

# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
WORLDWIDE

July 2018/196



# Contents

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<b>Foreword</b>	3
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	4
<b>EVENTS</b>	5
Exhibition in Slovenia	6
Exhibition in Poland	8
<b>PERSONAL</b>	9
We mourn for	10
VDMFK personalities	13
The significance of painting	14
Artists' activities	16
<b>SERVICE</b>	19
Information from the office	20
Presentation of painting techniques	21
Health and care	24
<b>PUBLISHING HOUSES</b>	25
Publishers' activities	26

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Dear artists,  
Dear art lovers,

Six months have passed and here we are again with the latest VDMFK news.

First and foremost I am delighted to welcome our new Scholarship Holders to our ranks. You are the future of the Association. I hope that one day your lives will be driven by the same passion I feel for art.

I would also like to congratulate our new Associate Members and thank them for their perseverance. Please keep up the good work!

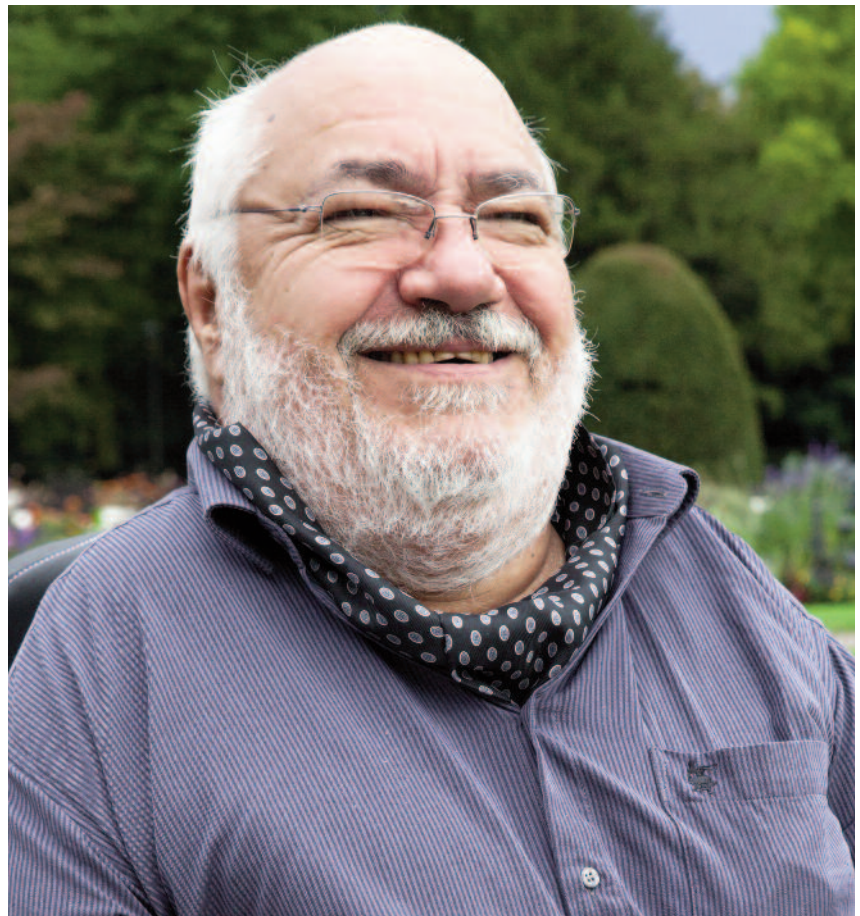
Equally, I wish to thank our members. Whether or not you are a Scholarship Holder, Associate Member or Full Member, please continue to inspire us with your works.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to write a few words about someone whom I greatly appreciate: Ruth Christensen.

Ruth Christensen has been part of our large family since 1982. She was voted onto the Board of Directors in 1992. During all this time she has never lacked artistic creativity. You only need to look at her works to see that Ruth is a woman with enormous sensitivity. Moreover, she has always sought to establish a close relationship to people.

She guides her brush with so much skill that you can feel the smoothness, softness and lightness in her paintings, which are a real feast for the eyes! I am not surprised that her works are so successful when the publishing houses choose their motifs.

Ruth is also a person you can rely on. She has attended every meeting of the Board from 1992, when she was elected to the Board of Directors, right through to today. Ruth has always supported our Association in good and difficult times. I think this deserves great respect.



**VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.**

What else is there to add apart from saying a big thank you to you, Ruth, for

your commitment and your creativity!

I now wish to turn briefly to our Association. After all, you, the artists, organise and take part in art exhibitions and various events. Please tell us about the expectations, wishes and comments which visitors have shared so that we can discuss this in our meetings and further enhance our efforts to market the work of all mouth and foot painting artists. For us, it is very important not to remain satisfied with the high level of our previous achievements: we want to strike out and rise above ourselves.

I hope that you enjoy reading this, our latest brochure, with the same pleasure that I have had in writing this foreword.

Serge Maudet  
President of the VDMFK



# Miscellaneous

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Direro, James Oupa

**Date of birth: 20 January 1966**

**Passed away on: 28 May 2018**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

James Oupa Direro was born in Evaton on 20 January 1966. He grew up under difficult family conditions. Although he is a tetraplegic he encouraged others true to the philosophy: "being disabled does not mean being incapable". On 14 March 1993, a fateful day, he was shot by another person and thus became tetraplegic. That was a turning point in his life. His willpower and his self-confidence as well as the encouragement of his colleagues and other disabled people helped him achieve even greater goals. He also received the support of the VDMFK, which first granted him a scholarship in 2009. James Oupa Direro passed away on 28 May 2018.

