

# VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS  
ACROSS THE WORLD

October 2023/206



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*Dear artists,  
dear ladies and gentlemen,*

*At the beginning of July, I had the honour of hosting the 15th Delegates' Convention of this wonderful Association in Copenhagen, the capital of the Kingdom of Denmark and hometown of the two mouth painters Ruth Christensen and Ann-Lund Wahlberg! An entire four years have passed since the last Delegates' Convention. If someone had told me that at the time, I would have said they were crazy. An extremely dangerous virus spreading around the world at lightning speed or a horrific neighbouring war at the edge of Europe were beyond imagination at the time. Two terrible events that have affected the fate of millions of people and caused countless suffering and misery.*

*Who would have thought in the midst of the digitalisation process that millions of customers would still enjoy authentic greeting cards and calendars today? And who could have guessed 67 years ago that a simple association consisting of 15 mouth or foot painters would one day blossom into an organisation that is unique throughout the world?*

*An Association that has already encouraged thousands of talented people around the world to join the arts by providing artists with ongoing, reliable and unwavering support. I suspect very few.*

*These are all stories that could only be written by life! Stories that are just as unique as our precious life, which presents us with surprises, suffering, but most importantly, immeasurable joy. Once again, history would have it that the delegate members came together for a few days and shared ideas about the Association as part of the Association's highest body, the Delegates' Convention.*



**VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga during his welcome address at the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen.**

*President Serge Maudet as well as Board Members Soon-Yi Oh and Grant Sharman were re-elected for an additional term in office. This is a sign of the confidence and continuity of the Board, which, despite the uncertain times, always tries to remain calm and act in the interest of all mouth and foot painters. I can assure you that all Board Members are aware of the great challenges and the rapidly changing environment at all times. They are constantly motivated to strive for adjustments and solutions, ensuring that the unique history of this Association becomes even richer with each new chapter.*

*More information, insights and impressions from the 15th Delegates' Convention can be found in this edition of the information brochure. I wish you happy reading.*

*Mario Famlonga  
Director of the VDMFK*

# Miscellaneous

Mouth painter Carl Ernst Fischer (Cefischer) from Germany made a name for himself with his caricatu-

res and the picture stories of the cat "Oskar". These were also published in book form. On this

page we show three of these caricatures.



