

# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
WORLDWIDE

July 2020/200



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# Foreword by the President

Dear artists,  
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

*This VDMFK bulletin comes to you in extraordinary times. Almost the entire world is going through a profound transformation that will have significant ramifications in the future. The culprit is COVID-19. Quite simply, we are going through unprecedented times. Virtually every country has been affected by the pandemic to a greater or lesser degree.*

*In many of our families or circles of friends there will be someone who is suffering or has suffered from the COVID-19 virus. This is an extremely sad state of affairs. COVID-19 is radically altering our habits. It is forcing us to change the pattern of our everyday lives, how we return to our everyday lives and to focus on what truly matters in life.*

*Personally speaking, I intend to do my utmost to find the upsides presented by this unusual situation, to return to the simple things in life, to develop new solutions that help me live out my passion for painting better than before, and also to create videos.*

*We should use this time to reconsider our art in a new and different way. If we think carefully about what the word "art" means, how would you define it?*

*For me, art is an idea, a sensation, a feeling, an emotion that you feel, which you feel you have to express, either on paper or on a canvas, from which you have to create a sculpture. It is something that lives in us. Art covers a wide field and its interpretation changes depending on our individual sensitivity and idiosyncrasy. Art is an act that is either complete or incomplete. That makes it interesting and sometimes incomprehensible. It invites reflection and criticism. Art cannot be defined in simple terms.*

*In April, the VDMFK sent you a request for cooperation with the aim of making the current COVID-19 situation a little*



**VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.**

*more bearable. We asked you to post online self-made videos that show mouth and foot painting artists from all over the world working on set themes: a rainbow, an animal or a motif taken from everyday life.*

*Many of you followed our call and uploaded your videos on social networks. Bravo: you have managed to ensure that your works are appreciated with the kind of positivity and playfulness that we all need at the moment. Thank you all for sharing your ideas with us.*

*In bidding you goodbye this time around, I do hope you take care of yourselves and your nearest and dearest. In artistic solidarity with you all,*

Serge Maudet  
President of the VDMFK

# Letter from the Vice-President



**VDMFK Board Member Thomas Kahlau, Mouth Painter from Germany.**

**We received the following letter from VDMFK Board Member and Vice-President Mr Thomas Kahlau. Given that it is addressed to mouth and foot painters across the world, we are happy to publish the text in full.**

*Dear artists, colleagues and readers,*

*Standing here on my terrace and looking down at my garden, I discover flowers in full bloom, birds chirping and a big bumblebee flitting from flower to flower. It all seems familiar and yet it's all kind of surreal. I don't hear any sounds of traffic from the nearby road or the drone of planes that would otherwise appear in the blue sky every 10 minutes or so to and from Berlin. It's unusually quiet. All this because of the virus.*

*My sick, elderly mother and I haven't left the house for weeks. The few people I know who still visit me wear pro-*

*TECTIVE MASKS. When they change their rubber gloves, I can see their hands reddened and chapped through the use of disinfectants. They do this for me so I can stay healthy. I have it good. But the outbreak of coronavirus in the largest hospital around here has led to it being closed. Many residents in the care homes around me are dying and the staff are infected. With news from all over the world about the devastating effects of the pandemic, I am anxious to know how my friends, fellow artists, and our many supporters are doing now. I very much hope that you are all safe, well looked after and adequately protected.*

*A cheerful 'Hello, how's it going, then?' interrupts my train of thought. Our neighbour greets me across the garden fence. I rarely used to see him. Now I often see him working with his wife and children in the garden. He still asks if we need something, if he can help us. But the woman from next*

*door has already done the shopping for us. This, too, because of the virus.*

*Paradoxically, people draw closer to each other with social distancing. They pay more attention to others. So I feel confident that we will get through this together, as people are showing solidarity and intensive research into medicines and vaccines is being conducted around the world so that we can continue getting on with our lives. Perhaps in a slightly different and more modest way than before, but maybe that's actually a good thing. So let's encourage and support each other as best we can. Let's say a word of thanks to our home carers who protect and care for us and to the many people at our publishing houses who work for us under difficult conditions. In particular, let's thank our loyal customers, whose support in the form of purchasing our products is particularly important at this time.*

*Dear Members and Scholarship Holders, I can assure you that we, the Board Members of the VDMFK, are here for you and shall continue to work in your interests.*

*Please take care of yourself and stay safe!*

*Thomas Kahlau  
Vice-President of the VDMFK*





Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges (Associate Member/Brazil), 'Christmas motif', gouache, 28x22.5 cm.

# Artists' activities

## ARGENTINA

### Alvarez, Alberto

(Full Member)

- Alberto Alvarez displayed his works on 10 February 2020 as part of the joint exhibition to mark the 146th anniversary of the city of Mar del Plata. The exhibition was held in the art space of the city centre.

### Barcia, Cesar Andres

(Scholarship Holder)

- Cesar took part in a joint exhibition held at the Palermo Hippodrome in Buenos Aires on 7 March 2020. This exhibition was organised by the Association of Argentine Watercolourists. This association invited 30 watercolour artists to exhibit and paint on-site. On 21 November 2019, he presented his work at the 'Milo Lockett Art Gallery' of a well-known art institution in Argentina in Buenos Aires, as part of a collective exhibition works. Together with about 100 artists from Argentina, he took part in this event, which also aimed to raise awareness of prostate cancer.

### Moya, Maria Celeste

(Scholarship Holder)

- Maria Celeste Moya presented her work during a week as part of a solo exhibition at the American Hotel. This

exhibition was attended by the Governor of Catamarca Rael Jalil and his wife Silvana Ginocchio, which was a great honour for the artist.

## BRAZIL

### Borges,

### Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto

(Associate Member)

- From 12 to 28 February 2020, the University of Borges held a solo exhibition at the Octavio Café in Sao Paulo. This was called 'Ceramic, Line and Expressions' (Cermica, Linha e Expressões). The mouth painter gave regular painting demonstrations, which attracted interest from nearly 100 daily exhibition visitors.

