had rendered. In addition, a new election was due to be held for the two deceased Board Members Marlyse Tovae and Bruce Peardon. The Board recommended that Serge Maudet, a mouth painter from France, and Kunshan Hsieh, a mouth painter from Taiwan, be chosen as its new members. Both of them received a vote of confidence from the General Assembly and were elected unopposed to the VDMFK Board of Directors.



***Eros Bonamini was elected third president of the VDMFK at the General Assembly which was held in Lisbon in 2002.***

Subsequently, Full and Associate Members were asked to choose a successor to the late President, Marlyse Tovae. In a meeting held a few weeks prior to the General Assembly, the Board had decided to propose two candidates for the office of President to the General Assembly. The two candidates consisted of Eros Bonamini, a mouth painter from Italy, and Prof Manuel Parreño, a foot painter from Spain. After due consideration, however, Prof Parreño came to the decision that he would renounce his candidacy because he believed «that Mr Eros Bonamini is the stronger candidate to become President of the Associa-

tion», as he stated in a letter to the Board of Directors. At the General Assembly, interim President Dr Herbert Batliner declared that he had taken note of this letter with regret but that Prof Parreño's decision ought to be respected. Consequently, only Eros Bonamini was on the ballot paper for the election for President of the Association. This election itself was held in the form of a written ballot. Of the 96 votes cast, Eros Bonamini received 85. Thus he was elected third President of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. The final ballot among the artists attending the General Assembly was held in order to confirm the Legal Consultant in his office. This they did by acclamation. As a result of the decisions taken by General Assembly in Lisbon, the Board was composed as follows: Eros Bonamini, President; Ruth Christensen; Prof Manuel Parreño; Serge Maudet; Kunshan Hsieh; Trevor C. Wells and Dr Herbert Batliner as Legal Consultant.

The VDMFK also held an international exhibition which was staged on the premises of the Portuguese Red Cross to accompany the General Assembly. 160 works by mouth and foot painters from 36 countries were presented to the public at large.



***Current VDMFK President Serge Maudet was elected to the Board of Directors for the first time at the General Assembly which was held in Lisbon in 2002. This photo shows him casting his ballot for the election of President.***





Sabar Subadri (Associate Member/Indonesia), 'Woman leaning on a window frame', oils, 50x40 cm.



# Publishers' activities

## BRAZIL

- The Brazilian publishing house held an exhibition in São Paulo with works created by its mouth and foot painters. The vernissage was held on 23 January 2017 and the pictures were displayed at the Memorial da Inclusão, a museum set in one of Latin America's biggest cultural spaces. The paintings remained on display until 23 February 2017. Various artists gave painting demonstrations. In addition, workshops were staged and covered extensively on three TV channels and in the newspapers.



*Brazil's mouth and foot painters taking part in the exhibition held in São Paulo.*

## JAPAN

- The Japanese publishing house held an exhibition entitled "Heart Arigato" at the Gold Salon hairdresser's gallery in Tokyo from 23 to 29 October 2016. The show featured 66 works by Japanese artists. Various mouth and foot painters gave a number of painting demonstrations to accompany the exhibition. They consisted of **Full Member Mr Eiichi Minami, Associate Member Mr Hironori Koshiji and Scholarship Holders Mr Toshihiro Ishibashi, Mr Toshiaki Umemiya and Ms Kahoru Yamaguchi.**

## SWITZERLAND

- The Swiss publishing house organised a series of talks with painting demonstrations for its artist, Scholarship Holder Ms Bracha Fischel, at the start of September 2017. The event lasted ten days and was held at various venues in Zurich. To finish off this series of presentations, the publishing house also hosted a short workshop in which German mouth painter and Full Member Mr Lars Höllerer as well as art painter Ms Edith Tarantino took part with demonstrations of their painting techniques in front of the assembled artists.

## SLOVENIA

- The Slovenian publishing house staged its traditional exhibition at the Salus pharmaceutical's company hall in December 2016. This event was held in the form of a joint exhibition which explored the theme of the Magical Slovenian Winter. A total of 23 works were exhibited, which remained on display until 10 February 2017.

- The Slovenian publishing house also held an exhibition at the Osnovna šola Ivana Cankarja cultural centre in Vrhnika in December 2016. It featured sixteen pictures based on the theme of the Holy Family and the Three Kings.

- The publishing house carried out a workshop for pupils on 13 December 2016. Over 650 children participated in the event. Nine mouth and foot painters demonstrated their painting skills. Present at the workshop were **Full Members Mr Vojko Gašperut and Mr Benjamin Žnidaršič as well as Scholarship Holders Ms Nevenka Gorjanc, Ms Angela Medved, Ms Martina Pavlovic, Mr Eric Pibernik, Ms Dragica Sušanj, Mr Željko Vertelj and Ms Neja Zrimšek Žiger.** Some of the children also had a go at painting with their mouths.

## MEXICO

- To mark the 60th anniversary of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, the Mexican publishing house held a group exhibition in the Basilica de Santa Maria de Guadalupe, the largest Christian pilgrimage site in the world. The exhibition was opened on 4 May 2017 by Mexico's First Lady, Ms Angélica Rivera Hurtado. This signified a great honour and will remain an unforgettable moment for the 35 mouth and foot painters who were present. A total of 57 pictures were on public display until June 2017.



*Full Member Mr José Gerardo Uribe Aguayo (on the right) with Mexico's First Lady, Ms Angélica Rivera Hurtado.*



# Publishers' activities

## POLAND

- The Polish publishing house exhibited works of its artists at a gallery exhibition in the ZAMEK cultural centre (Poznań). The 27 pictures on display mainly consisted of new works by Poland's mouth and foot painters. The exhibition was opened on 4 April 2017. The works were on display for two weeks, until 14 April 2017. The exhibition was opened by **Full Member Mariusz Maczka**. In addition, the following artists took part in the opening: **Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member)**, **Jerzy Omelczuk (Associate Member)**, **Bartosz Ostałowski (Scholarship Holder)**, **Arkadiusz Cyprian (Scholarship Holder)**, **Emilia Ratajczak (Scholarship Holder)** and **Mariola Wower (Scholarship Holder)**. Several painting demonstrations were given to accompany the opening. The venue in Poznan is ideal for staging such exhibitions, because this cultural centre attracts many tourists. As a result, many visitors flocked to the exhibition.



**Full Member and foot painter Stanisław Kmiecik seen here demonstrating his skills.**



*Poland's mouth and foot painters travelling to the opening of the exhibition in Poznan can be seen here (from left to right): Arkadiusz Cyprian, publishing house director Dorota Bakaj, Emilia Ratajczak, Poznan vice-president Jędrzej Solarzski, Mariusz Maczka, Stanisław Kmiecik, head of the cultural centre Anna Hryniewiecka, Bartosz Ostałowski and Jerzy Omelczuk.*



*Scholarship Holder Bartosz Ostałowski captured here during his painting demonstration which accompanied the opening of the exhibition.*



*Full Member Mariusz Maczka (left) had the honour of opening the exhibition at the ZAMEK cultural centre in Poznan.*

