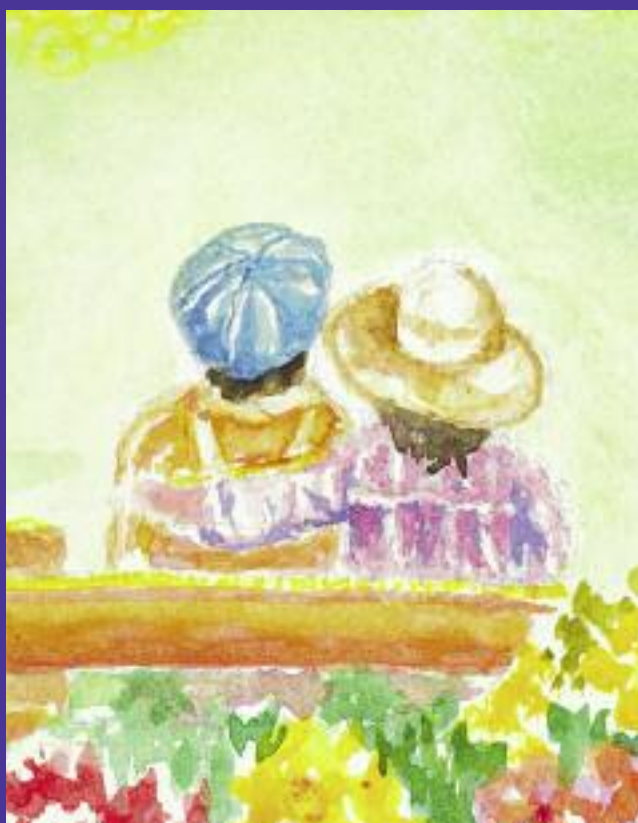


# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
ACROSS THE WORLD

December 2022 / 205



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*Dear artists, dear ladies and gentlemen!*

*How quickly time passes! The end-of-year festivities are just around the corner! In this new information brochure, I would like to address several points:*

- *The next Delegates Assembly*
- *Future exhibitions*
- *World Mouth and Foot Painters' Day*
- *Submission of works*

*Next Delegates Assembly:*

*Our next Delegates Assembly will take place during the month of July 2023 in Denmark, Copenhagen to be precise.*

*Exhibitions:*

*In order to promote our beautiful Association in the best possible way, I once again invite you to organise many exhibitions in your country, region and city. I ask you to give interviews and talk to visitors on the occasion of these events to make us as well known as possible.*

*World Mouth and Foot Painters' Day:*

*As every year, we celebrated World Mouth and Foot Painters' Day on 5 September. Once again this year you have been very active in spreading your messages, videos and pictures on social media. I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart. This contributes to our very existence! I am already looking forward to 5 September 2023!*

*Submission of works:*

*You all know that in order to follow your artistic development, the Association asks you to submit at least 15 works over a three-year period, i.e. at least five pictures per year. However, if you are prevented from painting by any obstacle in your daily life, we would be grateful if you could inform us or, if applicable, your publishing house of this impediment by letter, email or medical confirmation. This way, the jury will know when they meet to re-evaluate your performance for your scholarship*



**VDMFK President Serge Maudet from France.**

*or contract and can take these circumstances into account.*

*Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the work of publishing houses all over the world who work exclusively for our Association and help us to distribute our works in various forms. I hope you enjoy reading our information brochure and wish you, dear artists, publishers and members of the Association team, happy end-of-year festivities!*

*With artistic greetings,*

*Serge Maudet  
President of VDMFK*



# Miscellaneous

The mouth painter Carl Ernst Fischer (Cefischer) from Germany made a name for himself with his

caricatures and the picture stories of the cat "Oskar". These were also published in book form. We show

two of these cartoons on this page.



*The cartoon "Das Scherzfeuerzeug" (The Joke Lighter). A spontaneous reaction to the question "Do you have a light?".*



*"Federwechsel" (Changing Feathers) - A caricature in which the artist's humour is particularly expressed.*





Luigi Calloni (Full Member/Italy), "The Snowman", oil, 40x30 cm.



# Artists' activities

## ARGENTINA

### **Barcia, Cesar Andres** (Scholarship Holder)

- Cesar Andres Barcia was invited by UCES Arte, the art department of the University of Business and Social Sciences, to organise a personal exhibition in the University's exhibition hall in Buenos Aires. The exhibition was open from 8 to 26 August 2022. "I am very happy with this exhibition, it took place in a wonderful art space. In addition, the exhibition was viewed by many visitors, both University staff and people who only visited the exhibition", in the artist's words.

Furthermore, Cesar Andres Barcia participated in the first exhibition of inclusive art called 'Mirarte', organised by the Fundación Festival Arte Inclusivo. This took place in Enrique Udaondo Museum in the city of Luján. Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member) and Agostina Antonella Semaan (Scholarship Holder) also took part in this exhibition. The



***Cesar Andres Barcia held a solo exhibition in August 2022 in the art department of the University of Business and Social Sciences at the invitation of UCES Arte.***

works were on display from 19 August 2022 to 10 September 2022. On 27 August 2022, the three artists were invited to paint live. Additionally, Cesar Andres Barcia participated in the XXXI Salón for plastic art in Buenos Aires,



which is a competition and an art exhibition. His work was chosen by the jurors from 54 artists to be exhibited at the opening at the Centro Cultural Cosmopolita on 10 September 2022.

## BRAZIL

### **Borges, Gonçalo** (Associate Member)

- Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges participated in the collective exhibition 'Pan Techné Brasília' with his artwork, which took place in June at the 'Centro Cultural da Cidade de Brasília' in Brasília. At the same location, a collective exhibition on the topic of 'Colorin the Winters' was held in June 2022, at which he also exhibited his paintings. In addition, he showed his works at the SINAP/AIAP collective exhibition, which took place in June at the 'Centro Cultural da Cidade de Mogi Mirim' in São Paulo. A highlight of his artistic creation took place even earlier, however, from 2 to 20 February 2022. During this time, he held a solo exhibition with the title '55 years of an artistic career'. This took place at the Space for Art, Culture and Design in São Paulo.



***With a solo exhibition, Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges looked back on 55 years of artistic work.***

### **Chagas, Maria Goret** (Associate Member)

- Maria Goret Chagas held a solo exhibition from 30 May to 10 June 2022 in the Legislative Assembly of the State of São Paulo. This took place in partners-

hip with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Arts, History and Literature. The title of the exhibition was 'Creative skills and brushstrokes with heart'. Additionally, the artist participated in a collective exhibition in the building of the Association of Judges and Prosecutors of São Paulo from 24 May to 5 June 2022. The title was 'Art between colours and contours'.



***Maria Goret Chagas at her solo exhibition.***

# Artists' activities

## CHINA

### Huang, Guofu (Associate Member)

- Guofu Huang held an exhibition of his paintings and calligraphy in the sports hall for persons with disabilities in Shizishan Sports Park, Jiangbei District, Chongqing. In total, he exhibited more than 80 works from 40 years of painting and calligraphy. "With this exhibition, I hope that I can share the energy of foot painting, so that the observers forget unpleasantness, embrace the positive energy of the sun, come out of the shadows and see the family happy, which is the purpose of my calligraphy



and painting exhibition", in the words of the foot painter.

## ESTONIA

### Tael, Allar (Scholarship Holder)

- Allar Tael opened a solo exhibition at the University of Tartu Pärnu College in



September 2022. The exhibition received a very warm welcome. His paintings were exhibited at the University for two months.

## FINLAND

- An exhibition was held in Finland to commemorate the Full Member Anja Hämäläinen-Numminen, who passed away in November 2020. Her works from when she began painting in the late fifties until her death were exhibi-

ted. The exhibition took place at the Yrjö Liipola Art Museum in Koski, where Anja Hämäläinen-Numminen was born. In the seventies to eighties, she participated in joint exhibitions with other artists there, but never organised her own exhibition.





# Artists' activities

## INDONESIA

### Agus, Yusuf (Associate Member)

- Yusuf Agus participated in a collective exhibition with his works from 4 to 17 July 2022. The exhibition took place at the Aston Madiun Hotel and was opened by the manager Mira Kiranasasi. It was met with great interest by the hotel guests and also the public: Many visitors came to view the works of the exhibiting artist. He also had the opportunity of presenting the hotel manager with a piece of artwork. (See image)



## INDONESIA

### Amanatullah, Muhammad (Scholarship Holder)

- Muhammad Amanatullah had the opportunity of participating in an event at the Gresik town hall on 24 September 2022, at which social support for aid for persons with disabilities, people with low income and elderly people was distributed. At this event, he gave a painting demonstration and attracted attention, including that of the Deputy Regent of Gresik, Ms Aminatun Habibah. (See image)



## INDONESIA

### Subadri, Sabar (Associate Member)

- Sabar Subadri was invited by the 'Mount Horeb Church' of Salatiga to give a painting demonstration and a motivational seminar on the topic 'My talent and my interest' on 26

August 2022. This seminar was held by the church with regard to the ill effects of information technology, such as smartphones, on the younger generation.