## CROATIA

### Perkovic, Stjepan

(Scholarship Holder)

- Croatian foot painter Stjepan Perkovic was nominated for the Vecernjakov pecat ('Vecernjak Seal') prize this year. The event honours people from public life in this part of Europe for their outstanding achievements.

## EGYPT

### Ahmed Attia Fadl, Reda

(Scholarship Holder)

- Reda Ahmed Attia Fadl participated in Egypt's most important joint exhibition by submitting his works alongside those of over 200 other artists. After being reviewed by a specialist committee, his work was included in the selection of works on display. This particular exhibition was held under the patronage of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. It opened on 25 February 2020 and lasted one month.

## FRANCE

### Martins, Joseph

(Scholarship Holder)

- Joseph Martins can look back on an eventful 2019. This includes participation in a joint exhibition held in Le Haillan from 15 to 17 March 2019 organised by the French publishing house. In April, he held a painting demonstration in a high school. One of the highlights of his activities in 2019 was his solo exhibition, which he conducted in Bordeaux from 8 to 14 April. Later in the year, he held several smaller exhibitions, participated in joint exhibitions or held painting demonstrations.

## INDONESIA

### Subadri, Sabar

(Associate Member)

- Sabar Subadri held a solo exhibition led from 3 to 5 December 2019 at the Ciputra Mall in the Semarang, held by the Provincial Office for Youth, Sport and Tourism for Central Java. The head of the office opened the exhibition. Sabar Subadri showed 32 of his paintings. This exhibition was also attended by the Governor of Central Java, Ganjar Pranowo. Sabar also provided painting demonstrations, which were met with the interest of the media.





# Artists' activities

## INDIA

### Pulikkathody, Jesfer (Scholarship Holder)

- Jesfer Pulikkathody was offered an opportunity to take part in the prestigious eighth edition of the Art for Inclusion Summit, which took place in November 2019 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bengaluru. This turned out to be a very special experience for Jesfer because he was one of only eight artists selected from 90 applications. The organisers also 'converted' one of his paintings (entitled Buddha & fish) into a tactile braille-like format, enabling it also to be appreciated by the visually impaired.

### Thrippanikkara, Sunitha (Scholarship Holder)

- Sunitha Thrippanikkara held her 6th solo exhibition in 2019, which proved to be highly successful. It was opened by the well-known Bengali painter Kabita

Mukhopadhyaya and many well-known artists were present. Sunitha also used the opportunity of the exhibition to offer painting demonstrations, which were met with great amazement and interest.



## GREAT BRITAIN

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

- From 4 December 2019 to 5 January 2020, Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds held a solo exhibition at the Hearth Gallery at University Hospital Llandough in Cardiff, which attracted a great deal of attention.

## INDONESIA

### Rusdi, Faisal (Scholarship Holder)

- Faisal Rusdi gave a painting demonstration on national TV in January 2020. It can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/q5wAWioY9CA>



## ITALY

### Carati, Bruno (Full Member)

- Bruno Carati held a solo exhibition at the ART... on paper gallery in the Swiss city of Lugano from 7 to 13 December 2019. The artist called his show My picturesque life. Just without hands. Bruno

exhibited 25 of his works and provided a number of painting demonstrations. Mario Famlonga, Managing Director of the VDMFK, René Aigner, the Swiss publisher, and Antoine René Leisi, a Scholarship Holder from Switzerland, travelled to Lugano for the exhibition.

*Continued on page 8*



*A painting demonstration given by Bruno Carati was met with great interest from the visitors.*

# Artists' activities

## PHILIPPINES

- Foot painter Jason **C. Delos Reyes (Scholarship Holder)** and mouth painter **Jovito Sasutona (Associate Member)** were invited to present their talents during the opening ceremony of the Bella Vita event entitled 'No excuses, no limits', which was held in the Gingerbread House on Upli Palumlum Road, Alfonso, Cavite. Here, the two artists exhibited their paintings and provided demonstrations of their painting skills. The purpose of the activity was to inspire and remind Bella Vita members that no disability can prevent them from achieving their dreams and goals in life.

### Tongco, Julius A. (Scholarship Holder)

- Julius A. Tongco had the honour of handing his 'Philippine tarsier' oil painting to the Governor of Bohol Province on 2 March 2020. The presentation was part of the provincial government's People's Day celebrations.

### Delos Reyes, Jason C. (Scholarship Holder)

- Foot painter Jason C. Delos Reyes exhibited his artworks during the launch of an event to raise awareness of peripheral artery diseases, which was held at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, a barangay in Muntinlupa, from 29 July to 2 August 2019. The exhibition was attended by various doctors and staff of the hospital. He also showcased his talent by giving painting demonstrations. In addition, Jason was invited to provide a painting demonstration and stage an exhibition as part of the celebration of art in Marikina City from 26 August to 8 September 2019.

## POLAND

### Sapinska, Agnieszka Maria (Scholarship Holder)

- Agnieszka held a solo exhibition, which she called 'My Colourful World', from 6 to 24 March 2020.

## SINGAPORE

### Yeo Kwock Chian, Aaron (Scholarship Holder)

- Aaron Yeo Kwock Chian exhibited a selection of his paintings at the art exhibition held in the Raffles City Shopping Center, in the heart of Singapore City, from 15 to 21 October 2019. During the opening, he offered insights into his painting work.

## SLOVENIA

### Vertelj, Zeljko (Scholarship Holder)

- Željko Vertelj held or participated in numerous events over the course of 2019. They included painting demonstrations, presentations as well as solo and joint exhibitions. Here are some examples:

a.) Presentation of mouth painting at the Cankarjev dom / Academy of Sciences in Ljubljana to mark the 20th anniversary of the Fundacija za financiranje invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij (Foundation for Financing Disability and Humanitarian organisations - FIHO).

b.) Three-day graphic design workshop, preparation of works for the 2019 Golden Palette award at the Ars Viva cultural centre in Podcerkev from 8 to 10 February 2019.

c.) Workshop for traditional art at the Association of Paraplegics in the Dolenjska region, Novo Mesto on 8 April 2019.

d.) Solo exhibition at the Ars Viva gallery in Podcerkev on 14 April 2019.

e.) Exhibition of select works for the Golden Palette award for modern painting in Polzela on 24 April 2019, organised by the Slovenian Association of Fine Arts (ZDSLU).

f.) Exhibition of paintings entitled 'Life in a drop of water' at the Municipality of Domžale festival on 8 May 2019.