## Publishers' activities

### SLOVENIA

Associate Member Silvo Mehle from Slovenia passed away on 16 January 2017. The publishing house of his native country organised an exhibition to commemorate and honour the deceased artist. The exhibition was held in the gallery of the Salus pharmaceutical company in Ljubljana. This gallery is well known to the Slovenian publishing house since it stages an exhibition of its own there each year. The opening of the commemorative exhibition was

scheduled for 12 January 2018. Thirty-nine works of the deceased artist were on display. The exhibition lasted until 21 March 2018. Many of Silvo's relatives and friends took part in the event. All of them had known and appreciated him as a person and artist. Full Member Vojko Gašperut was the honorary speaker at the opening. In honour and in memory of the artist Silvo Mehle, the following VDMFK artists also participated: Vojko Gašperut, Benjamin Žnidaršič, Željko Vertelj, Dragica Sušanj and Neja Zrimšek Žiger. The artist Stjepan Perkovic and three employees of the publishing house came from Croatia.



*The mouth and foot painters of Slovenia and Croatia travelled to Ljubljana to honour their deceased friend.*



*Many of Silvo's relatives and friends took the opportunity to attend the opening of the commemorative exhibition.*



*Full Member Vojko Gašperut delivered the laudatory speech to the deceased artist at the opening.*





Lee Jun Wei (Full Member / Taiwan), 'Crowing Cock', watercolour, 46x69 cm.



# Exhibition in Slovenia



*Mouth and foot painters from Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia as well as staff from the publishing house and from the Slovenian publishing house were at the opening of the exhibition.*

The Slovenian publishing house opened an international joint exhibition based on the theme of 'Hungary-Slovenia' on 1 December 2017. A total of 47 works were on display.

The Slovenian publishing house staged the opening of the international 'Hungary-Slovenia' exhibition which was held in the gallery of the Hungarian Embassy in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana on 1 December 2017. The publishing house was honoured to have the exhibition opened by the Hungarian Ambassador to Slovenia. The opening,

which was attended by some 200 guests, also featured singing and speeches. A total of 47 pictures were on display until 13 December 2017. During the 14 days of the exhibition, a large number of local residents and tourists alike took the opportunity to see the works. In the run-up to the event the artists were entrusted with the task of painting two new pictures with a Hungarian theme which would be presented at the show for the first time. The opening was accompanied by a workshop at which nine artists showcased their skills. These were the Slovenian painters **Vojko Gašperut (Full Member)**, Benjamin Žnidaršič (Full Member), Benjamin Žnidaršič (Full Member) and Scholarship Holders Željko Vertelj, Dragica Sušanj, Nevenka Gorjanc, Neja Zrimšek Žiger and Eric Pibernik. Croatian artist Stjepan Perkovic (Scholarship Holder) and Serbian artist Dejana Backo (Scholarship Holder) also painted at the workshop, in which about 100 children also took part. It was very interesting for the children to watch the artists painting. In addition, the event also included the Christmas party of the Slovenian publishing house.



*The painting demonstrations aroused great interest among the children from different schools who attended the exhibition.*



# Exhibition in Slovenia



*Full Member Benjamin Žnidaršič during his painting demonstration in front of the children.*



*The children were keen to try out mouth painting for the first time.*



*Scholarship Holder Neja Zrimšek Žiger performed a number of songs at the vernissage.*



*Some 200 guests attended the opening of the exhibition.*



*The gallery of the Embassy of Hungary served as the venue for the workshop with the children.*



*47 pictures were on display in the gallery of the Hungarian Embassy in Ljubljana.*



# Exhibition in Poland

**An exhibition of Polish mouth and foot painters was opened at Warsaw Chopin Airport on 18 April 2018.**

The Polish publishing house organised a joint exhibition for its mouth and foot painters in the departure lounge of the international Warsaw Chopin Airport. Twenty-five paintings, consisting mainly of new works, were on display. The exhibition shall last until 18 August 2018. The opening speech was delivered by Scholarship Holder Piotr Pawłowski. Full Member Mariusz Maczka and Scholarship Holder Bartosz Ostałowski also took part in the vernissage. In addition, two painting demonstrations were held at the vernissage and met with great interest among passengers. The departure lounge at Warsaw Chopin Airport is ideal for staging such exhibitions, so the show attracted the attention of many visitors.



*Poland's mouth and foot painters who had travelled to Warsaw for the opening of the exhibition are seen here with their helpers, the publishing house staff and the airport manager.*



*Scholarship Holder Piotr Pawłowski had the honour to delivering the opening speech.*



*Full Member Mariusz Maczka holding his painting demonstration.*



*The media also reported on the exhibition and interviewed Scholarship Holder Bartosz Ostałowski.*





Luigi Calloni (Full Member / Italy), 'Girl with Chicks', oils, 40x30 cm.



# We mourn for

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## AUSTRALIA

### Barnett, Glenn

**Date of birth: 28 September 1947**

**Passed away on: 22 December 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Glenn Barnett broke his neck in a diving accident which occurred in 1962. From that time onwards he was paralysed and confined to a wheelchair as a quadriplegic. He subsequently spent about a year in hospital. After Glenn returned home, his son asked him to draw a picture. A day later he drew a straight line with a pen in his mouth. This was his first attempt to paint with a brush in his mouth. However, since he had no training in the traditional sense, he began to study art history and learned the possibilities which colours offer. Glenn became aware of the Association while he was watching a TV show, which alerted him to the fact that other people with disabilities like himself were painters. Following this, Glenn continued to experiment with various techniques.