*The caricature "Dream and Reality".*

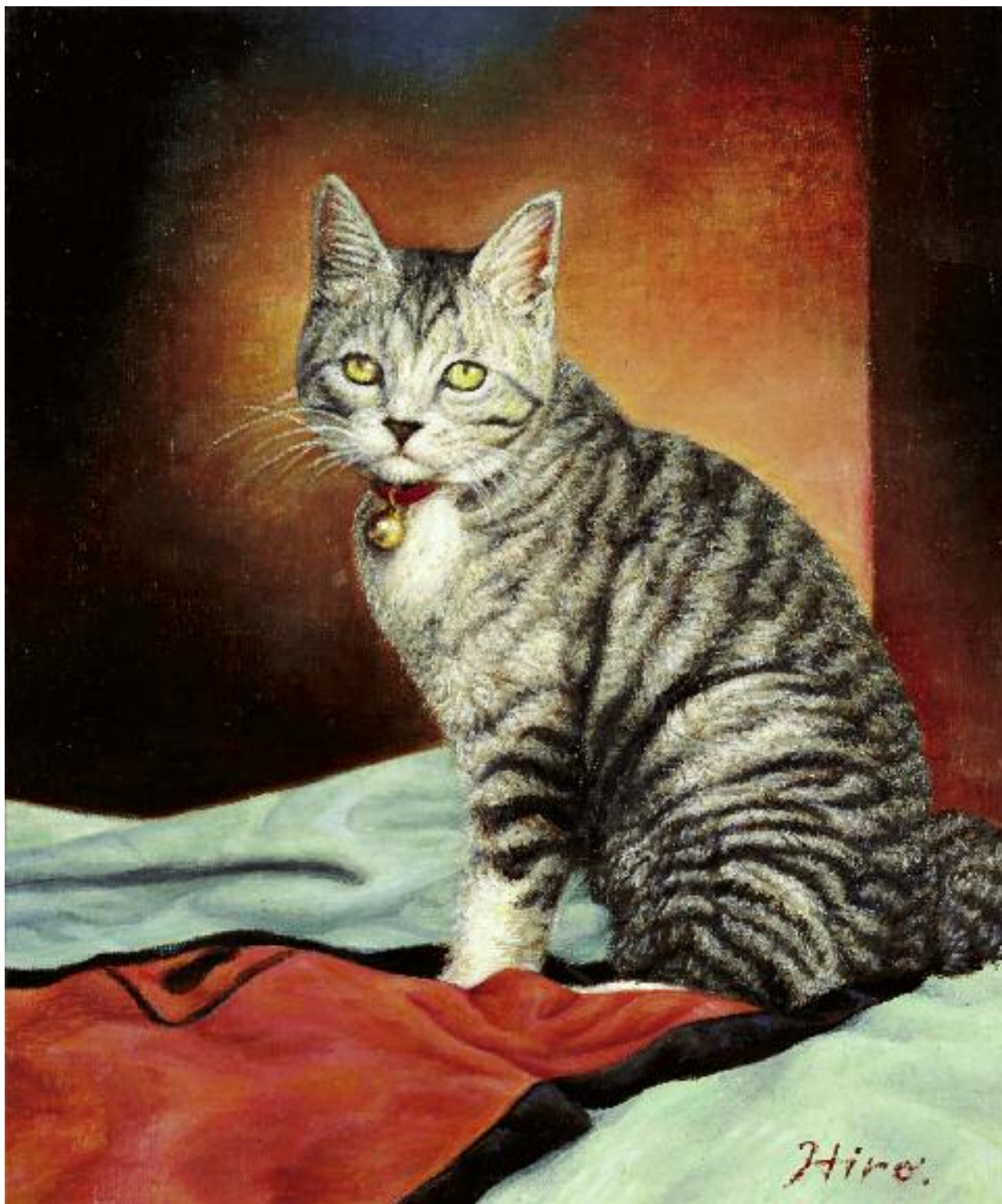


*This caricature is called "Watering Flowers".*



*"Behind bars" is the title of this caricature.*





*Hironori Koshoji (Associate Member/Japan), "A Cat", oil, 45x38 cm.*

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

From July 2 to 6, 2023, the Danish capital Copenhagen the 15th Delegates Convention of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists artists all over the world took place. Delegates and Board Members from all over the world travelled to Northern Europe for this event.

Due to the pandemic, the 15th Delegates' Convention of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists across the World repeatedly had to be postponed in recent years. However, from 2 to 6 July 2023, the time had finally come. 31 Delegates from every continent in the world travelled to Copenhagen to put the future of the Association on the right track.

## A long-awaited reunion

The Delegates were treated to an extensive programme, which was structured around three days of meetings. Apart from the work, however, there was also fun to be had during the week, as many of the artists had not seen each other for years. Their first opportunity to meet was at the traditional opening evening. The spirit among the painters was cheerful and filled with relief that such an event and the personal interaction could take place again.

During the evening, both VDMFK President Serge Maudet and VDMFK



*The opening evening of the week in Copenhagen was one of joy and relief that such an occasion and face-to-face interaction was once again possible.*

Director Mario Famlonga took the opportunity to welcome the artists in a speech. VDMFK President Serge Maudet thanked the mouth and foot painters who had travelled to the Delegates' Convention, some of them having made very long journeys to attend. In addition, the President addressed the challenging recent years of Corona for both the Association and artists around the world. Mario Famlonga spoke about the fact that no meeting had been possible for four years due to the pandemic. He went on to say: "Four long years have passed since I was last able to greet you in person. If at that time someone had told me that the next Delegates' Congress would not take

place until 2023, I would have said they were crazy." He also addressed the host country of Denmark. In this respect, Mario Famlonga emphasised: "And as history would have it, we have gathered today in Copenhagen for the 15th Delegates' Congress of this Association. Denmark, the birthplace of the fearsome Vikings and home of the Angles, has evolved over time into a modern country that has played a crucial role in shaping the morals and ethics of Western civilisation. The push for greater transparency, equality and increased environmental awareness can be felt across the country."