## SPAIN

### Anghel, Florin (Scholarship Holder)

- Florin Anghel created a picture of basketball player Paul Gasol, considered the best Spanish and one of the best



European players in basketball history. The sports star thanked him for the portrait with a photo of himself.

### Espinosa, Luis Mora (Scholarship Holder)

- Luis Mora Espinosa held a solo exhibition featuring about 25 of his paintings at the Manuel Entero de Colmenarejo civic and cultural centre in his hometown from 1 to 15 December 2019. In addition, the Roosevelt Association awarded him the Roosevelt Prize for his efforts to improve himself.





Luigi Calloni (Full Member/Italy), 'Clown and dog', oils, 40x30 cm.



# We mourn for

## POLAND

### Omelczuk, Jerzy

**Date of birth:** 24 June 1957

**Passed away on:** 29 May 2020

**Painting technique:** Mouth Painter

Jerzy Omelczuk was born with infantile cerebral palsy. From the age of 4, he lived in various institutions under the national health service. Jerzy discovered his interest in painting as a young child. He put a pencil in his mouth and started drawing right away. A few years later he received paints and brushes as a gift, and this encouraged his love of painting. Right from the start he taught himself to paint with his mouth. From 1980 onwards Jerzy practised the art of easel painting. Only two years later he received a scholarship from the Association, as a result of which he was able to perfect his mouth painting skills. At the beginning of his painting career he



***Jerzy Omelczuk had been an Associate Member of the VDMFK since 1997. He passed away on 29 May 2020.***

concentrated on watercolours, although he later preferred to express himself through oil paintings. He created well over a thousand oil paintings over the course of his lifetime. Jerzy's favourite motifs were landscapes, still lifes, portraits and religious themes. He presented his many works to a broad public at many solo and joint exhibitions. He was admitted to the Association as an Associate Member in 1997. In addition to painting, Jerzy was deeply interested in history. Jerzy Omelczuk passed away on 29 May 2020.

## BELARUS

### Ivanov, Aleksandr

**Date of birth:** 1 June 1956

**Passed away on:** 9 February 2020

**Painting technique:** Mouth Painter

Aleksandr Ivanov graduated from the High School of Fine Arts in Astrakhan in 1976. From 1980 to 1985 he studied at the Faculty of 'Art and Industry within the Belarusian State Institute of Theatre and Art'. This led to him becoming a qualified decorative painter. Subsequently, he worked as the manager of an industrial design group in the Office of Technical Aesthetics. In his spare time, he pursued dual sports from the Far East. In 1990, he suffered a serious injury to his C5/C6 vertebrae during training. Aleksandr was almost completely paralyzed from that time on. Thanks to his strong will, his extraordinary determination and his courage to face life, Aleksandr found his way back to art. He devoted himself almost exclu-

sively to painting as of 1992 and had already staged his first exhibition by 1993. Numerous other solo and joint exhibitions in various countries were to follow. Music became his hobby, with Aleksandr composing and arranging pieces of music. He was also a key figure when it came to cultural celebrations

in his hometown. Aleksandr became a Scholarship Holder of the Association in 2003. Two years later, he was granted Associate Member status. Aleksandr enjoyed painting landscapes and still lifes in oils. Aleksandr Ivanov passed away on 9 February 2020.



***Aleksandr Ivanov passed away in February after being part of the VDMFK as an Associate Member for 15 years.***



# We mourn for

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

### FRANCE

#### Lapeyre, Daniel

**Date of birth: 10 January 1953**

**Passed away on: 1 May 2020**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Daniel Lapeyre was born in Paris on 10 January 1953. The trained accountant and computer graphic designer became a C4 / C5 tetraplegic in 1970. He began taking mouth painting seriously when he taught himself in 2000. Although Daniel started out with oil painting, he gradually went on to acquire other skills such as watercolour and acrylic painting. Daniel swiftly made considerable progress, utilising a wide range of images. The Association awarded him a scholarship from 2005 onwards. He was looking for his own style. Some images, without any particular representation, left space for the viewer's imagination in numerous exhibitions. Daniel Lapeyre passed away on 1 May 2020.

### HUNGARY

#### Fazakasné Erdélyi, Ilona

**Date of birth: 17 April 1957**

**Passed away on: 16 November 2019**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Ilona Fazakasné Erdélyi was born in Székesfehérvár on 17 April 1957. She had suffered from an illness that paralysed both her arms and legs since 1957. The disease also stopped her pulmonary muscles from working, forcing Ilona to lie in bed for long periods with an iron lung. After a great deal of effort, she managed to live without this machine. In 1984, she began painting with her mouth. She completed a brief training course as a textile painter. The Association had awarded her a scholarship since 1993. Her hobbies included making costume jewellery, small gifts and other items made of felt. Ilona passed away on 16 November 2019.

### MEXICO

#### Espinoza Vega, Perla Fabiola

**Date of birth: 25 July 1979**

**Passed away on: 26 January 2020**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Perla Fabiola Espinoza Vega was born in Los Mochis, Sinaloa on 25 July 1979. At the age of eight, she was diagnosed with muscle wasting, which meant that from the age of 12 she no longer had use of her upper or lower limbs. She first tried to paint with her mouth in 1998. Perla enjoyed doing so and was very keen to further her artistic education. She was adopted into the VDMFK family in 2000. Perla passed away on 26 January 2020.