He exhibited his first works of art in 1971 and became a Full Member of the



**Full Member Glenn Barnett from Australia passed away on 22 December 2017.**

VDMFK in 1974. Glenn chose acrylics as his preferred painting method at the end of the 1970s. His favourite motif was the landscape of his native Australia. In the course of the following years he was able to present his works to the public at numerous solo exhibitions. In addition, he often participated in joint

exhibitions at which he would speak about his experiences and give painting demonstrations in front of various groups. Full Member Glenn Barnett passed away on 22 December 2017.

## AUSTRALIA

### Greig, Margaret

**Date of birth: 15 March 1937**

**Passed away on: 11 January 2018**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Margaret Greig contracted polio at the age of 13. This disease left her a quadriplegic, confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. During her long hospital stay, she started to paint and write with her mouth. Her delight at being able to paint grew and grew. As a result, painting became the focus of her quality of life. Nor did this joy abate in her years: in fact the opposite was the case. Before her illness, Margaret lived on a farm. This resulted in her love of animals, particularly horses and

cows. They also became the features in many of her paintings which depict scenes from country life. Flowers were another characteristic feature of her oil and tempera paintings. The Association first awarded her a scholarship in 1971. Only nine years later she became a Full Member of the VDMFK. As a result, she was able to showcase her works to broad sections of the public at many exhibitions both in Australia and all over the world. Moreover, she frequently gave painting demonstrations in shopping malls and to interested groups. Margaret also visited schools to talk to children and to show them the art of mouth painting.



**Full Member Margaret Greig left us on 11 January 2018.**



## NETHERLANDS

### de Rooij, Coen

**Date of birth:** 2 January 1972

**Passed away on:** 19 April 2018

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Before becoming disabled Coen de Rooij worked as a printer while attending a school of graphic design in Eindhoven. In September 1989, at the age of 17, he was involved in a car accident during which he suffered a severe spinal injury, leaving him paralysed from the neck downwards. A long period of rehabilitation followed. After attending an inspiring painting demonstration given by VDMFK Full Member Kees Schut in 1991, he made up his mind to learn the art of mouth painting. Coen came to enjoy it very much and steadily improved his skills. He became a

VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2001 and was awarded Associate Member status in 2010. Coen mainly painted landscapes of his native Netherlands. In this regard, he enjoyed painting in oils, acrylics and watercolours. Coen described his work as an artist as "the most wonderful thing there is in life for me". Coen de Rooij passed away on 19 April 2018.



*Associate Member Coen de Rooij passed away on 19 April 2018.*

## SPAIN

### Palos Jiménez, Francisco

**Date of birth:** 18 November 1960

**Passed away on:** 27 January 2018

**Painting method:** Mouth painter

Francisco Palos Jiménez was born in Barcelona on 18 November 1960. Still at primary school, he had already started working at the age of eleven. When he was 25 he had an accident which left him tetraplegic. His arms and legs were paralysed from that time onwards. Only a short time afterwards Francisco discovered his love of art, quite by chance, while playing at mouth painting with his daughter. He continued to paint as part of his rehabilitation. Gradually, painting became his hobby. Frequently he spent seven or eight hours a day working to improve his artistic skills. In fact, he learnt to become a mouth painter completely by himself. The VDMFK began supporting him in 1996 by granting him a scholarship. He held his first public solo exhibition in the same year. The Association awarded him Associate

Member status in 2014.

Francisco liked to travel in search of ideas for his paintings. He enjoyed painting children with animals as well as the landscapes which inspired him on his journeys. The artist conveyed his enthusiasm through the colourful and lively way he painted. He started off by using

oil paints; though later on he preferred to use acrylic colours. At the same time he also liked painting with crayons, charcoal and watercolours. Francisco Palos Jiménez passed away on 27 January 2018.



*Associate Member from Spain Francisco Palos Jiménez passed away on 27 January 2018.*

# We mourn for

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

### PHILIPPINES

#### Pesigan, Bernard

**Date of birth: 3 June 1968**

**Passed away on: 17 February 2018**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Bernard Pesigan was born the fifth of ten children on 3 June 1968. On 11 March 1988 he was involved in a motorcycle accident which left him paralysed from the neck downwards. Due to his accident, he was unable to complete his education beyond the second year of secondary school. Bernard began painting with his mouth in 1991. He became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in the same year. He was encouraged to paint by Associate Member Jovy Sasutona. Bernard Pesigan passed away on 17 February 2018.

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Molefe, Dan

**Date of birth: 25 July 1961**

**Passed away on: 24 December 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Dan Molefe fell from an asbestos wall and suffered a spinal cord injury in June 2004. He was left a C4/C5 quadriplegic and initially underwent a long stay at Kalafong Hospital in Pretoria for rehabilitation. Dan was transferred to the Lat Wiel House for Quadriplegics, Pretoria, in February 2005. He began painting there in May 2005 after he had watched other mouth painters at work. Dan felt greatly encouraged by his efforts and quickly made progress. He became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 2007. Dan Molefe passed away on 24 December 2017.