# Artists' activities

## ITALY

### Guarise, Lorena (Scholarship Holder)

- Lorena Guarise held a solo exhibition with the title 'Guardare Oltre...' (Look beyond the horizon) on 15/16 October 2022 in Legnano. For Lorena Guarise, who held her first exhibition over 20 years ago, this was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate her willpower and her will to live as well as her artwork.



## CROATIA

### Perkovic, Stjepan (Scholarship Holder)

- Stjepan Perkovic participated in the well-attended Festival of Equal Opportunities, which took place from 7 to 9 June 2022 for the 20th time, in the central square of the city of Zagreb. This is a meeting of people with disabilities who have the opportunity to demon-

strate their skills and their art during the three days of the festival. Around 600 people with disabilities and another 300 supporters took part. They included VDMFK **Scholarship Holder Alen Kasumovic**. The space itself was divided into three areas – art, a music stage and sport. Stjepan Perkovic exhibited his latest works, which were met with great interest by the passers-by and the media.



## CROATIA

### Kasumovic, Alen (Scholarship Holder)

- Alen Kasumovic received a great honour. He was a guest on the Croatian television morning show. During the TV programme, he spoke about his art, his painting and his life. Furthermore, he will be given the honour of showing his works to a large public at a collective exhibition in Zürich, the largest city in Switzerland.



**Stjepan Perkovic (left) and Alen Kasumovic at the Festival of Equal Opportunities in Zagreb, in which they participated with their works and were met with great interest.**

# Artists' activities

## MEXICO

### Escalante, Rosa Maria de Guadalupe (Scholarship Holder)

- Rosa Maria de Guadalupe Escalante took part in the collective exhibition 'Trazos y lienzos de vida' (Lines and canvases of life), which took place on 14 August 2022 at a watercolours museum.

## POLAND

### Sapinska, Agnieszka (Scholarship Holder)

- Agnieszka Sapinska held a solo exhibition from 30 September to 4 November 2022 at the community centre of Zabia Wola, which was a great success. Numerous visitors viewed the works.

## SPAIN

### Planells, Francisco Javier (Scholarship Holder)

- Javier Francisco Planells organised a collective exhibition, in which he participated with three of his works from 10 to 24 May 2022. At this event held in Valencia, 36 paintings by mouth and foot painters were presented. This exhibition bore the name 'Art and overcoming'.

## PHILIPPINES

### Tongco, Julius (Scholarship Holder)

- Julius Tongco held an art exhibition on 10 October 2022, in Alturas Mall in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. The aim of the exhibition was to promote Philippine culture through visual art. The project was co-presented by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The vision of 'ManilArt' is to make the Philippines a leading art centre in Asia. In 2022, the visual Boholano artists will be part of the ManilArt exhibition via a satellite exhibition on site and an online exhibition.



*Janice Penny Oman (deceased Associate Member/Canada), 'This side of the fence', watercolours, 49x31 cm.*





*Jung Eon Hwang (Associate Member/South Korea), 'Couple on bench in flowering park', watercolours, 29x23 cm.*

# New Full Members

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## SOUTH KOREA

### Park, Jong Kwan

**Date of birth: 4 November 1959**

**Place of birth: Chungnam Onyang**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

**Associate Member since: 1994**

Jong Kwan Park had an accident at work in 1986 in which his fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae were fractured. He has been a quadriplegic since then and can no longer move his hands. He spent four years in hospital after the accident. It was during this period when he was seeking a new direction for his life that he met a professor who taught him how to paint. This motivated him to begin mouth painting himself. Through television, he found out about the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World. He received a VDMFK scholarship in 1993, which pro-



***Mouth painter Jong Kwan Park from South Korea will become a Full Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2023.***

vided him with the opportunity to intensify his mouth painting. One year later he became an Associate Member of the Association. Jong Kwan Park most loves to paint still lifes of flowers, in original compositions. He also paints landscapes and animal subjects in intense colours and abstract form, primarily using the technique of oil painting. The mouth painter has won a number of painting competitions with his works. Additionally, he has participated in over 70 joint exhibitions.

## TAIWAN

### Tung, Fu-Tsai

**Date of birth: 19 February 1963**

**Place of birth: Chong Ho City**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

**Associate Member since: 2011**

Fu-Tsai Tung was born on 19 February 1963. At the age of 20, on 2 September 1983, he had an injury while diving. He was admitted to the hospital in Taipei, where he was informed after three months of treatment that he would remain paralysed for the rest of his life. This diagnosis resulted in Fu-Tsai Tung losing his joy in life for several months. This changed when he began to paint with his mouth in 1993 and greatly enjoyed it. Just one year later, he became a Scholarship Holder of the Association. Since 2011, he has been an Associate Member of the VDMFK. His preferred motifs include flowers, landscapes and still lifes. He uses oil paints for this. He has participated in numerous exhibitions in Taiwan, and the press

has also reported on the artist several times.



***Fu-Tsai Tung will become a Full Member of the VDMFK family from 1 March 2023.***



# New Full/Associate Members

## USA

### Paré, Mariam

**Date of birth: 1 December 1975**

**Place of birth: Kenitra**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

**Associate Member since: 2016**

Mariam Paré was born in Morocco in 1975. From there, she moved to the USA with her family when she was still a young child. At the age of 20, she was the victim of an armed confrontation, which left her quadriplegic. Before her injury, Mariam Paré was an aspiring artist and studied art. During a therapy session, she was taught to write her name with her mouth. She soon adapted to this painting technique and enthusiastically began to teach herself to paint with her mouth. Since 2006, she has been a Scholarship Holder of the Association. In 2016, she became an Associate Member of the Association. In 2003, Mariam Paré went back

to college to obtain a bachelor's degree in Studio Art. Over the following years, she developed as a mouth painting artist, participated in national exhibitions and showed her works in private galleries. As her involvement in art and in groups of persons with disabilities grew, she began to share her message of perseverance with an audience from all over the world by means of television appearances, news items and newspaper reports. Mariam Paré now works in her studio in Chicago. She paints her works of art, which depict diverse motifs, in oils, acrylics and in modern mixed media. Additionally, she works in cooperation with other artists in the areas of videography and photography.



***Mariam Paré from the USA will receive the status of Full Member of the Association on 1 March 2023.***

### New Associate Member

## ISRAEL

### Cohen, Shely

**Date of birth: 21 November 1966**

**Place of birth: Haifa**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

**Scholarship Holder since: 2008**

Shely Cohen was born in Haifa on 21 November 1966. At the age of 18, a few months before beginning her military service, she was involved in a serious traffic accident on her way home from work. The driver lost control of the wheel and his vehicle overturned. Shely Cohen was a passenger and injured her C4 - C5 cervical vertebrae, resulting in permanent paralysis of her upper and lower limbs. After a very long rehabilitation process, she completed her school education, participated in a programming course and completed a degree in film studies at the Open



***Mouth painter Shely Cohen from Israel will become an Associate Member of the VDMFK on 1 March 2023.***

University in Tel Aviv . She also studied the realisation and management of events in the Levinsky Seminar, learnt Spanish and the composition of children's books. In 2007, she laid the foundation stone for mouth painting. She found great enjoyment in it and made considerable progress in a very short time.

# New Scholarship Holders

**The following mouth and foot painters will be supported as Scholarship Holders by the Association from 1 March 2023.**

## BRAZIL

### Correia da Silva, Carlos Matheus

**Date of birth: 26 November 1995**  
**Place of birth: Magé**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Carlos Matheus Correia da Silva was born in Magé on 26 November 1995. In 2014, at the age of 18, he and a friend decided to cool off in the sea. They jumped off a pier into the water. His friend reappeared unharmed. Carlos Matheus Correia da Silva, however, hit his head on a sandbank and did not resurface. After his rescue, Matheus spent 92 days in the hospital's intensive care unit. During rehabilitation treatments, he met the two VDMFK Scholarship Holders Thiago Ribeiro Santos and Luciano Alves dos Nascimento. His friends encouraged him to learn to paint with his mouth. Thiago Ribeiro's caregiver also became aware of Carlos and was concerned about his condition. Janaina from the Brazilian publishing house then visited him personally and indeed found a completely neglected person. She then started to visit him more often to take care of him. Finally, one day Janaina decided to adopt Carlos Matheus Correia da Silva. Since then, he has attended painting classes with an art teacher known to the publisher. He got all the painting material from the family of the late artist Denyson Lopes.

### Ferreira dos Santos, Wender

**Date of birth: 3 May 1987**  
**Place of birth: Jaraguá**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Wender Ferreira dos Santos was born in Jaraguá on 3 May 1987. He has been a paraplegic since the age of 13 after being hit by a car on his way to work.