#### Nuño Sánchez, Antonio

**Date of birth: 28 May 1970**

**Passed away on: 29 November 2019**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Antonio Nuño Sánchez was born in Tepatlán, Jalisco on 28 May 1970. He was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at birth. Antonio would never walk on his feet; instead, he preferred to use his knees. He attended elementary school until third grade. When he was nine years old, he was only able to move by holding his arms and pushing his body forward. From the age of ten, Antonio was forced to use a wheelchair in order to get around. To pass the time, he made figures of clay and plasticine with the small reserves of energy still left to him in his hands. Over the years, however, he even lost this ability to do this the more his illness progressed. Mouth painter José Moreno H. from Jalisco drew Antonio's attention to mouth painting and immediately agreed to teach him. The VDMFK granted Antonio a scholarship from 1996 onwards. Over the course of time he developed his drawing and painting skills under his mentor. Antonio passed away on 29 November 2019.

### SERBIA

#### Radulovic, Radoslav

**Date of birth: 15 July 1954**

**Passed away on: 13 February 2020**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

In 1969, Radoslav Radulović was left tetraplegic after having jumped head-first into the sea. This meant that he could no longer use his arms or legs. In 1972 he laid the foundation for mouth painting. He took great pleasure in it and made artistic advances as an autodidact ever since. The Association had supported him with a scholarship since 2007. Radoslav passed away on 13 February 2020.

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Pretorius, Marthinus Jakobus

**Date of birth: 12 May 1956**

**Passed away on: 15 April 2020**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Marthinus Jakobus Pretorius was born in Cradock, Eastern Cape on 12 May 1956. In December 1987 he was left C5/C6 quadriplegic as the result of a diving accident. Consequently, his limbs were completely paralysed. A few years later, Marthinus Jakobus Pretorius began teaching himself to paint with his mouth. The Association granted him a scholarship from 1996 onwards. His works offered proof of his artistic talent. The mouth painter passed away on 15 April 2020.

# The significance of painting

The significance of painting as seen by mouth painter Josef Habeler, Associate Member from Austria.

## What painting means to me

*My first go at painting came about under the guidance of Ms Stein, an artist and painting therapist at the Weisser Hof rehabilitation centre in Klosterneuburg. After my illness had stabilised and I was able to sit up for the first time in an electric wheelchair with chin steering, I explored the ground floor of the rehab centre which contained all of the therapy workshops. I couldn't engage in any physical activity due to my spinal paralysis. Each workshop manager had to turn me away. As a result, I had given up all hope of being able to pursue a meaningful activity ever again.*

*By coincidence, I came across the painting therapy unit on the second floor. There I admired the many beautifully painted works of art by disabled people. But of course, they painted with their hands. I thought mastering this art would be a marvellous thing for me to do – but alas.*



**Mouth painter Josef Habeler, Associate Member from Austria.**

*I stumbled across a wonderful truth during a conversation with the painting therapist. "No, you don't necessarily need your hands to paint," she*

*said. "Well how else then?" I asked. "Just paint with your mouth!" she answered. Wow. This was an epiphany for me. That said, my first attempts to paint with a brush in my mouth were not easy. Clearly, this would take a lot of practice. The first piece of art I created was a silk shawl. I intended it as a gift for my wife. It was a great feeling for me once again to actually have created something by myself. I also think I did a great job on the shawl, if I do say so myself.*



**Josef Habeler (Associate Member/Austria), 'Spring Knot Flowers', water-colour, 30x40 cm.**

*And so, the idea of painting took irresistible hold on me. First, I painted scarves and shawls, and in August 2001 I had a go at creating my first picture. To my great surprise, an exhibition was held for me in the chapel of the rehab centre, with live music, my painted silk scarves and shawls and my first picture. My relatives and friends at the rehab centre came in large numbers and were full of admiration for my works.*



# The significance of painting

*The painting therapist praised my hard efforts and painting talent. It's a sublime sensation when a painting of mine is a success. Through the act of painting, I can immerse myself in my pictures in such a way that I can at least distract myself from the hardships of my daily life for a few hours.*

*In an opening speech for a VDMFK event held at Vienna's former South Railway Station (the Südbahnhof), I said. "The Lord may have taken away my ability to walk and placed severe restrictions on my quality of life, but in return he gave me painting." These words contain more than a grain of truth when I reflect on my life at the moment!*

*Painting has become an essential part of my life and bestowed it with true meaning. In March 2004, I had the honour of becoming one of many VDMFK Scholarship Holders. The VDMFK has since enabled me to become financially independent and encouraged me to feel self-confident. I have been able to fulfil many of my dreams and wishes ever since. I would never have dared to dream of going off on a trip to Vienna, which was organised for artists like us to mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the VDMFK. This wonderful week afforded me the opportunity to talk to many artists from all over the world about different painting experiments and techniques. After the Golden Jubilee event, I tried*



**Josef Habeler (Associate Member/Austria), 'Red sunset', watercolour, 31x41 cm.**

*out techniques I had been made aware of through my fellow artists. This was when I began to create my first acrylic and oil paintings. Even now, all this time later, I still exchange experiences with my fellow painting colleagues – my friends – and try to implement their ideas in my work.*

*I also enjoy painting in schools or kindergartens to teach young people the significance of life when you have a physical disability.*

*Finally, I wish to say that I am proud to be an artist of the VDMFK. I'd*

*like to thank all those who have helped me. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Association for the many ways it has supported artists in our situation, and for recognising and appreciating our work.*

*Josef Habeler  
Associate Member/Austria*

## **Habeler, Josef**

*Born: 25 December 1944*

*Birthplace: Wiener Neustadt*

*Associate Member since: 2010*

*Painting technique: Mouth painter*

*After attending primary school, Josef trained as a bricklayer. In addition, he worked as an excavator driver. In December 2000, he fell from a tree which left him suffering from a luxation fracture of the cervical spine. Since then, he has not been able to use his arms or legs. His hospital stay, which*

*lasted several weeks, was followed by a nine-month period of rehabilitation. In July 2001, during this period, he came to the realisation that life can be worth living again. Over the course of time, he came to discover another side of his life to which he had no prior access: his ability to paint with his mouth. The experience fascinated him and made a deep lasting impression. Mouth painting helped him to come to terms with the consequences of his accident and put them beside him for hours at a time. Josef rapidly made considerable progress. He happened to learn of the*

*existence of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, which then supported him as a Scholarship Holder from 2004 onwards. In 2010 he became an Associate Member of the Association. Josef initially painted silk shawls and scarves before moving on to watercolour painting. More recently, he has also experimented with acrylic and oil painting techniques. Josef focuses on landscapes as his first choice of motifs. He has presented his works to a broad public on a number of occasions at regional and national exhibitions.*

# Interview with Ann Lund Wahlberg

**At the most recent Delegates' Convention in Rio de Janeiro, Full Member Ann Lund Wahlberg was elected member of the VDMFK Board. We talked to her about her new role.**

**Mrs Wahlberg, you were elected onto the Association's Board last year. What was your intention to run for this office?**

**Ann Lund Wahlberg:** I am very proud to be a part of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. Over the years, I have been able to see the tremendous importance which the Association has both for our community of artists and for the opportunity to reach out to the public with our art. Last year, I felt that it was the right time to become more involved in the work of the Association on a global level and to use my knowledge and skills to continue to lead and strengthen our Association and community of artists.