#### Swart, Kelly

**Date of birth: 7 June 1968**

**Passed away on: 2 March 2018**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Kelly Swart was born in Pretoria (South Africa) on 7 June 1968. In 1985, he completed his education in Pretoria before going on to work for the Department of Correctional Services. On 2 March 1987, he suffered a spinal cord injury at the C3-C5 levels which left him a quadriplegic. Despite his adverse circumstances, Kelly enrolled at the University of Pretoria (UP) in 1992 and obtained the following degrees: an MA in Clinical Psychology (UP), a BA with a final examination specialising in Psychology (UP) as well as a BA in Psychology (UP). Having watched VDMFK Scholarship Holder Tom Webster give a mouth painting demonstration one day, he decided to have a go at this form of art. Kelly was able to look forward to a promising career as a mouth painter right from the start. Self-taught, he made considerable progress within a very short period of time and painted a wide range of motifs ranging from flowers and landscapes to wildlife. The VDMFK first granted Kelly a scholarship in 2012. Kelly Swart passed away on 2 March 2018.

### UNITED STATES

#### Senecal, David R.

**Date of birth: 2 April 1954**

**Passed away on: 24 December 2017**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

David R. Senecal was born on 2 April 1954. In 1967, he was left a C-5 quadriplegic as a result of a diving accident. Paralysed from the neck down, he was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. David began painting by mouth in 1968. In 1972, he was awarded a Certificate of High School Equivalency (the General Equivalency Diploma, or GED). In the same year he also went on to complete three courses at the State University of New York at Albany

(SUNYA), as well as five courses at the Corning Community College in Corning (NY) from 1974 to 1975. His successes included the 1972 exhibition at the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira (NY), as well as exhibitions in shopping malls, office buildings and parishes, etc. Here, David was also supported by the Association, which first granted him a scholarship in 1991. David mainly painted landscapes, flowers, town scenes and moods. Married, he lived with his wife in a high-rise building which had been specially adapted for people with disabilities. David R. Senecal passed away on 24 December 2017.

#### Urquizo, Joe

**Date of birth: 7 February 1963**

**Passed away on: 4 January 2018**

**Painting method: Mouth painter**

Joe Urquizo was born in Crowell (TX) on 7 February 1963. His arms and legs were paralysed due to cerebral palsy. After completing his high school education, Joe attended a painting course at Vernon Regional Junior College (TX) in 1983. Inspired by his new experiences, he began painting with his mouth in the autumn of the same year. Press reports about his exhibitions and awards started to appear before long. In addition to his artistic work, the artist was also a keen angler. He was also interested in basketball and above all loved working with children. He first became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder in 1986. Joe Urquizo passed away on 4 January 2018.



In this section we are honoured to introduce you to mouth and foot painters who have rendered outstanding services to the Association in the sixty years since the founding of the VDMFK. This time we present former Board Member Trevor C. Wells.

After leaving school, Trevor C. Wells embarked on an apprenticeship as a carpenter and began playing for the Uxbridge Rugby Club (West London, UK). In 1976, he completed his apprenticeship as a carpenter. Two years later he broke his neck in a rugby accident and was paralysed from the neck down. Subsequently, he spent seven months in hospital. In 1984 he was moved to a ward for young disabled people where he was encouraged to paint as part of his occupational therapy. The Association awarded him a scholarship in the same year and he became a Full Member of the VDMFK in 1987. This opened up the opportunity for him to pursue a new career as a mouth painter. In 1990, Trevor left the hospital ward for physically disabled people and moved to Chesham in Buckinghamshire. In 2000, he took part in the Delegates' Convention in Sydney, Australia, where he had the great honour of being elected to



***Board Member Trevor C. Wells passed away on 13 September 2015 after having rendered fifteen years of service to the VDMFK Board of Directors.***

the Board of the Association.

Trevor's preferred motifs were landscapes, most of which were captured in his use of the acrylic technique. The accuracy of his observations of nature – which were frequently based on photographic images – lends a particular charm to his pictures. Above all, the winter landscapes which he was parti-

cularly fond of painting are characterised by his skilful deployment of colouristic effects. Trevor was able to present his numerous works at solo and joint exhibitions across the world. Board Member Trevor C. Wells from the United Kingdom passed away on 13 September 2015.



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



***Trevor C. Wells, 'The Red House', acrylic, 28x20 cm.***



# The significance of painting

The significance of painting as seen by mouth painter Martin Charl Sodoms, Associate Member from South Africa.

## What painting means to me

**A**rt has always been a part of me. My creativity stretches over a variety of art forms which I have been fortunate enough to encounter in many different ways and at different times in my life. In my youth drawing had played a huge role, whilst painting came in early adulthood at a very painful and uncertain time... Thankfully, art has always been a very faithful and trusted friend of mine! Art afforded me the comfort to escape from the constrained dark-cornered shadows of life which I had to occasionally confront since a very young age. Painting serves as a form of therapy which unshackles me, gives me life, purpose and adds colour and brightness to my being. Without art my life would be dull, colourless, without meaning and undoubtedly without purpose!

**P**ainting is also an opportunity to express what one thinks, feels, loves or hates. It is also what one hopes for, wants to change, wants from the future and admires from the past... and whatever else might fulfil us as human beings! It is miraculous how art can



**Martin Charl Sodoms, Associate Member from South Africa, tells us what painting means to him.**

unite people across the globe, no matter where they come from, because it transcends cultural differences and captures something of what it means to be uniquely human. Painting is food for the soul. It represents people's con-

nection to the past and to their own humanity.