After the accident, he almost did not leave the house because he struggled to sit in a wheelchair for long periods of time. That is why he stayed away from school for many years. When the accident happened, he was in grade 7 of primary school. Thanks to the support of his mother and friends, he now has autonomy despite his limitations that seemed impossible for someone in his condition at the time. He returned to school in 2010. Thanks to his strong school results, he received a 100% scholarship to ProUni, a private university. He wanted to study social sciences in college, but this was not possible because of his mobility problem. After these events, he decided to take some time off. However, he soon realised that idleness bored him. He found painting through an encounter with the Brazilian Scholarship Holder Gilverson dos Santos Dias.

### Gonzales Rocha Souza, Ricardo

**Date of birth: 10 September 1981**  
**Place of birth: Rio de Janeiro**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Ricardo Gonzalez Rocha Souza was born in Rio de Janeiro on 10 September 1981. Shortly before his 16th birthday, he had a car accident. Ricardo Gonzalez Rocha Souza became a quadriplegic, which changed his life and that of his closest family members. He was at a grammar school at the time and had to interrupt his studies for the time needed for clinical and psychological recovery. After this period, thanks to a lot of dedication, personal faith and the help of family and friends, Ricardo Gonzalez Rocha Souza was able to resume some of his activities, restructure his life goals and set new goals and dreams. Between 2002 and 2006, he graduated from high school and completed his studies in life sciences. Ricardo Gonzalez Rocha Souza got to know the VDMFK many years ago through Christmas cards and later through meetings with friends. These friends, including Marcelo da Cunha (Associate Member) and Luciano Alves dos Nascimento (Scholarship Holder)

have always encouraged him to enter this wonderful universe of art. During the Covid pandemic, he decided to dedicate himself to mouth painting and now he wants to focus on this new life goal that he believes fills his heart.

### Portella Santos, Leandro Augusto

**Date of birth: 11 February 1981**  
**Place of birth: Osasco**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Leandro Augusto Portella Santos was born on 11 February 1981 in the town of Osasco. When he was five years old, he moved with his family to a ranch in Araçoiaba da Serra, where his grandparents already lived. At the age of 17, during an excursion with his family, Leandro went to the beach in Ubatuba to ride a sea wave. He is unable to explain what happened next, but after the dive, his body was completely paralysed and floating with his head in the water. One of his brothers, noticing that something was wrong, ran to help him. It took one and a half hours until the rescue arrived and took him to the nearest emergency room. However, Leandro Augusto Portella Santos was soon transferred to the Hospital das Clínicas in São Paulo. He was treated there for another six months, and received a tracheostoma. At a later stage, an operation took place. During his time at the Hospital das Clínicas, he met our Scholarship Holder Eliana Zagui, who lives there. He was encouraged to paint with his mouth by his mother and his girlfriend. Soon a former art teacher at the college offered to give him painting lessons. They organised several exhibitions of his artwork and so he started to sell his paintings to earn extra income. Leandro Augusto Portella Santos studied public management and is now serving his second term as a councillor in his hometown. But he never abandoned painting. As his movements are limited, some students from the University of Engineering and Occupational Therapy have developed a kind of easel/scaffolding that serves as a structure for him to paint his canvases.



# New Scholarship Holders

## COLOMBIA

### Jaime, Fanny Consuelo

**Date of birth:** 20 May 1966

**Place of birth:** Boyacá

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Fanny Consuelo Jaime was born on 20 May 1966 in Boyacá, Colombia. She was born with Charcot-Marie-Tooth (also known as: CMT, hereditary motor sensory neuropathy, Morbus Charcot-Marie-Tooth). Until she was five years old, she could walk normally like all children. After that, the strength in her legs, hands and then arms began to fade. Thanks to her mother and sister, she was able to overcome this difficult time. Despite these health problems, she completed her undergraduate studies and gave birth to a daughter. She suddenly discovered her talent for painting. She has learned no technique and only paints what her eyes or her friends see. That is why she gave one of her paintings the title "Wonderful Family"

### Lozano Buitrago, María del Rosario

**Date of birth:** 22 May 1974

**Place of birth:** San Andrés

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

María del Rosario Lozano Buitrago was born on 22 May 1974 in San Andrés. She suffers from muscular dystrophy and is in a wheelchair. She lives with her sister and niece in Moniquirá Boyacá. Painting is the best thing for her because she can learn from it every day. Art like painting is graphic representation with pigments mixed with other ingredients and together with her teacher she wants to learn more about this beautiful art.

### Pacheco Herrera, Angel David

**Date of birth:** 6 March 2009

**Place of birth:** A town in Venezuela

**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Angel David Pacheco Herrera was born without arms on 6 March 2009 in Venezuela. Since his feet are healthy, he has no problems finding his way in life. Unfortunately, his father died when Angel David was three months old. He received support from his mother and two brothers. As there were no opportunities to develop further due to the economic situation in Venezuela, they moved to Arauca in Colombia. The school headmaster arranged a place for him in his school, so Angel David Pacheco Herrera had the opportunity to study in Arauca. There he also met his piano teacher, who continued to teach him through paid video calls. He also took his first steps in art there. He then moved with his mother to Bogotá, where he found a painting teacher who taught him the basic techniques. YouTube videos also help him to learn different techniques.

### Salamanca Sarmiento, John Stewart

**Date of birth:** 24 October 1984

**Place of birth:** Guayabal de Síquima

**Painting technique:** Mouth and foot painter

John Stewart Salamanca Sarmiento was born in Guayabal de Síquima on 24 October 1984. At the age of 13, he lost his arms when a power line fell on him. After losing his arms, he was also hit by a motorbike and broke his left foot in six places and his hip on the right side. Before this accident, he worked as a public bus attendant and earned some extra money. Since then, life has become complicated for him in many ways, but he can take good care of himself. John Stewart Salamanca Sarmiento graduated from high school and studied graphic design for one semester. He loves to draw. Some of his favourite hobbies are listening to music and swimming. Sometimes he has to travel

in his wheelchair to other nearby towns to earn a living by selling his drawings. John Stewart Salamanca Sarmiento hat Abitur gemacht und ein Semester Grafikdesign studiert. Er liebt es zu zeichnen. Einige seiner Lieblingshobbys sind Musik hören und schwimmen. Manchmal muss er in seinem Rollstuhl in andere, nahe gelegene Städte fahren, um seinen Lebensunterhalt durch den Verkauf seiner Zeichnungen zu verdienen.

### Vivas Olachica, Karol Dayana

**Date of birth:** 26 September 2006

**Place of birth:** Villavicencio

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Karol Dayana Vivas Olachica was born on 26 September 2006 in Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia, with a rare disease called arthrogryposis multiplex congenita. Due to this disease, she had to undergo several operations. Thanks to her mother, she discovered a passion for painting with her mouth. She received painting lessons at a foundation. A few years later, she met the VDMFK Scholarship Holder Fidel Serapio Blas Balderas from Mexico City. He was in their town to talk about his disability. Since Karol Dayana Vivas Olachica and Blas Balderas have the same disease, they quickly started a conversation, where he told her all about the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World.

## GREAT BRITAIN

### Lockington, Joseph

**Date of birth:** 21 March 1997

**Place of birth:** Solihull

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Joseph Lockington was born in Solihull on 21 March 1997. In 2012, at the age of 14, he suffered a spinal cord infarction, which left him paralysed from the neck down and unable to breathe on

*Continued on page 16*

# New Scholarship Holders

his own. He took up mouth painting in April 2020 during the first Covid-19 lockdown after his sisters encouraged him to take up his former hobby again. His passion for art came back after painting a "paint-by-numbers" lion and enjoying every moment of it. Since then, he has been practising drawing and painting with different types of media – his favourite being acrylics. He likes to paint landscapes and portraits of musicians such as David Bowie.

## INDIA

### Balasubramanian, M. B. Pranav

**Date of birth:** 12 November 1998  
**Place of birth:** Palakkad  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Pranav M. B. Balasubramanian was born without arms on 12 November 1998 in Palakkad, Kerala. His parents started teaching him to do small tasks with his feet at an early age. In primary school he learned to read and to write with his feet. His love of painting began when he saw his older brother's drawings. It was also his brother who taught him the basics of painting. Pranav M. B. Balasubramanian participated in several painting competitions and won various prizes. Exhibitions were organised with the help of an aid organisation, and paintings were also exhibited in his college. Pranav M. B. Balasubramanian prefers to paint with watercolours and acrylics, but pencil drawings are also part of his repertoire.