**In the run-up to the election you're bound to have talked about this position with your fellow country-woman Ruth Christensen, who was no longer a candidate. What tips and tricks did she share with you**



**Ann Lund Wahlberg, mouth painter from Denmark and Member of the VDMFK Board.**

**along the way?**

**Ann Lund Wahlberg:** Ruth Christensen is a really good friend, a great source

of support and an inspiring colleague whom I admire very much. We didn't specifically talk about how I should behave as a Board Member. In this regard, Ruth placed great confidence in me and let me find my own way to do the job. But then I've watched Ruth and learned from her over the years. Among many other things, Ruth is a person who is genuinely interested in people – in the human, not just the artistic side of their characters. I think many artists of the Association can only feel happy with this sort of approach. Ruth has shown us a great deal of warmth and kindness by being interested in who we are as human beings. I would like to try to continue down the same path of being open, interested in and listening to artists as individuals.

**Now that a few months have passed since your election, you have been able to gain an initial idea of your new job. What are your first impressions of this position? Does your remit meet your expectations?**

**Ann Lund Wahlberg:** I love my new job and certainly think it presents lots of extremely exciting challenges. It's definitely quite demanding, but I expected that. That doesn't deter me. Our Association faces important tasks and major challenges at this time. Logically, it's also quite a challenge when so many different people from such culturally different backgrounds work together. But this is precisely the strength of our community, you see, and I believe that we in the VDMFK are very good at working across different cultures and countries.

**Are there any visions and wishes on your part as to the kind of direction which the Association should take in the future?**

**Ann Lund Wahlberg:** Our Association can look back on a fantastic history which began with a man who had great visions. My wish is to continue this visionary work and to help our Association keep up with current develop-



**Ann Lund Wahlberg with her husband at the conference during the Delegates' Convention in Rio de Janeiro, where she was elected onto the Board.**



# Interview with Ann Lund Wahlberg

ments. We need to develop the VDMFK in a way that enables us to continue to have a good, robust association that can strengthen our community of artists and, as a result, help us present our art to the world.

**Obviously, this sort of work also takes up a certain amount of time. How do you reconcile everything – your family with young children, painting and now your position as a Member of the Board?**

**Ann Lund Wahlberg:** Well, I'm certainly not bored. I've always been very willing to work, so I manage to get plenty of things done each day. My strength lies in logistics and a lot of that consists of me organising myself and setting priorities in the time I have available so that I can achieve as much as possible. I look forward to continuing the inspiring cooperation I have with the other members of the Board and with the executive management team of the VDMFK.



*Ann Lund Wahlberg (Full Member / Denmark), 'The embracing angel', acrylic, 25x25 cm.*



*Ann Lund Wahlberg (Full Member / Denmark), 'A little girl', watercolours, 17x14 cm.*

# VDMFK personalities

**Honorary Member Hans Massberger passed away on 9 November 2018. At the time of the founding of the VDMFK in 1957, he was already involved as one of the participants at the meeting. For decades, he was part of the jury and a true VDMFK personality.**

Hans Massberger used the 89 years of his lifetime to leave behind something of enduring value. He was born in Marktl am Inn (Lower Bavaria) in 1929. After completing secondary school, he studied art at the 'Die Form' art school in Munich. In addition, he learned to become a qualified decorative painter and passed his final apprenticeship examination. As a volunteer, he worked as a church painter in Rotthalmünster. Throughout his life he felt drawn to art. He became a member of many organisations, including the Munich Artists' Cooperative, the Protective Association of Fine Artists in Munich and the Die Burg artist's group in Burghausen. In the latter case, he was one of the very first members. Early on, he moved abroad in search of artistic inspiration. During his student days, he stayed on the island of Burano near Venice in order to perfect his painting. In the course of his artistic career, he completed study trips to all five continents, from which he felt increasingly inspired.

Success proved him right. He had the honour of exhibiting his works in well-known museums. These included, for example, the House of Art belonging to the Privileged Royal Artists' Association of Munich which was established in 1868, or in the art pavilion in the Old Botanical Garden in Munich. Some of his works are also owned by museums and cities, with the Albertina in Vienna, the State Collection of Graphic Arts in Munich, the town of Burghausen and the City of Munich all owning artworks by Hans Massberger.

Hans Massberger not only worked as a painter, but also passed on his knowledge and skills to others in a highly social and selfless way. He thought that the Association of Mouth and Foot



***VDMFK Honorary Member Hans Massberger passed away in November 2018. He was one of the attendees of the founding meeting of the VDMFK as an advisor to Arnulf Erich Stegmann.***

Painting Artists, which had been founded by his former friend Arnulf Erich Stegmann, himself a mouth painter, offered an ideal opportunity for him to do this. Ever since the founding of the Association in 1957, he had assisted Stegmann in an advisory capacity and, among other things, acted as a member of the jury. It seemed obvious to him that he would continue this work even after the death of his friend Stegmann in the 1980s. Consequently, he was jointly responsible for the fact that the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists emerged from being a small group of mouth and foot painters to becoming a worldwide association with several hundred Members, Associate Members and Scholarship Holders. It was therefore only logical that he was awarded honorary membership of the Association in 1997, which also led to him to working closely together with those responsible for running the Association, and with mouth and with foot painters all over the world. In her address accompanying the conferral of honorary membership, Marlyse Tovae, the President at the time, underlined this: "He, too, has stood alongside Erich Stegmann ever since the Association was first founded and has asserted and proved himself in cultural matters, both as a member of the jury, and particular-

ly as an expert in artistic creation. In addition to carrying out many administrative duties, he is particularly interested in maintaining good contacts with and in offering advice to the Members and Scholarship Holders. His calm manner and balanced attitude have ensured and continue to ensure fruitful cooperation between the Managing Board and his work. Thanks to his efforts and his work over many years, the Association has established an excellent reputation, particularly in regard to its high artistic standards. The catalogues he has compiled and especially the biographies of the artists are an eloquent testimony to his work."