**F**ounding President of the VDMFK International, Mr. Arnulf Erich Stegmann, was an artistic human-unifying soul, who exemplified the selfless nature of art. He believed that 'art unifies in its diversity'. This is definitely one of countless reasons for the preservation of the Arts. The art maestros from 'years gone by' have either made a point or observation on the world through their eyes or deeply expressed their emotions by virtue of the artistic medium. Some left a legacy that still serves artists globally, irrespective of their artistic ability or the nature of their physical ability.

**A**rt can definitely transform the Ordinary into the magical to those who find it difficult to articulate themselves in the manner they wish to communicate. Thus, art says things to us that some of us can't express in words.



**Martin Charl Sodoms (Associate Member / South Africa), 'Soccer Fever', oils, 51x76 cm.**



# The significance of painting

*Through paintings I've learned to evoke, in myself, good feelings that I once lived through by means of certain external movements, lines, colours or forms captured in delicate brush strokes by mouth.*

*I once read "Meaning depends on sharing" and communion with others and self-expression through the fine arts. To me, that truly gives people meaning and spiritual nourishment in their lives. To transmit those feelings, so that others may experience the same feelings, to me is God's eternal love in vibrant bright-coloured motion... meaning God is alive and able!*

*With love from an artistic soul sculpted and nourished by God and improved by wisdom.*

*Martin Charl Sodoms  
Associate Member, South Africa*



**Martin Charl Sodoms (Associate Member / South Africa), 'Fruit Doves', oils, 46x61 cm.**

## **Sodoms, Martin Charl**

*Date of birth: 20 April 1974*

*Place of birth: Hermanus*

*Associate Member since: 2014*

*Painting method: Mouth painter*

Martin Charl Sodoms was born in Voëlklip, Hermanus on 20 April 1974. He attended both primary and secondary school. After leaving school he studied securities management and wor-

ked as an assistant for a branch manager. In December 1996, he had a diving accident in which he broke his neck at C5 and C6 vertebral level, leaving him tetraplegic. A teacher of painting introduced him to art nine months after his rehabilitation and during his stay in hospital. She helped him to learn to paint by mouth. Since 2002 he has received support from the VDMFK in the form of a scholarship. The Association awarded him Associate Member

status in 2014.

Martin has specialised in painting with acrylic colours. Even so, he also paints with oil paints that can be mixed with water, and sometime with water colours, too. His preferred motifs are the flowers, birds, landscapes and people of his homeland. He likes sport and is a skilled blowpipe dart player. His hobbies include painting, drawing, photography, fashion and designing websites.

# Artists' activities

## BRAZIL

### Rosa Fraga, Carlos Eduardo (Scholarship Holder)

- Carlos can look back on a number of successful achievements. Among other things they include his participation in the 48th Salon of Fine Arts at the headquarters of the Naval Club of Rio de Janeiro, where he was awarded a silver medal in October last year. He also received a medal of honour at the Marine Corps' 22nd Salon of Fine Arts in November 2017. Carlos received a further silver medal at the 36th Salon of the Brazilian Navy in which he took part in December 2017.

## CROATIA

### Perkovic, Stjepan (Scholarship Holder)

- Stjepan travelled to Asia because of an exhibition which Slovenia's AAMI art institute was holding in Hong Kong. Together with Vojko Gašperut (Full Member / Slovenia), he attended the opening which took place at the Sav

Hotel on 6 April 2018. Both artists were represented with their works at the exhibition.

- Stjepan participated in the 'Through Painting and Words' group exhibition which was organised by the Croatian Association of Fine Artists. The opening took place on 15 March 2018. Furthermore the artist travelled to London to exhibit his work at the Parallax Art Fair which was held in Kensington Town Hall from 2 to 4 February 2018.

- Stjepan also had the great honour of receiving an award from the Croatian Association of Visual Artists for his achievements over the past year. The commendation read: "Stjepan Perković deserves this award for his international success and promotion of Croatian fine art and culture abroad in 2017."

## FRANCE

- The French publishing house staged a total of six joint exhibitions between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 2018. These were held in Saint-Victoret, Vitry-sur-Seine, Le Haillan, Villeneuve-sur-Lot, Thouars and Carcassonne. At each ex-

hibition, French mouth and foot painters gave painting demonstrations and organised drawing and painting groups. In addition, they gave guided tours of the exhibition and spoke with children from the respective municipality. Each exhibition lasted two days and featured over 100 works by French artists. VDMFK President Serge Maudet had the honour of delivering a speech at the opening ceremonies in Thouars and Carcassonne. In addition to its own exhibitions, the French publishing house also took part in four other events which also showcased works by French artists.

### Belabbas, Messaoud (Scholarship Holder)

- In December 2017 Messaoud staged a solo exhibition entitled 'Messaoud prend son pied' (Messaoud gets his kicks) which was held at the l'Etang Carret medical centre. Mainly bright and luminous landscapes and silhouettes in motion were hung on the wall of the common room.