### Dey, Pralay

**Date of birth:** 15 January 2002  
**Place of birth:** Upaipur, Tripura  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Pralay Dey was born on 15 January 2002 in a small village in the north-eastern state of Tripura in India. Both his hands were non-functional from birth. Pralay Dey comes from a poor family, his father is a day labourer by profession and his mother is an Anganwadi wor-

ker. Although Pralay Dey's health improved in the early years, his father could not continue his son's medical treatment for financial reasons. Already in his childhood, Pralay learned to write with his feet. Parallel to his studies, he started painting with his feet. In the last 10 years, Pralay Dey has won many awards and recognitions at the state, national and international levels. With his poor financial background and medical dependencies, his artistic skills are his only source of livelihood in the future.

### Kanmony, S

**Date of birth:** 8 December 2000  
**Place of birth:** Kottayam  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Kanmony S was born without arms and with shortened legs on 8 December 2000 in Kottayam, Kerala. Kanmony completed her bachelor's degree in singing at the Sree Swathi Thirunal Govt. College. In addition to music, Kanmony S is interested in painting. She has already presented 250 paintings at various exhibitions. Kanmony S is the 2019 National Laureate for Outstanding Creativity, among others.

### Kuls, Ummal

**Date of birth:** 20 April 1988  
**Place of birth:** Alathur  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Ummal Kuls was born in Alathur on 20 April 1988 without arms and with legs of unequal length. Despite these physical challenges, she learned to draw and paint impressive pictures. Over the years, Ummal has painted more than 500 pictures. Even as a child, Ummal Kuls was very independent and learned to eat and drink with her feet alone, to comb her hair, apply mascara, cut vegetables and much more. However, her mother and sisters helped her with basic needs such as bathing, washing clothes, etc. She had to stop her studies when she was in the second grade because she had difficulties going to school. When her parents realised that

Ummal Kuls could hold a pencil with her foot, her father bought painting utensils for her to draw and paint fascinating pictures. Her everlasting passion for arts and crafts pushed her to paint more pictures. Her father died when she was 26. The miserable situation at home forced her to stop her creative work. Two years later, a family friend noticed Ummal Kuls' artistic abilities and introduced her to Green Palliative. This equipped her with more paints, papers, brushes and related materials and gave her guidance from professional artists. She resumed drawing and painting with full energy and joy.

### Kundal, Ayush

**Date of birth:** 27 April 1997  
**Place of birth:** Barwaha  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Ayush Kundal was born with cerebral palsy on 27 April 1997 in Barwaha district of Khargone Madhya Pradesh. He lives with his grandfather, his parents and his two younger sisters. His mother supports him in his everyday life. She also encouraged him to take up foot painting. When he posted on Twitter a sketch he had painted of Sir Amitabh Bachchan (internationally known Indian film actor), many people took notice and he was invited by the actor to meet him. After this successful experience, Ayush Kundal took part in various competitions and exhibitions.

### Sharma, Saraswati

**Date of birth:** 9 November 1981  
**Place of birth:** Rajasthan  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Saraswati Sharma was born with under-developed upper limbs in Rajasthan on 9 November 1981. Because her father ran a business in Nepal, Saraswati completed her education there from kindergarten to grade 11. Saraswati returned to Rajasthan for her further schooling. She completed her MA in English Literature and a Diploma in Fine Arts. She does her daily tasks like cooking, sewing, painting, etc. with her feet. She



# New Scholarship Holders

can also operate the computer and works as a data typist in Rajasthan. She has also participated in elections twice. Saraswati Sharma is very active in her free time and has already taken part in various competitions. In 2021, she participated in the UAE@50 "Arts Competition 2021" exhibition and also received an international certificate.

## IRAN

### Farkhondeh Khah, Masoumeh

**Date of birth: 12 June 1993**

**Place of birth: Mashhad**

**Painting technique: Foot painter**

Masoumeh Farkhondeh Khah was born without arms in Mashhad on 12 June 1993. She grew up with two sisters and two brothers. Since her childhood, Masoumeh Farkhondeh Khah has carried out all daily activities with her feet. She attended primary and secondary school for children with disabilities. Afterwards, she attended a regular school. Later, she studied photography and graphic arts. The artist has been painting professionally since 2019.

## POLAND

### Bronisz, Miłosz

**Date of birth: 13 September 2004**

**Place of birth: Poznań**

**Painting technique: Foot painter**

Miłosz Bronisz was born in Poznań on 13 September 2004 with a congenital defect called phocomelia. He lives with his family in Poznań and uses his feet every day, with which he also paints. He likes to try out different techniques, but mostly Miłosz Bronisz paints watercolours or oil paintings depicting nature. Painting gives him satisfaction and lets him relieve stress and forget the hustle and bustle of everyday life. He wants to study psychology to help people who are struggling with various problems. Painting and school are not the only

things that keep him busy, however. He runs a blog with a friend to test the disability-friendliness of various excursion options in Poznań.

### Salach, Stanisław Jan

**Date of birth: 17 July 2012**

**Place of birth: Warsaw**

**Painting technique: Foot painter**

Stanisław Jan Salach was born in Warsaw on 17 July 2012 with the complete absence of his upper limbs. He lives in Falenty, in the municipality of Raszyn near Warsaw. He attends primary school in Raszyn. He has been using his legs since birth, his feet replacing his hands in his daily activities. He painted with coloured pencils and paints from an early age. Thanks to Mr Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member of the VDMFK) who, like Stanisław Jan Salach, was born without hands, he became interested in painting. The time spent together, observing and learning how to function in life, led to an extraordinary bond between them. Participation in numerous meetings and exhibitions of Stanisław Kmiecik in schools, kindergartens and cultural institutions awakened the desire to deepen the art of painting and to create new pictures. Stanisław Jan Salach paints mainly with acrylics and uses acrylic markers to finish his works. Besides painting, his hobbies include football, reading, sports games and board games.

## SLOVENIA

### Lozar, Dominik

**Date of birth: 6 August 1999**

**Place of birth: Novo Mesto**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Dominik Lozar was born in Novo Mesto on 6 August 1999. He attended primary and secondary school in Crnomelj. In 2015, he was selected for the national handball team. On 3 January 2016, Dominik Lozar fell in the snow while playing in front of the house and sustained an injury to the fourth cervical vertebra. The fracture caused major damage to his spinal cord and left him a complete quadriplegic. The injury was followed by a year of treatments and rehabilitation. After the accident, he continued his education and finished grammar school with the school leaving examination. During recovery rehabilitation in 2019, he met a chess player who introduced him to chess, which he liked immediately. Thereafter, chess became a great hobby for him. In the summer of 2021, he took part in an art workshop in Novo Mesto in honour and memory of his friend Gregor Janežic. At that time, Benjamin Znidaršic, Full Member of the VDMFK, gave him Janežic Gregor's easel to paint on. Vojko Gašperut, Full Member of the VDMFK, invited him to try painting. After only a few paintings, he received many compliments, which motivated him to continue.

*Continued on page 18*

# New Scholarship Holders

## SPAIN

### López Martinez, Joaquin

**Date of birth:** 17 August 1947

**Place of birth:** Tarancón

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Joaquin López Martinez was born in Tarancón on 17 August 1947. He suffers from spondylometaphyseal dysplasia (congenital character), which causes bone and joint deformities. He lives in a care centre for the physically disabled (CAMF). Always an avid painter, Joaquin Lopez Martinez has made works in all pictorial techniques, including pyrography, and painting ceramics and silk. The development of his disease severely limited him and he became depressed because he could no longer participate in the activities he liked best. In 2020, he began to paint with his mouth, which improved his state of mind.

### Martinez Perez, Alba Maria

**Date of birth:** 2 October 2010

**Place of birth:** Albacete

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Alba Maria Martinez Perez was born in Albacete on 2 October 2010. When she was five years old, she was diagnosed with a rare disease called dystonia parkinsonism with rapid onset. She is treated once a month in a hospital in Barcelona. She cannot use her arms, so she uses her mouth and nose for all her tasks. The artist Florin Anghel (Scholarship Holder) visited her school, which motivated her to start mouth painting, and now she enjoys this activity very much. She is a very good student who gets very good grades at her school.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Joseph, Heiron Roneen

**Date of birth:** 30 November 1978

**Place of birth:** Springbok

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Heiron Roneen Joseph was born on 30 November 1978 in Springbok, Northern Cape, but grew up in a mining town, Nababeep, outside Springbok. After leaving school, he went to North Natal, where he studied engineering. After his studies, Heiron Roneen Joseph started working as a process expert. On 1 January 2005, he had a diving accident in Paternoster on the West Coast that paralysed him from the neck down. A few years later, he took up mouth painting after being introduced to it by his occupational therapist at the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre. His preferred medium is water-soluble oil on canvas. Having spent many years on the West Coast, Heiron Roneen Joseph has a great fondness for fishing villages or seascapes in general. He draws his inspiration from satisfied customers. He moved to the Durbanville Quad Centre in September 2020.