*Both VDMFK President Serge Maudet (left) and VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga took the opportunity on the opening evening to direct a few words to the painters who had arrived.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*The artist Helen Theresa Matthias had a long journey from Canada.*



*Chris Opperman, an artist from South Africa, clearly enjoying the evening with his wife.*



*Ann Lund Wahlberg, a Board Member from Denmark, was the secret host of the event, so to speak, as the Delegates' Convention took place in her home country.*



*For former Board Member Ruth Christensen, the Delegates' Convention taking place in her home country must have also been a special event.*



*The opening evening was accompanied by music from a local band, which set the mood.*

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

**The conferences belonged to the main events at the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen.**

**Over the course of three days, the delegates met to make decisions that will be important for the future of the Association.**

On the second, third and fourth day of the Delegates' Convention, the Delegates met each morning for the conference. In addition to the many statutory business and financial decisions, part of the Board also had to be re-elected, as the terms of office of the two Board Members Soonyi Oh from South Korea and Grant William Sharman from New Zealand, as well as those of the President Serge Maudet, had come to an end. All three ran for re-election. Serge Maudet was re-elected unanimously. Candidates for the Board came from among the Members. For this reason, electronic elections had to be held. On the first ballot, Soonyi Oh from South Korea was confirmed in office. On the second ballot, Grand William Sharman from New Zealand



***Ruth Christensen (right) receives the certificate for Honorary Member of the VDMFK from Sonja Rasberger.***

was also re-elected to the Board. Thus, the delegates decided to keep the Board unchanged.

## **New Honorary Member**

Furthermore, the agenda included the election of a new Honorary Member. The Board proposed appointing long-time Board Member

Ruth Christensen from Denmark as Honorary Member. The Delegates approved the proposal of the Board unanimously. Ruth Christensen, who was clearly surprised, thanked the Delegates and the Board very warmly and talked about what a great honour this would be for her.



***Delegates met for the conference on three mornings. At these meetings, parts of the Board were elected. The delegates voted not to make any changes to the Board.***



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*Soonyi Oh from South Korea (left) and Grand William Sharman from New Zealand were re-elected as Members of the Board by large majorities. In short speeches, they thanked the delegates for their trust.*



*Legal Consultant Dr Johannes Gasser (top) and VDMFK President Serge Maudet (right) led the Delegates throughout the three days of the conference. VDMFK President Serge Maudet was also delighted with his re-election.*



## The participants at the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

Adir Itzhak, Israel; Atzori Simona, Italy; Chen Shih-Feng, Taiwan; Christensen Ruth, Denmark; Gasperut Vojko, Slovenia; Hembert Henri-Claire, France; Hsieh Kun-Shan (Board Member), Taiwan; Iliadis Triantafillos, Greece; Jansz Christopher Keith, United Kingdom; Kahlau Thomas (Board Member), Germany; Kmiecik Stanislaw, Poland; Kratz Antje, Germany; Lapper Alison, United Kingdom; Lee Ho Sik, South Korea; Leong Tan Kok, Singapore; Lundström Lissu, Finland; Matthias Theresa Helen, Canada; Maudet Serge (President), France; Morita Machiko, Japan; Ng Ah Kwai, Malaysia; Oh Soonyi (Board Member), South Korea; Opperman Chris, South Africa; Park Jeong, South Korea; Ploier Paulus, Austria; Sharman Grant William (Board Member), New Zealand; Tabor Ronald Dale, USA; Tan Boon Chuan Benjamin, Singapore; Uribe Aguayo José Gerardo, Mexico; Wahlberg Ann Lund (Board Member), Denmark; Wikstrom Brom, USA; Yendell Tom (Board Member), United Kingdom.