### Dubarre, Arnaud (Scholarship Holder)

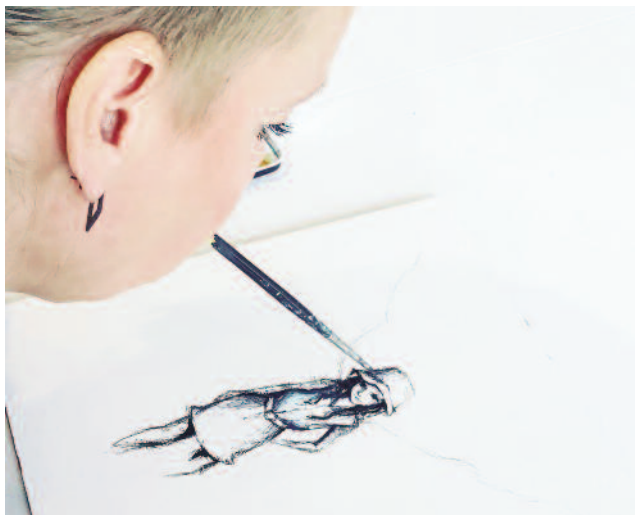
- Arnaud exhibited six of his works at

## DENMARK

- On 5 and 15 May 2018 the Danish publishing house held two open house

events in which **VDMFK Board Member Ruth Christensen, Full Member Ann Lund Wahlberg and Scholarship Holder Yvonne Vendel-Jensen** took part. The Danish artists gave pain-

ting demonstrations and talked with visitors about art and the VDMFK.



**Full Member Ann Lund Wahlberg** concentrating hard on a piece of work which was admired by visitors.



**VDMFK Board Member Ruth Christensen** during her painting demonstration.



the central international market in Rungis on 14 November 2017 during handicap week. Furthermore, he participated in the festival Handiversité in Savenay from 23 April to 5 May 2018.

## **Maudet, Serge** **(Full Member)**

- VDMFK President Serge Maudet took his paintings with him to the Art Shopping event which was held at the Carrousel du Louvre from 20 to 22



***VDMFK President Serge Maudet at the exhibition in the artistic setting of the Carrousel du Louvre.***

October 2017. Artists from all over the world take part in the fair each year in order to become known in Europe. The Art Shopping fair takes place in the heart of Paris, in the beautiful artistic setting of the Carrousel du Louvre. Serge himself exhibited his very beautiful painting 'The flower market' and performed many painting demonstrations to the great surprise and amazement of the visitors. This rendezvous of contemporary art attracted over 20,000 visitors. The VDMFK President had the exceptional opportunity to establish contacts with artists from all over the world. A special honour was bestowed on Serge during the exhibition. Diva Pavesi, President of the Divine Académie Française des Arts, Lettres et Culture, presented him with the Divine Académie's Medal of Merit.

## **INDIA**

### **Ramakrishnan, Narayan** **(Scholarship Holder)**

- Narayan had the honour of exhibiting his works at the opening of Bengaluru International Airport on 26 May 2018. In addition, he showcased his works at an event which was held in Bengaluru by the government tourism authority on 24 December 2017.

### **Thrippanikkara, Sunitha** **(Scholarship Holder)**

- Sunitha received a prestigious national award for creative adults with disabilities. This honour was bestowed on her by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

*Continued on page 18*

## **INDIA**

### **Pulikkathody, Jesfer** **(Scholarship Holder)**

- Jesfer was invited by Sheikh Hamdan, the Crown Prince of Dubai, to travel to the Emirate. There he had the opportunity to meet the Crown Prince and to present him with "the greatest work of my career". It shows the portrait of the Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed, and of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan. The meeting took place at the Emirates Towers in Dubai. Jesfer commented on this by saying: "I presented this painting as my homage to the rulers of Dubai and in admiration of their continued support for people with disabilities. I remember that his Highness had once described disabled people as 'determined people'. I was very impressed by these words.



# Artists' activities

## INDONESIA

### Agus, Yusuf

(Associate Member)

- Yusuf held an exhibition with painting demonstrations in Surabaya from 19 to 22 December 2017. This exhibition had the honour of being opened by the Minister of Social Affairs.

### Rusdi, Faisal

(Scholarship Holder)

- Faisal held a solo exhibition on the theme of 'the colour of travel' from 13 November to 3 December 2017. The exhibition was held in the auditorium of the gallery of the City of West Torrens, South Australia. The exhibition theme and the themes of the paintings were inspired by the Australian landscape and particularly by Adelaide.

### Subadri, Sabar

(Associate Member)

- Sabar organised a group exhibition which he held together with the Sasaka art community at Resto Kampoenng Banyumili from 1 to 11 March 2018.

## JAPAN

- Mitsubishi Electric Building Techno-Service Co., Ltd staged an exhibition with the name 'Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World Exhibition' in the 'Lovely Partner Shopping Center'. A total of fifty works were on display from 16 to 18 June 2017. Full Member Machiko Morita took this opportunity to give two days of painting demonstrations. In addition to several hundred visitors, the exhibition aroused great interest in several media outlets.

### Morita, Machiko

(Full Member)

- Machiko held a solo exhibition at the Chayamachi gallery in Osaka from 30 March to 4 April 2017. The artist showcased 66 of her works. During the exhibition she presented her mouth painting skills in a number of painting demonstrations.

### Yamaguchi, Kahoru

(Scholarship Holder)

- Kahoru staged a solo exhibition at the Ponte gallery in Kanazawa City from 9 to 15 October 2017. She used this opportunity to present 38 of her works to the public. In the course of the exhibition she also held painting demonstrations to show how she can paint with her foot. The scholarship holder had already held a solo exhibition at the same venue from 22 to 28 May, when she presented 40 of her works. Kahoru also showed her paintings at an exhibition which was held at the Yurinoki gallery in Tokyo from 20 to 25 July 2017.