## USA

### Estrada, Francisco Javier

**Date of birth:** 20 March 1981

**Place of birth:** Los Angeles

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Francisco Javier Estrada was born on 20 March 1981 in East Los Angeles, California. He was still a teenager when he suffered a spinal cord injury in a drive-by shooting. At the hospital, he learned that he would be paralysed at the C4 level. The time at the Rehabilitation Center was difficult for him. He always had a talent for painting, but when a therapist told him about painting and drawing with his mouth, he thought she was just "delusional"! Francisco Javier Estrada learned to type and turn pages with a mouth stick. A

few years later, he was back at the medical centre with a pressure sore when one of the social workers started telling him the stories of other patients with similar injuries. He also brought a paint-by-numbers set. This picture lay on the table for a few days until it was finished. After that he was hooked, and he started to focus on what he could do, not on what he could not do. He began exhibiting his work at the "Art of Rancho", where he met Esvin Rodriguez and Ann Ruth, (VDMFK Scholarship Holders) and Robert Thome, (late Full Member). It was these great artists who told him about the VDMFK.

### O'Lone, Paul Joseph

**Date of birth:** 6 February 1968

**Place of birth:** Philadelphia

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Paul Joseph O'Lone was born in Philadelphia on 6 February 1968. He started his bodybuilding career at the age of 17 and loved the sport. Paul Joseph O'Lone has participated in over 60 bodybuilding competition shows. His greatest success was the title of Mr. North America in 1993. He was diagnosed with primary progressive multiple sclerosis in 1997. In 2001, he moved to the Bay Area, California to open an accessible personal training gym that focuses on all types of disabilities. Due to the 2020 Covid pandemic, he had to close his gym and could only focus on virtual online training. In 2021 he learned about painting sets, and although he could not use his hands, he tried to paint with his mouth, which worked. He has loved his new hobby ever since.

### Rankin, Jaime Leigh

**Date of birth:** 19 March 1987

**Place of birth:** Xenia, Ohio

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Jaime Leigh Rankin was born on 19 March 1987 in Xenia, Ohio. She is the proud mother of a daughter. She has been lucky enough to be with her partner Ryan since high school. Jaime Leigh Rankin has always needed some kind of



# New Scholarship Holders

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creative outlet. Professionally, this led her to “The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York”. After graduation, the young family moved to Orlando, Florida, where she had previously completed her culinary internship at The Ritz-Carlton. Her time there was abruptly interrupted when she could no longer return to work after an urgently needed back operation. Although this operation worked wonders on the degenerative disc disease at the age of 25, primary progressive multiple sclerosis was diagnosed afterwards. The lesions damaged her brain and tore through her spinal cord, causing irreversible damage with a variety of debilitating symptoms. She paints for her soul every day and it is hard work. Jaime Leigh Rankin started painting to create art for the people who matter most in her life. For her daughter’s 18th birthday, she made a sketchbook recounting the adventures and memories of her childhood. Lately, Jaime Leigh Rankin enjoys painting wildlife, pets, tropical plants, abstract statement pieces, calligraphy and the silhouette of Buddha. She is in the initial stages of teaching art therapy classes in groups.

# The significance of painting

**Below is the significance of painting for Wolfgang Vrbica, Full Member from Argentina.**

## What painting means to me

*It is difficult to explain something in words that defines itself with pictures and colours. How can I describe what came into my life by chance years ago? How can I say that everything began when I learnt that the VDMFK exists and that my aim since that time has been to paint?*

*To capture an idea with a picture, as hundreds of other artists all over the world do. To see the diverse works of Erich Stegmann, watercolours and oil paintings, drawings and engravings, the Christmas landscapes of Irene Schricker, full of innocence and imagination, the strong colours of Peter Moleved.*

*I asked myself whether I could be one of them one day. I am self-taught, and I learnt from the best painters and from their books discipline and*



**Wolfgang Vrbica from Argentina has been a Full Member of the VDMFK since 1999.**



**Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member/Argentina), 'Juegos', tempera, 50x40 cm.**

*patience, how to correct errors and to pay attention to details. They let me try out ideas and mix styles together, they gave me the freedom to play with time and form. Without me noticing, it became pleasant work, in which there was much to discover; I was allowed to travel and to show my paintings. I met other artists, art students and art lovers, learnt from their experiences, was allowed to speak before them and to tell them about my relationship with paintbrushes, paints and easels.*

*I found a new path I could follow; today is a challenge, a new colour on the palette and the feeling of allowing a picture that I have just drawn to become reality.*



# The significance of painting

*My most recent works are rural landscapes in the naïve style and Christmas illustrations. I am trying to evoke a feeling, add some imagination and highlight a scene to tell a short story from a fictional time.*

*In this way, we come to know ourselves better and better after so many years, everyone tries to give what they have: I have my curiosity and something nameless from inside me, and they have their paints, paintbrushes, charcoal and easels.*

Wolfgang Vrbica  
Full Member/Argentina



**Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member/Argentina),  
Advent, tempera, 50x40 cm.**



**Wolfgang Vrbica (Full  
Member/Argentina), 'Regalos',  
oils, 40x40 cm.**

## Vrbica, Wolfgang (Argentina)

Date of birth: 27 May 1951

Place of birth: Herretshofen, Germany

Full Member of the VDMFK since: 1999

Painting technique: Mouth painter

In July 1952, Wolfgang Vrbica moved to Argentina. He completed primary school and two years of secondary school there. He attended courses in English and Mathematics. At the age of 15, he was given an accountant apprenticeship in a textile company and was already performing administrative duties in this company at the age of 18.

In 1969, he suffered an accident at a stream. As a consequence, he was completely paralysed. Three years later, he began to teach himself to paint with his mouth.

Wolfgang Vrbica paints with oils, watercolours and tempera. He sometimes uses mixed media. He has a very unique style, greatly influenced by naïve art. His works are characterised by strong colours. They sometimes look like idyllic or fairy-tale landscapes. His paintings have been acknowledged with certificates and medals, awarded to him by the government, Congress, museums and

libraries, as well as rehabilitation centres.

In 1979, Wolfgang Vrbica was given a scholarship from the Association. This enabled him to exhibit his works publicly. He held numerous exhibitions in Argentina. He also participated in joint exhibitions in various countries. Furthermore, he gives lectures on the topic of art and disability, where he mostly speaks about personal experiences. He has frequently been interviewed by radio, television, newspapers and magazines at home and abroad and been filmed while painting or writing.

# We mourn for

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## CANADA

### Oman, Janice Penny

**Date of birth: 23 December 1955**

**Passed away on: 20 June 2022**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Janice Penny Oman participated actively in sport until she was in an accident in 1970 and remained paralysed from the neck down. At the age of 14, she moved to Edmonton to recover and to participate in rehabilitation therapy. Penny spent the following three years at the Glenrose School Hospital, where she gained her high school leaving qualifications. Years later, Janice Penny Oman began to paint with her mouth and submitted her work to the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. In 1978, she received a scholarship from the Association. The versatility of her landscapes originated in the motivation the artist found in the wonderful nature of her homeland - the Rocky Moun-

tains. In March 2000, Penny became an Associate Member of the Association. This gave her the opportunity to express her individual painting style. Janice Penny Oman subsequently studied at the University of Alberta and then attended courses in the adult education programme of the University of Alberta. She taught other people to develop their artistic talent and made her time available for school and hospital visits. As an active member of the community, Janice Penny Oman willingly made clear to others the obstacles faced by people with disabilities. She explained to them how important it is to remove unnecessary barriers. For several years, Penny was on the provincial committee for National Access Awareness Week, which aims to make society aware of the difficulties faced by people with disabilities, and she sat on other boards and committees.



***Janice Penny Oman passed away on 20 June 2022.***

## CANADA

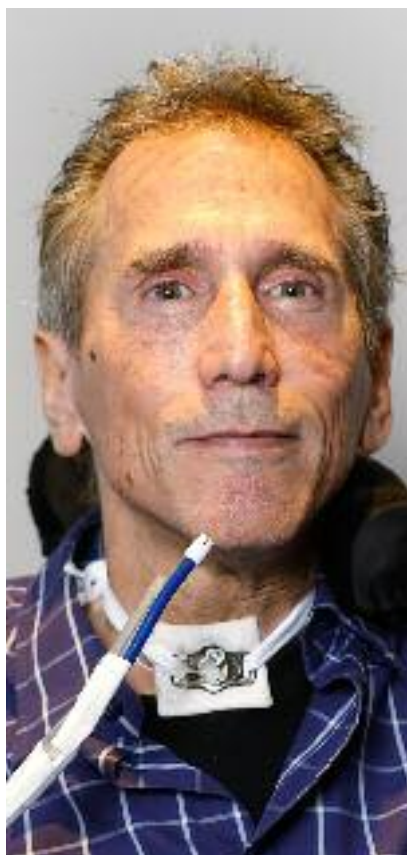
### Tresierra, Cody

**Date of birth: 12 September 1960**

**Passed away on: 1 July 2022**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Cody Tresierra was involved in a car accident at the age of 19, which he survived, but with serious injuries. Since that time, he was paraplegic. During his stay in hospital, he already came into contact with painting. It was part of his rehabilitation. During his first attempts at painting, he discovered that painting was not only a form of therapy, but also a good opportunity for creation in his future life. He therefore continued to occupy himself with mouth painting and with art in general, which was one of his hobbies, in addition to music, films and sport. In 1986, Cody Tresierra received a scholarship from the Association. Ten years later, he was given the status of Associate Member.