Reinhard Melzer (Full Member/Germany), 'Abstract sunflowers', watercolour, 45x30 cm.



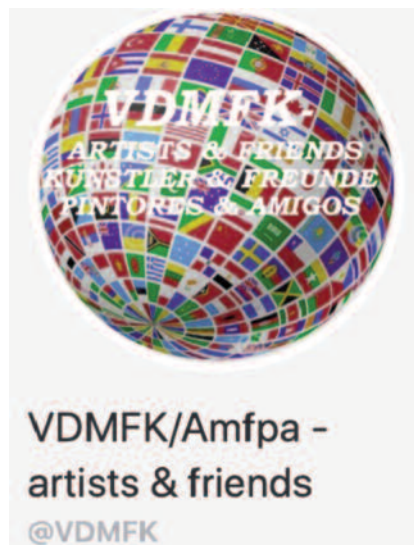
# Information from the office

The Association is active on social media platforms. The Board has decided to set up pages on both Facebook and Instagram. Both of them are already proving extremely popular.

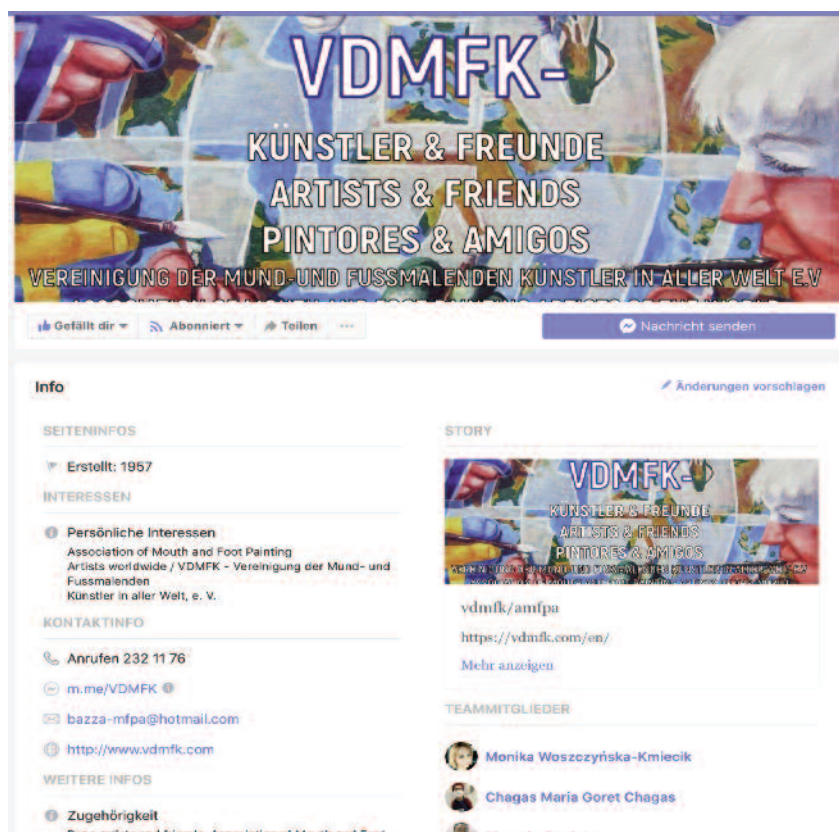
The VDMFK is pleased to announce that it now has its own official Facebook page. Contact details are:

**@artbymouthandfootpainters**  
**www.facebook.com/artbymouth-**  
**handfootpainters**

Since many mouth and foot painters have their own pages on Facebook, the Board has decided that it is the perfect platform to showcase their wonderful works of art. It is also where information about the Association can be disseminated to a larger target audience, connections between one another can



be maintained and a larger fan base can be established. The aim is also to increase sales, to forward newly established contacts to the respective VDMFK nation-



*The Facebook page of the VDMFK.*

nal websites and to attract new customers.

Mouth and foot painters wishing to present themselves on the new Facebook page should send photos as a private message to the Facebook page @artbymouthandfootpainters, ideally with the name and other details of the artwork. The Association would be pleased to share the photos or works and highlight the specific artist in order for the fan base to keep growing.

In addition to Facebook, the VDMFK is also represented on Instagram. This is at:

**@artbymouthandfootpainters**  
**www.instagram.com/artbymouth-**  
**handfootpainters/**

For those of you using Instagram, follow the VDMFK page and mention it in photos. The VDMFK then adds them to their daily story. Both on Facebook and Instagram, the Association can be found with the hashtag #artbymouthandfootpainters. Artists should also use this hashtag for their own posts.





# Interview with the Managing Director

The Corona crisis has not spared the Association of Mouth and Foot Painters all over the world. We spoke to Managing Director Mario Famlonga about the current situation facing the VDMFK.

**Mr Famlonga, the first half of 2020 has been dominated by the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. So just to get the ball rolling, how are you getting along at this difficult time?**

**Mario Famlonga:** Thankfully, I, my family, the VDMFK staff and people close to me have managed to escape the virus so far. I also know that I can always count on the excellent health facilities in Liechtenstein and neighbouring Switzerland. Of far greater concern to me is the situation confronting people in poorer countries.