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*Paulus Ploier from Austria also ran for a seat on the Board but could not win a majority.*



*José Gerardo Uribe Aguayo traveled from Mexico to the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen.*



*Stanislaw Kmiecik from Poland also ran for a seat on the Board. The Delegates, however, opted for continuity.*



*Simona Atzori, an artist from Italy, at the conference.*



*Guests at the Delegates' Convention included publishers and publishing staff, who also attended at the 3rd day of the conference.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*Brom Wikstrom from the USA.*



*Mouth and foot painters at the conference (from left to right): Chris Oppermann, South Africa; Ronald Dale Tabor, USA; Alison Lapper, United Kingdom; Theresa Helen Matthias, Canada.*



*Vojko Gasperut from Slovenia (left) and Itzhak Adir from Israel.*



*Antje Kratz from Germany.*



*They travelled to Copenhagen from Singapore: Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan (left) and Tan Kok Leong.*



*The two Board Members Tom Yendell from the United Kingdom (right) and Kun-Shan Hsieh from Taiwan.*

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

**As part of the supporting programme at VDMFK meetings, it has become a tradition to hold an exhibition that opens during the week of the meeting. And Copenhagen was no exception. The venue was the foyer of the famous Opera House in the Danish capital.**

As part of the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen, an international exhibition was opened in the foyer of the Copenhagen Opera House on 4 July 2023. The exhibition lasted until 9 July and proved to be very popular. A total of 122 works by 35 mouth and foot painters from all around the world were displayed.

The exhibition kicked off with a festive event that featured a mix of ballet performances and speeches. The guests also included the Mayor for Culture and Leisure of Copenhagen, Ms Mia Nyegaard. She did not pass up the chance to say a few words to the guests. In her speech, she emphasised: "During my time as social mayor, there was a little saying that I found fitting in many ways. That is: no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. You can do so much more with a form of expression that would be impossible for any of the rest of us. Art takes on many forms and art always entails something valuable. Both for the beholder and for you as an artist, because not only do you create unique



***The foyer of the Copenhagen Opera House served as the venue for the exhibition and the vernissage.***

and beautiful works of art, but you also always impart a distinctive life story in the process."

The speakers included Doris Christine Jäggi-Lind, Honorary Consul of Denmark in the Principality of Liechtenstein. In her remarks, she talked about the two Danish artists Ruth Christensen and Ann Lund Wahlberg. She also expressed her excitement that a Liechtenstein organisation would be holding its meeting in Denmark. The well-known Danish actress Lone Hertz was also invited to speak at the event. During her speech she stated: "Each of us in our own way lives - and survives - many of us through our art. Because everyone has a talent. Everyone can do something that will gradually develop

into artistry. It doesn't matter whether it's drawing, painting, making music, singing, dancing, running marathons, playing football, writing books, writing poetry, selling - it's just the thing that fills you with passion. We all owe each other appreciation. After all, we are equal. At least that's what they say." The last speaker, VDMFK President Serge Maudet, addressed the guests. He underscored: "I hope that through this exhibition many people discover our work and learn to appreciate it. Perhaps they will even discover their own passion for painting or another form of art."



***The Mayor for Culture and Leisure of Copenhagen, Ms Mia Nyegaard (left) and Doris Christine Jäggi-Lind, Honorary Consul of Denmark in the Principality of Liechtenstein, opened the exhibition.***



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*The two artists Ann Lund Wahlberg (right) and Stanislaw Kmiecik put on a demonstration of their painting skills at the exhibition opening.*



*Brom Wikstrom from the USA during his painting demonstration.*



*VDMFK President Serge Maudet during his visit to the exhibition.*



*The actress Lone Hertz during her speech to mark the opening of the exhibition.*



*A ballet performance was held as part of the exhibition opening.*

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*The French artist Henri-Clairey Hembert in front of his exhibited work.*



*The three artists Benjamin Tan Boon Chuan (seated right) Tan Kok Leong (seated left) from Singapore and Ah Kwai Ng (standing) from Malaysia.*



*The two artists Christopher Keith Jansz from the United Kingdom (left) and Itzhak Adir from Israel.*



*The Swedish Scholarship Holder Lena Maria Vendelius enriched the opening with her singing.*



*The international exhibition featured 122 works by 35 mouth and foot painters from all around the world. The exhibition was planned and constructed by Jury Members Werner Marxer and Christian Holzner.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

Another part of a Delegates' Convention is to strengthen the social bonds between the artists. For this reason, the VDMFK also organises social events. In Copenhagen, the programme also included an evening of entertainment. On this page and the following one you can find pictures of the evening.