In 2000, he became a Full Member of the VDMFK. He displayed his works by means of numerous exhibitions, above all in his home, British Columbia. In addition, he participated in a number of Association exhibitions with his pictures.

***Cody Tresierra passed away on 1 July 2022. He had been a Full Member of the VDMFK since 2000.***



# We mourn for

## Deceased Scholarship Holders

### ARGENTINA

#### Gomez, Susana Beatriz

**Date of birth:** 5 July 1958

**Passed away on:** 20 July 2022

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Susana Beatriz Gomez was born on 5 July 1958 in Lomas de Zamora. She suffered from poliomyelitis. In 1986, she began mouth painting and had painting lessons with Ms Elena Jaime since then. The mouth painter participated in many exhibitions. The media also reported on the artist. Susana Beatriz Gomez was supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder from 1995. The artist passed away on 20 July 2022.

### BRAZIL

#### Corpo, Claudette

**Date of birth:** 15 June 1938

**Passed away on:** 15 September 2022

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Claudette Corpo was born on 15 June 1938 in São Paulo. At the age of four, she fell ill with poliomyelitis and was unable to use her arms or legs since that time. As occupational therapy, she began to paint and draw with her mouth at the age of 20 and learnt this skill by studying on her own. The artist participated in several successful exhibitions. She was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder from 2000. Claudette Corpo passed away on 15 September 2022.

### GERMANY

#### Schaible-Kaufmann, Renate

**Date of birth:** 12 June 1938

**Passed away on:** 24 September 2022

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Renate Schaible-Kaufmann was born with spastic paralysis. During the war period and post-war period, the severely disabled girl had no possibility of attending a school. Her mother taught her the fundamental concepts of reading, writing and arithmetic at home. At the age of seven, she learnt to write with a pen in her mouth and, at the same time, made her first attempts at drawing and painting. She enjoyed learning, developed many interests and would have most liked to be an archaeologist. Through problems with her hip joints that were not correctly recognised or treated medically, her ability to move was increasingly restricted, with a great deal of pain, from the age of 11. In an attempt to reduce her spasticity through brain surgery as a young woman, she suffered injuries to the language centre. Since that time, her pronunciation was largely incomprehensible for most people, which made it best for her to communicate in writing, using her computer. Since 1970, Ms Schaible-Kaufmann lived in a disabled residential community, which she was involved in founding together with her now deceased husband. In addition to reading, and reflection on many topics and issues of life, painting was one of her favourite pastimes. From 1964, Renate Schaible-Kaufmann was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder, which enabled her to be taught drawing and painting by an art teacher. For her watercolours, she preferred landscapes, flowers and still lifes, and time and again her favourite tree, the birch, in different seasons. Many of her pictures were distinguished by a special quality of light. Renate Schaible Kaufmann passed away on 24 September at the good age of 84.

### GREECE

#### Arvanitakis, Leandros

**Date of birth:** 3 September 1959

**Passed away on:** 25 September 2022

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Leandros Arvanitakis was born on 3 September 1959 in Nicosia (Cyprus). After finishing secondary school, he studied marine architecture and marine technology at the National Technical University of Athens and graduated in 1983. He also studied music at the Athens Conservatoire and participated in many concerts, among others. As Leandros Arvanitakis had always been interested in painting, he visited a painting studio and had painting and drawing lessons there for a year, and prepared for the entrance examinations to the Athens School of Fine Arts. One month before the examinations, in August 1991, he was involved in a traffic accident, which resulted in quadriplegia. His passion for art moved him to begin painting with a head holder, first of all, in 1998. From February 2000 onwards, he was painting with his mouth and was working continuously since then. He was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder from 2001. Leandros Arvanitakis passed away on 25 September 2022.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Loughnan, John

**Date of birth:** 18 April 1958

**Passed away on:** 27 August 2022

**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

John Loughnan was born on 18 April 1958 in the King Country in New Zealand. He attended a boarding school in Hamilton and then decided on a career in professional sport. Aged 16, he began to participate in water skiing competitions. John Loughnan participated in countless competitions, interna-

*Continued on page 24*

# We mourn for

tional championships and world cups. For 14 years, he held the New Zealand jump record in water skiing. In 1986, he started working on a farm in New Zealand. While driving in livestock, he had a motorcycle accident and broke his neck, resulting in quadriplegia. This did not, however, prevent him from remaining loyal to professional sport – as coach of the local and the New Zealand national team in water skiing. He also painted with his mouth, which led the VDMFK to grant him a scholarship from 1994. John Loughnan passed away on 27 August 2022.

## Yeatman, Laurette

**Date of birth: 10 December 1956**  
**Passed away on: 25 October 2022**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Laurette Yeatman was born on 10 December 1956 in Auckland. She used to be a professional dancer and spent ten years abroad, most of them in Japan. Shortly afterwards, she became a head chef. In 2006, she had a serious car accident. There were four people in the car, she was sitting behind the driver and the force of the impact hit her on the right side. She became a C4 quadriplegic and had no mobility from her chest and arms down. Among her hobbies and interests were music (opera, all types of dancing, some forms of sport, and art). After seeing an art class during her rehabilitation at the hospital, she fell in love with the idea of painting with the mouth herself. She had been painting since that time and enjoyed it very much, which led the Association to support her as a Scholarship Holder from 2009. Laurette Yeatman passed away on 25 October 2022.

## POLAND

### Szachewicz, Dorota

**Date of birth: 3 November 1961**  
**Passed away on: 19 September 2022**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Dorota Szachewicz was born on 3 November 1961. Since 1967, she was suffering from progressive muscular atrophy and was no longer able to perform any activities with her hands. She began to be interested in art in 1994 and started painting with her mouth under the guidance of the famous artist Andrzej Grzelachowski Aga. The mouth painter was able to participate in a number of exhibitions. This led the VDMFK to support her as a Scholarship Holder from 1998. Dorota Szachewicz passed away on 19 September 2022.

## SOUTH KOREA

### Heo, Hwan

**Date of birth: 20 February 1977**  
**Passed away on: 21 October 2022**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Hwan Heo was born on 20 February 1977 in Busan with cerebral palsy. In 1994, while he was still attending secondary school, he made his first attempts at painting with his mouth. His artistic talent led to him successfully completing a bachelor's and master's programme in art at Daegu University. He was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder from 2008. His favourite motifs were landscapes and animals in oils. The mouth painter often presented his works at solo and group exhibitions. Hwan Heo passed away on 21 October 2022.

## USA

### Steffany, Rudy

**Date of birth: 12 April 1971**  
**Passed away on: 14 January 2021**  
**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Rudy Steffany was born in Samoa. He graduated from Leone High School in 1989. He worked for the Plaza furniture store before he had a car accident. The artist was quadriplegic and his hands were more or less of no use to him; he was no longer able to hold anything. Rudy Steffany attended an art course at the Community College. The artist also had exhibitions. The VDMFK supported his painting with a scholarship from 1994. The artist passed away on 14 January 2021.





Francis Camilleri (Associate Member/Malta), 'Journey on the donkey's back', watercolours, 51x35 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.