## POLAND

### Cyprian, Arkadiusz

(Scholarship Holder)

- Arkadiusz held a number of solo exhibitions in 2017. His achievements included showing 37 of his works at the Trzebnica cultural centre from 5 April to 3 June 2017, and at the Pniewy town library on 7 July. His paintings could also be seen from 27 September to 16 October 2017 at the Leszno municipal library. In 2018, he presented his works at the Granów town library where they could be seen on 2 February.

### Waszkiewicz, Malgorzata

(Scholarship Holder)

- Małgorzata presented 25 of her pictures at an exhibition which was held in Inowrocław library on 2 February 2018.

## SINGAPORE

- Singapore's mouth and foot painters took part in various exhibitions from October to December 2017. As an example, the two **Scholarship Holders Chia Yong Liang and William Ngo** participated in The Purple Parade 2017 event which took place on 28 October 2017 and was held to celebrate the skills of people with special needs. On 11 and 12 November 2017 Full Member Tan Kok Leong and **Scholarship Holders Kaini Zhang, Christina Lau**

### **Lay Lian and Raymond Khee Huat Tan**

took part in the Lifelong Learning Festival 2017. In addition, **Christina Lau Lay Lian and Raymond Khee Huat Tan** were among the participants at the launch of the BAM app, which serves as a mobile online marketplace for buying and selling art.

## UNITED STATES

### Davis, Antonio

(Scholarship Holder)

- The African American Arts Alliance of Chicago bestowed the Black Excellence



Award 2016-2017 on Antonio Davis on 30 October 2017. He received this award in special recognition of his visual mouth painting work.





Cody Tresierra (Full Member / Canada), 'Uncle Bill – Portrait of a man with a black hat', oils, 50x40 cm.

# Information from the office

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## Submission of originals

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

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

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

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

**DHL Logistics (Schweiz) AG  
DHL Freight Division  
Attn. Mr. Kurt Schöpfer (VDMFK)  
Heldastrasse 66  
CH-9471 Buchs  
SWITZERLAND**

Please keep in mind the following points when you send in your paintings:

- no framed paintings
- no passe-partouts
- no eye bolts or other hanging devices
- no oil paintings that are not dry

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

- name
- country
- original title
- technique
- on sale or not on sale

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

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

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

**VDMFK  
Im Rietle 25  
P.O. Box 818  
FL-9494 Schaan  
Principality of Liechtenstein  
Email: [vdmfk@vdmfk.li](mailto:vdmfk@vdmfk.li)**

## Return of originals

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

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



# Presentation of painting techniques

**Serge Maudet, President of the VDMFK and mouth painter from France, reveals tips and tricks in mouth and foot painting.**

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## Still lifes

“By seeking and blundering we learn.” – J. W. von Goethe

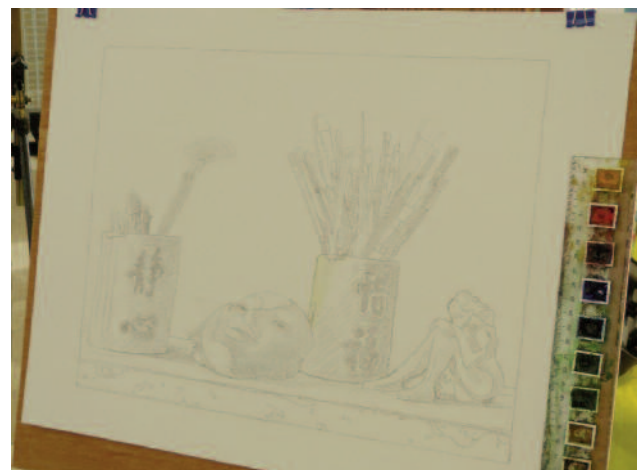
It's true that people who seek and blunder the most achieve the best results. Never paint a motif that you don't like.

### **Staging / sketches**

First of all, design a setting for your still life; any subject will do, but don't forget the light that brings out the best in your composition. A good composition attracts everyone's attention.

To begin:

- Use a colourful or colourless cloth as a background.
- Change the arrangement of the objects a number of times to find the lines that lead to the aesthetics which you wish to achieve.
- Try out different positions around your composition to find the ideal angle for your sketches.
- Form and lines play an important part in your composition; they must not be placed merely at random without careful deliberation.
- If necessary, draw a number of sketches from different angles before you finally decide on your motif.



# Presentation of painting techniques

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## Colouring

Some basic rules must be observed:

- Mix the paints on a palette, not on the canvas.
- Start with the background. The first layers should be light and bright; in this way you can make the background darker at a later stage if necessary.



- Light and shadow: The spatial effect as well as intensity and so on are all effects that can only be achieved through the distribution of light and shadow; they determine the end result. It is these contrasts which breathe life into your work. A dark area creates depth, whereas an area which remains white or is very bright represents the direct incidence of light.



# Presentation of painting techniques

- Opaque colours such as ochre tones must be applied with the first layers.



- Then colour the details that subtly give life to your picture and which lead to the finished work.