**What impact is the crisis having on the VDMFK as an organisation? Does it threaten the very existence of the Association?**

**Mario Famlonga:** As I stated in the circular at the start of March 2020, the Association and support for the mouth and foot painting artists are not under any threat because of the corona crisis. By doing its utmost to take prudent and far-sighted decisions for the future, the Board has always enabled the Association to cope well in times of crisis.

**What impact does the VDMFK think the coronavirus will have on the Association and on the mouth and foot painters across the world which it supports?**

**Mario Famlonga:** Until now, the crisis has had little effect on the health of the artists. In terms of the knock-on effects for our business, however, COVID-19 will definitely have a negative impact on the Association's revenue this year. That said, precise figures are unavailable at this stage so it is impossible to say exactly by how much we will be affected.



**VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga emphasized in the interview that the economic effects of the Corona crisis will also affect unification.**

ted. Earnings already fell in the spring of 2020 and it remains to be seen whether the global recession will continue to leave its mark on the greeting card business in the second half of the year.

**You are certain to have been in plenty of contact with the artists. How are they coping at this difficult time?**

**Mario Famlonga:** Yes, I have spoken with many of the artists by phone. I was extremely concerned about their state of health, especially in hard-hit countries with a high mortality rate. We shouldn't forget that many of our artists live with lung deficiencies and are particularly exposed to the deadly nature of the virus. Even so, I feel relieved today because since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Association has not lost an artist due to corona virus. In general, I can report that the majority of artists are focused on painting at this time.

**Many people think that it will take quite some time before the world returns to normal. How is the VDMFK preparing for the time after the pandemic? What priorities is it setting for the period after COVID-19?**

**Mario Famlonga:** Our priorities are certainly focused on the operational side, but at the same time the COVID-19 will also affect certain aspects of our business. For example, it's difficult to visit the publishing houses under the current circumstances. The Board continues to hold its meetings, albeit in a reduced form, by means of videoconferencing. We also have to adjust to the relatively low number of pictures we have received. In addition, the corona crisis has exacerbated the general situation in regard to currency fluctuations and has shifted the purchasing power of many countries. Together with the Board, I shall try to keep up with the new challenges and continue to offer reliable support to mouth and foot painting artists across the world.

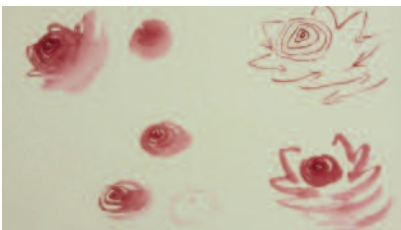
# Presentation of painting techniques

VDMFK Board Member and foot painter from South Korea Soon Yi Oh offers practical ideas for mouth and foot painters under the rubric **Painting Roses from a Far East Asian Perspective.**



East Asian painting techniques differ considerably to their Western counterparts – especially when it comes to capturing the essence of an object. In the West, still lifes tend to depict outer form through the means of light and shadow. In East Asia however, the intention is to express the painter's feelings towards the object. In no way is it solely a question of how the light is thrown back – rather the painter's own aesthetic is imparted to the object.

The colour of the rose petals is a deep purple.



To paint a rose petal, we begin with an uneven spiral, in which we use the brush to draw four to five concentric circles in a counter clockwise direction. The lines of the spiral combine to form the basic shape of the flower.



Then we paint the leaves, three or four each in different directions below the rose petal.



# Presentation of painting techniques



To depict the leaf veins, we draw thin lines outwards from the centre of the petal.



We draw in the veins using Indian ink.



The branches of the rose are then painted in the same colour as the leaves. They join the stem of the rose.



To paint the thorns of the rose, we gently push the brush onto the branch. Then we lift the brush as we pull it outwards to create a sweeping tip.



# Presentation of painting techniques



We blend ochre and indigo paints to colour the leaves.





# Challenge and competition



## #BocaPieChallenge #MouthandFootChallenge

**Against the background of COVID-19, the Spanish publishing house launched a challenge to promote awareness of the Association. The move was an overwhelming success.**

The Spanish publishing house launched a challenge to boost the publicity of the VDMFK against the background of the global coronavirus pandemic. In doing so, it laid down a series of artistic challenges to get disabled artists to paint specific motifs with their mouths or feet, whilst encouraging audiences to create their own visuals by using a brush or pen with their mouths or feet.

The posts were shared on social media under the hashtags #BocaPieChallenge and #MouthandFootChallenge.

The first challenge was to create a rainbow, the second to draw animals and the third to come up with ideas for depicting people confined to their homes. For the fourth challenge, artists could let their imaginations run wild and draw imaginary creatures.

The willingness of the artists to participate in the challenge was astounding. More than 415 videos were sent for the four different tasks.

Posts were often viewed and shared, especially in South America. Data from

the Spanish Facebook page indicated that 231,824 people had watched the various videos with a total of 132,762 video interactions.

The VDMFK and the Spanish publishing house would like to take this opportunity to thank the artists for their outstanding response to the challenge. Thanks to their commitment, the idea behind the VDMFK was disseminated across the world. Many people took time out from their daily routines to marvel at the works presented in extraordinary videos. An enormous thank you to all the participating artists! Among the 415 videos submitted, a jury selected the three best. The results are:

1. **Simona Atzori** (Full Member/Italy)
2. **Yu-Chen Lin** (Associate Member/Taiwan)
3. **Barbara Correa da Silva** (Scholarship Holder/Brazil) und **Sarah Talbi** (Scholarship Holder/Belgium)

Congratulations from all of us at the VDMFK!



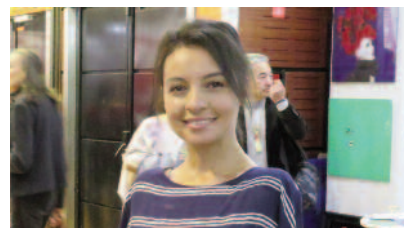
**Simona Atzori, Full Member from Italy, came first in the challenge.**



**Yu-Chen Lin, Associate Member from Taiwan, came second.**



**Scholarship Holder Barbara Correa da Silva in the 3rd place.**



**Scholarship Holder Sara Talbi in the 3rd place.**

The videos can be viewed at the website of the Spanish publisher <https://pintoresbocapie.com/> or on YouTube under Videos VDMFK.