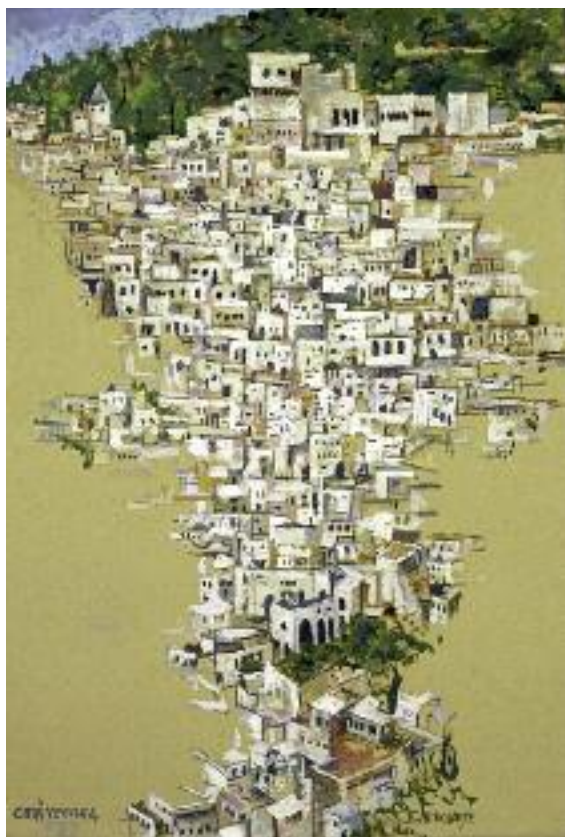


**Under the heading 'VDMFK personalities', we present mouth and foot painters who have rendered outstanding services to the Association in the over 60 years' history of the VDMFK. This time, we present former president Eros Bonamini from Italy. It was the tenth anniversary of his death in November 2022.**

Eros Bonamini was born on 20 December 1942 in Verona. He had a quiet childhood. He attended the technical school until a sports accident changed his life fundamentally. When diving, he injured his spine and was consequently bound to a wheelchair. During the long break due to the therapy and his new physical circumstances, he committed himself passionately to literature and classical music. In doing so, he also encountered painting, in which he completely immersed himself. Mouth painting became his main daily occupation. He learnt the techniques and fundamental aspects of art from various artists. As early as 1966, he became a Full Member of the Association, and in



***Eros Bonamini was President of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists from 2002 until he passed away in November 2012.***



***One of the best known works by Eros Bonamini. It depicts the old town of Fez in Morocco.***

1992, he was elected to the Board of the Association. In October 2002, Eros Bonamini became President of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World on the occasion of the general meeting in Lisbon. Eros Bonamini, who signed his pictures with his artist name 'Veronese', developed his great talent as a mouth painter in an astoundingly short time during a study programme with two professors. His fundamental artistic experience was the traditions of Cubism, which was expressed in his still lifes and landscapes. His artistic intellectuality is strongly evident in his compositions. From 1965, he exhibited his pictures at regular intervals in joint and solo exhibitions across the world. In this respect, it became quite common for him to receive excellent art criticism for his works. Eros Bonamini passed away on 4 November 2012.



# Health and care

**Below is a further piece under the heading 'Health and care', written this time by Paulus Ploier, Full Member from Austria.**

Staying healthy as an immunocompromised individual presents some challenges. But with a few small changes and new habits, you can lead a healthy life. The following seven tips help you to keep your immune system healthy all year round. Each of the tips can be easily modified, enabling you to adapt it to your lifestyle.

## **1. Practising exercises with a partner or carer**

Moving your body, increasing your heart rate and breaking a sweat are a great possibility for supporting your immune system, as well as your body and mind. Wheelchair users can choose from a series of exercises that can be adapted, from a simple walk outdoors, to swimming, weightlifting and team sports. Popular exercises for those who have little or no equipment at home include yoga, weightlifting while sitting and wheelchair dancing. Any activity that increases your heart rate is a good exercise option.

## **2. Healthy eating**

Healthy nutrition is always a good way to support a healthy body. Small adjustments in nutrition can help in the case of certain illnesses. For example, dairy products are known to increase mucus production. Many people feel better when they eliminate dairy products from their diet or reduce their intake. An overall healthy diet can include increasing water intake, reducing the intake of processed sugar and including fresh fruit and vegetables as part of every meal. There are many varieties of fruit and vegetables that can support the immune system. It is important to me to mention here that not everything is always 100% organic that is labelled as organic, but it is a very good decision to consume food grown organically. This is because it definitely has to be assumed that a great deal of food (par-



***Paulus Ploier, Full Member from Austria, provides seven tips for strengthening the immune system.***

ticularly fruit and vegetables) contains and is contaminated by pesticides. To process these toxins, your body has to use more energy. If it is necessary for you to take many different medicines, it is, of course, advisable when changing your diet to consult your general practitioner for professional guidance. It is very important that food is not an obligation and is not consumed in stress situations, but rather that it is able to be a significant ritual to consume food with enjoyment. Time should be made for this. All this together results in very healthy processing and absorption of energy and strength.

## **3. Vitamins and dietary supplements**

Since we all have physical limitations, additional vitamins and dietary supplements can provide great support. Please only make the decision of whether to

take them in consultation with your general practitioner. You can take omega 3 fats without any concerns, as these promote inflammation inhibition. Omega 3 can be taken as a vegetarian substance, i.e. from algae substances, or in the form of fish fats.

## **4. Spend time outdoors**

Another excellent way of staying healthy and supporting your immune system is to spend time outside. Even something as simple as sitting in the fresh air and letting yourself be warmed by the sun can help you to stay healthy not only physically, but also mentally. Time spent outdoors can encompass a hobby or a sport, but it can also be useful to connect with nature. Hobbies that can support the immune system include gardening, hiking, bird-watching or sports in a wheelchair outdoors. I think it's the same for some people as it is for

me. So I can honestly say that now and then in life, being bound to a wheelchair is a burden that doesn't put me in good spirits at all, but rather sometimes moves me to tears because it isn't a pleasant matter. In these stages of emotional strain, spending time outdoors and in nature always greatly helps to find a different outlook on life.

## 5. Reducing stress

It is known that the continuous load of your body being under too much stress can be damaging in every way and can also be a burden psychologically. This means that too much stress can trigger deep depressions, burn-out or other psychopathological disorders. The top priority would therefore be to reduce stress. Nevertheless, I would like to inform you of a very important scientific finding. People can cope with stress. In our society, in particular, stress in excess buries us almost like an avalanche. Professor Dr. Gerd Schnack established very clearly that it is not stress that makes us ill, but rather the breaks in-between that we don't take! I want to share this finding with you. I have experienced myself how, when you take plenty of breaks, treat yourself to good things, even if you have worked a lot, you can do a great deal of good for your soul and body.

## 6. Rest and sleep

The top priority is, of course, to take plenty of rest, if possible. Sleep is also blessed. Many of us have problems in this regard, which makes it particularly important to find your own rhythm, so that you are able to sleep with as few medicines as possible. In terms of calming down, I wish to mention that the latest scientific findings according to Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Aigner from the psychiatric ward in Tulln have shown that it is necessary to sleep only five hours within 24 hours. Even if these are not consecutive, there is no sleep disturbance. This is a clear insight showing that humans possess really gigantic abilities and strengths.

## 7. Personal mental and physical hygiene

I would like to summarise that all the abovementioned points regarding mental hygiene work supportively to keep you truly healthy. As concerns physical hygiene, it must be emphasised that, if we have open, vulnerable places on our body or have to regularly catheterize our bladder, we must ensure the highest level of hygiene. In particular, after visits to the doctor, hospital stays and also long periods spent in large stores, washing your hands is highly recommended. Nevertheless, it is important to me to mention and emphasise the following: We are born with a large share of bacteria, which help our resistance and the strengthening of our immune system. This means that when we spend time in nature, which is really very important, constantly washing our hands is not advisable, as these soaps and alcohol disinfectants destroy our pH value and natural bacteria that enter our body via normal dust in nature remain absent, preventing immunisation from taking place. Allergies then have more chance to develop. To make this understandable, I wish to mention some scientific work. As an expert for crisis accompaniment for babies, infants and families, I can underline that it has been established that babies come into contact with fewer bacteria via a Caesarean than in a natural birth. This is not a problem, as the same bacteria have been found on cowshed windows. This means that the dirt and the dust that accumulate in a cowshed are extremely important bacteria that can contribute to the human immune system. So, in summary: Dirt does not have to be a toxin!!

## Conclusion

I had a book with the title 'Make a celebration of your life!' I have never read this book but the title has been constantly with me, because I believe that, particularly when people's lives are not so easy and they have to live with many barriers and restrictions, it is extremely important to create successful experiences time and again (even if they are as

small as a glass of wine with your partner in the evening) and to enjoy them.