# Health and care

**Part 3 of the 'Health and care' section is by Full Member Lars Höllerer from Germany.**

## The anti-decubitus mattress

*I used to sleep on my side or on my stomach before my accident. Everyone is different in their choice of sleeping position. Some prefer to sleep on their stomach while others sleep on their side or on their back.*

Scientists have found that healthy people turn over some forty times in their sleep in order to change their reclining position. This occurs automatically, without the sleepers being disturbed in their sleep or waking up. Such constant turning allows people to take the pressure off their skin at frequent intervals; they do not wake up with reddening or bruising.

Our movement is restricted or completely disturbed when nerve tracts are severed or blocked due to an accident or at birth. In such cases, many of us no longer have motor skills or sensitivity. Consequently, body bruises are highly likely to occur unless care is taken.

Shoulder blades, buttocks and heels are particularly vulnerable to bedsores because these parts of the body protrude more than others. During my time at the rehabilitation clinic, for example, the staff paid meticulous attention to turning me over from one side to the other every 3-4 hours in the night. This was not very pleasant as I recall, because my night's sleep was repeatedly disturbed and I generally did not feel very comfortable in my sleeping position.

I was only prescribed an anti-decubitus mattress at the end of my time in rehab. This mattress has modular air cells which alternately fill with air and deflate again. As a result, pressure is constantly taken off you on the bed surface even though you are lying all night on your back.



**For 25 years, Full Member Lars Höllerer from Germany has had excellent experiences with the anti-decubitus mattress, which enables him to sleep undisturbed through the night.**

At first, it perhaps takes a bit of getting used to if you didn't sleep regularly on your back before then, but after a certain adjustment period you won't want to do without this mattress. You can sleep through the night without constantly having to be turned over, and you can still remain lying on your back even though you might have slight bruises. This, in my experience, is very pleasant.

There are different types of anti-decubitus mattresses – depending on the degree of paralysis and skin sensitivity. You can adjust the air pressure by turning a dial, depending on your body weight. If you have very sensitive heels you can place a cushion under the lower part of your calves, so that your heels are suspended freely in the air. This is usually unnecessary, however. I have inserted a very thin mattress between the bed frame and the anti-decubitus mattress just to be on the safe side if the anti-decubitus mattress should develop a fault and start losing air.

I have now slept for almost 25 years on this kind of mattress and am delighted by my experiences in this regard. In Germany, the health insurance companies pay the costs of this medical care resource. Yet there are also countries where the user must bear the costs. In such cases, you can order the mattresses on the Internet. The purchase price varies between EUR 600 and EUR 3,000. For example my mattress (the SLK 2 mattress) costs less than EUR 1,000 on the Internet. This mattress is for people weighing up to 135 kg.



**Lars Höllerer, Full Member from Germany.**





William W. Mooney (Full Member / Australia), 'Approaching storm near Yass', oils, 41x30 cm.



# Publishers' activities

## ISRAEL

- As it has done every year, Bank Hapoalim – Israel's largest bank – transformed its head office into an art gallery. The social purpose of this year's exhibition was to support the local AIDS task force. The exhibition featured works by hundreds of artists. Among the participating artists were also fifteen mouth and foot painters from Israel, all of whom attended the opening ceremony on 11 May 2018.



*The exhibition at Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, was spread over several floors.*



*Fifteen mouth and foot painters from Israel showcased their works. One of them was Full Member Yitzhak Adir.*



## UNITED KINGDOM

- On 4 December 2017 the UK publishing house organised a Christmas card event involving British artists Tom Yendell, Rosie Moriarty-Simmonds and Barry West. In full view of the public and the media, the artists painted unexpected, festive images of three iconic British buildings, the Shard in London, Brighton Pavilion and Cardiff Castle. The photo shows Scholarship Holder Barry West with his painting of Brighton Pavilion.

## CROATIA

- The gallery of the POU education centre in Ivanić-Grad / Croatia opened an exhibition with paintings by VDMFK artists on 5 December 2017. For this purpose, the publishing house organised a painting demonstration by artists from Croatia and Slovenia. They included Croatian **Scholarship Holders Maria-Kristina Božicevic, Marija Glavicic-Pocuc, Alen Kasumovic, Stjepan Perkovic and Goran Radic.** Slovenian **Full Members Vojko Gašperut and Benjamin Žnidaršic** as well as **Scholarship Holders Željko Vertelj, Martina Pavlović and Dra-**



*Croatian and Slovenian artists who were part of the exhibition in Ivanić-Grad / Croatia.*

**gica Sušanj** also participated in the event. The artists presented their work

with winter motifs at the opening of the international exhibition.



# Publishers' activities



*Numerous visitors attended the opening of the exhibition.*

## POLAND

- The Polish publishing house exhibited works of its artists at a joint exhibition in a city library in Gorzów Wielkopolski. The show featured 41 pictures which consisted mainly of new works by Polish mouth and foot painters. The exhibition, which revealed a wide range of different styles, was opened on 23 November 2017 and lasted until 15 January 2018. The following artists took part: **Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member)**, **Mariusz Maczka (Full Member)**, **Jerzy Omelczuk (Associate Member)**, **Walery Siejtbatałow (Associate Member)** as well as **Scholarship Holders Arkadiusz Cyprian**, **Jadwiga Markur** and **Bartosz Ostałowski**.



*Full Member Stanisław Kmiecik was a sought-after interview partner for the media.*



*The painting demonstration given by Associate Member Walery Siejtbatałow met with great interest.*



*Scholarship Holder Bartosz Ostałowski demonstrated his foot painting skills at the opening.*