**The challenge laid down by the Spanish publishing house resulted in a remarkable success on the Internet, as can be seen from the figures above.**

# Health and care

**This fifth part of the 'Health and Care' series is by Ann-Lund Wahlberg from Denmark.**

*We have certainly all been affected, as I have been, by the pandemic that has spread throughout the world! Covid-19, or 'Corona' as it's colloquially known, has reached its peak in many countries and is slowly retreating this time around. In other countries, unfortunately, the number of people infected continues to rise, or there has been a further increase after the number of infected people has fallen. COVID-19 is a serious and unpredictable disease, so it is important to protect yourself from infection.*

*As artists with a disability, we will be more exposed to the risk of serious illness if we become infected with COVID-19. As an individual who needs the help of others, this virus is not over and might not completely be over until a vaccine has hopefully been found.*

## **Contagion and COVID-19**

*There are many questions related to COVID-19. As a group of particularly vulnerable people, it is important for us to have a basic knowledge of contagion, how to avoid infection and not infect others: Can I infect others even though I have no symptoms? Can people infect me even if they don't have any symptoms? If a person has many symptoms, they will usually have many viral particles and therefore also be more contagious. If you don't have symptoms, you usually have fewer virus particles and are therefore less contagious. It is possible to be contagious even though you have no symptoms and you would also probably need to be very close to a person without symptoms over a longer period of time to be infected by them.*

*Far from all countries are in a position to test all their citizens suspected of having the virus. Even if you can have a test done, it is still not certain for the time until you have symptoms. Although a test shows that you have not been infected, you may still have*

*the disease and still be able to infect others. Follow the guidelines in your country. However, keep a close eye on other countries' policies. The countries that have best managed to contain the virus are, in general, those countries that have introduced rapid and effective restrictions. Some countries have few guidelines and are experiencing a greater spread of COVID-19.*

## **How do I protect myself?**

*The best way to protect yourself is to follow the general advice: Keep at a distance from others (1-2 metres), wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizers and act considerately, especially if you are sick. Face masks are also used in many countries. In some situations I also use one. Such measures have had the greatest effect against the spread of the virus. If everyone does their best to stick to this advice as much as possible, it will be very useful and also reduce your risk of infection. Remember that the people who come to your home to help you must wash their hands before entering your apartment or use hand sanitizer and should even wear a face mask if they get very close while helping you! If they were very close to people infected with COVID-19, they should wait 1-2 weeks before coming back to you. I know that this can be very difficult for those who have only one or a few helpers, but this measure would reduce the risk of infection for you.*

## **Do you feel isolated?**

*Over the course of time with isolation and quarantine, some of you have certainly had more time to paint and good opportunities to spend valuable time with your neighbours. But for some, the situation may have gradually become monotonous, making them feel isolated. It can be very hard not to see one's friends and family and to have to stay at home for months. Some of you may be worried about the future. In addition, others have also probably experienced that it can be a hindrance to wear a mask when we use the mouth for our activities. Suddenly it's hard to pick up anything,*

*to hold the brush, to use a phone or a computer. What's more, I and probably many of you, feel the restriction of the face mask in terms of communication with the people we meet. I need my facial expressions and my smile very much when I meet people on the street. But no one sees this when I wear a face mask. Hopefully my smile reaches up to my eyes!*

## **Send a greeting!**

*Finally, I would like to call on you and encourage you to help and support each other. I call on each of you to send an encouraging greeting to a colleague of the Association. To one or more than one! It can be someone who you already know well and haven't seen for a long time, or it can be someone you don't know so well yet but would like to get to know better. Send an email, a card or write a greeting via social media. I wish you all good health and the very best in these challenging times!*

*Ann-Lund Wahlberg  
VDMFK Board Member/Denmark*





Yusuf Agus (Associate Member/Indonesia), 'Three yellow roses', oils, 60x50 cm.



# Publishers' activities



**17 mouth and foot painters of India took part in the 2020 artists' meeting which had been organised by the Indian publishing house. Also in the photo is VDMFK Board Member Tom Yendell (3rd row on the right), who travelled especially to Bengaluru for the meeting.**

## INDIA

- The 2020 artists' meeting of Indian mouth and foot painters took place in Bengaluru – India's Silicon Valley. The three-day event was held from 21 to 23 February 2020 and proved to be extremely productive for the artists. 17 Indian artists from different states participated in the event together with their families. One of the aims of the meeting was to create a relaxed atmosphere for the artists away from their daily routine. Everyone was thrilled that Tom Yendell, a Member of the VDMFK Board, also

attended the meeting. His presence was very motivating for all the artists. The three-day event began with a welcome evening. On the following day, an art workshop was held by Namitaa, an artist from Bengaluru. The aim was to learn something new that the artists had not tried before. A fun pool session contributed to the conviviality of the day.

The exhibition itself was opened on the third day and featured a number of painting demonstrations. It was held at the "Karnataka Chithrakala Parishath" College of Fine Arts, one of the most famous art complexes in the country.

Over 50 paintings by 17 artists were on display.

The final day was all about conviviality. Some games and visits were organised so that the artists could enjoy their time together as a group with their families and carers. Three category awards were also initiated for artists who had performed well during the year. **Scholarship Holders Manoj Bhingare, Mridhul Ghosh and Jesfer Pullikathody** emerged victorious. The artists' meeting offered a perfect opportunity to prepare all the artists for another creatively productive year.



**The three-day artists' meeting of the Indian publishing house also included a workshop which gave the mouth and foot painters an opportunity to improve their painting skills.**



## Publishers' activities



*Scholarship Holder Mridhul Ghosh was awarded the distinction "Artist of the Year" at the artists' meeting.*



*Scholarship Holder Jesfer Pullikathody receiving the award for best painted work.*



*VDMFK Board Member Tom Yendell (on the left) congratulates Manoj Bhingare (in the middle) on his award.*



*Various artists from India gave painting demonstrations during the opening of the exhibition.*



*VDMFK Board Member Tom Yendell had the honour of officially opening the exhibition.*