# Letters to the editor

**We publish below a newspaper report on Scholarship Holder Kyung Sik Lim, mouth painter from South Korea.**

**Beyond the rough waves, I am master of my own sea.**

*The studio of Kyung Sik Lim, a mouth painter. He pushes the wheel slightly and comes nearer. With a gentle smile, as if he came directly from a painting. He lives in two different worlds. In the one where he cannot leave his wheelchair, and in another, where he can swim in the canvas to his heart's content, like in the blue sea. It is as though the canvas causes him to oscillate, caresses his life and sharpens his paintbrush. He is now a member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, which has only twenty members in Korea. And he is an artist who inspires the world with his paintings.*

*The accident was totally unexpected. Since a car accident one autumn night in 1997, the then 20-year-old, who had dreamed of becoming a sports teacher, has been completely paralysed. For a long time, rage and despair tormented him like the claws of a wild animal. But however much he fought, his paralysed body did not move even a little. "For 13 years, I was only at home. Cut off from the whole world."*



*His family took care of him, supported him and bore all the costs alone. His mother, who had had a stroke four years previously, now looked after her adult son, although she herself had disabilities. "My mother looked so terribly weak and wretched. So I said something to her that you shouldn't really say: 'I want you to kill me.' But she replied, 'I love you, my son'."*

*One day he asked his mother to open the curtains. In the bright sunlight, the dusty desk, the pens and clothes hangers just looked too sad. He put a pen-*

*cil in his mouth and drew something crooked and distorted. But the act of painting breathed a new will to live into his injured soul. Since then, he has been painting for eight to nine hours a day. Just one year after he had returned to the world, a mouth painter exhibited one of Kyung Sik Lim's paintings in a group exhibition. "It was well received." In his mid-thirties and with little hope for the future, he stopped regretting having to sit in a wheelchair. It was true that his body was still not able to leave the wheelchair, but the whole world was open to his paintings. In summer 2013, the outside world finally reacted to his paintings. His first solo exhibition took place at the invitation of the Michuhol Library. He also made an appearance on the lecture platform 'Sebashi'. He now mostly paints turtles. "I wish to continue along this path like a turtle, even though turtles are quite slow. It would be nice if my paintings gave people courage. I hope that at least one person finds the flag of hope." A blue flag seemed to wave at us from behind his wheelchair.*







*Theresa Helen Matthias (Full Member/Canada), 'Timber Wolf', watercolours, 41x31 cm.*

# Publishers' activities

## BRAZIL

- The Brazilian publishing house participated in the 'Mega Artesanal', the largest trade fair for products and techniques for art in Latin America, with a large stall. Various mouth and foot painters from Brazil were present and gave painting demonstrations. The event took place from 26 to 29 October 2022, and the following artists took part: **Gonçalo Borges (Full Member) and the Scholarship Holders José Marcos dos Santos, Eusulemia Vieira, João Paulo Fontenel, Daniel Ferreira, Severino Monteiro, Ivanildo Gomes, Marcos Paulo Machado and Arthur Hirche.** Over the four days of the event with over 400 exhibitors, the visitors numbered more than 80,000.



*The Brazilian publishing house participated in the 'Mega Artesanal', the largest trade fair for products and techniques for art in Latin America, at which artists also gave painting demonstrations.*

## BRAZIL

- On 17 August 2022, the Brazilian publishing house participated in the opening of an exhibition, organised by the Marine Corps in honour of the 200th anniversary of independence in Rio de Janeiro. Many of Brazil's mouth and foot painters produced paintings specifically for this event and several of them received special awards: These included: **Daniela Cristina Caburro** Hors Concours award; **Marcelo da Cunha** silver medal; **Marcos Paulo Machado** bronze medal; **Jefferson Maia** bronze medal; **Adolfo Simões de Oliveira Neto** bronze medal; **Luciano Alves** honourable mention; **Eusulemia Vieira** honourable mention. The exhibition lasted from 17 August to 20 September 2022. Paintings by the following artists were exhibited:

**Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member), Gonçalo Borges (Associate Member), Marcelo da Cunha (Associate Member) and by the**

**Scholarship Holders Daniela Cristina Caburro, Marcos Paulo Silva Macahado, Jefferson Maia Figueira, Adolfo Simões de Oliveira Neto, Luciano Alves, Eusulemia Rufino Vieira, Aline Korb Mendes, Bárbara Corrêa da Silva, Carlos Eduardo Fraga, Daniel Rodrigo Ferreira da Silva, Danielle Dias de Souza, Débora Ferreira dos Santos, Eduardo Melo, Eliana Zagui, Ivana Bandeira, Ivanildo Gomes, Jadir Raymundo, João Paulo da Silva Fontenele, Leandro Camargo, Lucas Abreu, Márcio Alcântara, Ronaldo Cupertino, Thiago Ribeiro and Victor Santos.**



*The painting demonstrations were met with great interest by both the organisers and the visitors.*



# Publishers' activities

## GERMANY

- The publishing house in Germany was able to hold its traditional workshop again after two years' break due to Covid 19. From 22 to 27 August 2022, the German **Full Members Thomas Kahlau and Antje Kratz, the Associate Member Markus Kostka and the Scholarship Holders Selma Aman, Waldemar Merz and Werner Mittelbach** met in Regensburg. This was the first time that this German city was the location for the workshop. As in the past, the famous Berlin artist Monika Sieveking was successfully sought as a painting teacher and she mastered this task with great passion and commitment. This year's workshop had no given topic, which gave the mouth and foot painters great freedom to refine new techniques or to tackle an otherwise unfamiliar subject. Since all the artists had already exchanged views with Monika Sieveking prior to the workshop, she was able to prepare intensively for the individual participants. After three days of concentrated work, it was time for a special highlight – the mouth and foot painting artist publishing house celebrated its 25th anniversary.



***The participants in the workshop of the German publishing house, which was able to be held this year after a two-year interruption due to Covid 19.***

On this occasion, a river cruise was taken. VDMFK Managing Director Mario Famlonga, Sonja Rasberger and Christian Holzner from the VDMFK office and the staff from the Stuttgart publishing house were on board. The destination was the well-known Weltenburg Abbey with its baroque church and the oldest monastery brewery in the world. After a wonderful trip, past the impressive Danube Gorge, the artists relaxed fully and enjoyed the

beautiful beer garden of the monastery in the shade of huge chestnut trees and the refreshing coolness from the monks' brewing kettles. After a further two days of the course, during which the participants also realised pictorially what they had learned in previous years, such as composition or constructing a picture, the resulting paintings were discussed and commended. The lovely days came to an end with a relaxed barbecue evening.



***Scholarship Holder Selma Aman at the workshop.***



***Scholarship Holder Werner Mittelbach completing his artwork.***



***Painting teacher Monika Sieveking gives Full Member Antje Kratz***



# Publishers' activities

## FRANCE

- The French publishing house was able to hold its traditional workshop again after a three-year break. It took place from 19 to 25 June 2022 in Domaine de Port aux Rocs in Le Croisic, Loire-Atlantique. The artists took great joy in meeting again. From the very first day, the workshop had fulfilled its purpose of rediscovering oneself, exchanging views and learning. As always, the aim was to improve or introduce techniques, to be more creative and to expand every participant's possibilities. The themes were seasons and landscapes.



*The participants (from left to right): Joseph Martins, Henri-Claire Hembert, Christine Minet, Arnaud Dubarre, Szilvia Vari and VDMFK President Serge Maudet.*

## NORWAY

- The Norwegian publishing house held an open day on its premises on 12/13 November 2022. This was accompanied by an exhibition. In addition, puzzles, art cards, drawing books and colouring books, etc. were available. For this occasion, **VDMFK Board Member Tom Yendell** travelled to Norway, and also gave a demonstration of his foot painting, which was met with great interest. The mouth painter Wenche Løseth was also present. As part of the exhibition, 88 works by 21 artists from 13 countries were presented. The visitors were impressed by the artists and the quality of their work.



*VDMFK Board Member Tom Yendell (left) and the Norwegian Scholarship Holder Wenche Løseth were present at the exhibition.*



*The painting demonstration by Tom Yendell was met with amazement.*



*88 works by 21 artists from 13 countries were shown at the exhibition.*

## SWITZERLAND

- The art publisher Au in Switzerland looks back on two significant events in 2022.

**1.)** St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences organised its cultural cycle 'Contrast' again after the Covid 19 interruption. This cultural cycle is an exceptional platform of the University and gives artists with disabilities extraordinary access to various cultural fields. The cultural cycle 'Contrast', which took place for the ninth time, placed artistic work at its centre and was also intended to contribute to active inclusion. The cultural cycle was opened on 25 October 2022 by Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Yvonne Gassmann, Head of the Department of Social Work, and Prof. Stefan Ribler, Lecturer for Social Work. Bracha Fischel and Antoine Leisi were welcomed as artists. On the University premises, 80 works by Swiss and international artists were subsequently displayed until the end of November 2022.

**2.)** The online seminar series by the art publisher Au entered the next round with workshops no. 3 and no. 4. With the title 'The journey continues', the art publisher Au continued its training programme and welcomed the Scholarship Holders **Bracha Fischel, Antoine Leisi and Lea Otter (Austria) as well as Lars Höllerer (Full Member/Germany)** again. As the specialist objectives and learning content for the series of courses, the topic 'Certainty about decision making in choosing a motif and its realisation' was formulated in order to find suitable motifs. Following their own painting style, every artist was to develop their personal profile and, based on this, to realise the gradual development of a painting until the final product. The image themes for selection were landscapes, portraits, Easter, Christmas, in winter, and motifs of famous artists.



*The two Swiss Scholarship Holders Bracha Fischel (front) and Antoine Leisi (sitting) at the cultural cycle of St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences.*



*On the University premises, 80 works by Swiss and international artists were exhibited.*



*The online seminar series entered the next round with workshops 3 and 4. The photo shows Bracha Fischel, Scholarship Holder from Switzerland.*