*Lissu Lundström from Finland (centre) at the evening of entertainment with two guests.*



*The artist Jeong Park from South Korea (centre) with his accompanying persons.*



*Tom Yendell from the UK (left), Brom Wikstrom from the USA and an accompanying person.*



*The artist Triantafillos Iliadis from Greece (left) with publisher Florian Stegmann.*



*The artist Ho Sik Lee from South Korea.*

# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*The evening of entertainment was a festive occasion in a special atmosphere.*



*Machiko Morita, artist from Japan (centre), with her accompanying person.*



*As part of the entertainment evening, there was also a talk on the topic that the Danes are among the happiest people on earth.*



*Alison Lapper from the UK (left) and her accompanying person clearly enjoying the evening of entertainment.*



*Information about the VDMFK's film and social media project was also discussed at the evening of entertainment.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

A Delegates' Convention also involves the traditional excursion. At the end of what was another successful Delegates' Convention, on 6 July 2023, the participants went on an excursion to the Louisiana, a popular museum of modern art located on the picturesque east coast of Denmark. Afterwards, they visited the Royal Shooting Club, where they had lunch. On this page and the following one you can find pictures of the excursion.



*Ronald Dale Tabor from the USA with a Danish flag for warmth.*



*The artist Shih-Feng Chen from Taiwan and his wife at the Louisiana Museum.*



*VDMFK Board Member Thomas Kahlau with his accompanying person on a tour of the Open Air Museum.*



*The Louisiana Museum is known for sculptures including those by Alberto Giacometti (left) or Joan Miró (right).*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*The group picture of the participating artists at the 2023 Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen.*



*The organisers had a successful week (from left to right): VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga, Dr. Monika Hebrard (Malteser), Werner Marxer (exhibition) and Werner Widauer (general organisation).*



*The artists were received with musical honours at the Royal Shooting Club.*



*The Greek artist Triantafillos Iliadis (left) with his wife over an aperitif before lunch.*



*Shih-Feng Chen from Taiwan clearly enjoying the excursion.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen

On the last evening, the artists and their accompanying persons went to the Tivoli amusement park where the traditional final evening took place at a restaurant together. The mouth and foot painters said goodbye to one another over dinner. The 15th Delegates' Convention of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists then came to a close. Below are some pictures of the final evening.



*VDMFK President Serge Maudet thanked the artists for their contribution and their attendance during the final evening.*



*Board Member Thomas Kahlau (right) was satisfied with how the week had gone.*



*New Zealand Board Member Grant William Sharman (left) in a conversation with Christopher Keith Jansz from the UK.*



*The mood among the American and Canadian delegations was also very joyful and amicable.*



*VDMFK Director Mario Famlonga said goodbye to the mouth and foot painters and wished them a safe journey home.*



# Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen



*Lissu Lundstöm from Finland with her accompanying person.*



*Simona Atzori (left) from Italy talking.*



*Ah Kwai Ng (left) from Malaysia and his accompanying person in a relaxed and cheerful mood.*



*Board Member Tom Yendell (right) in a lively conversation.*



*José Gerardo Uribe Aguayo from Mexico clearly enjoying the closing event at the Delegates' Convention.*



*The evening had a relaxed atmosphere.*





Grant William Sharman (Full Member/New Zealand), "Two white/purple flowers", watercolour, 30x21 cm.

# We mourn for

## FINLAND

### Toivanen, Risto

**Date of birth: 24 December 1946**

**Passed away on: 29 December 2022**

**Painting technique: Foot painter**

Due to cerebral palsy, Risto Toivanen's arms were paralysed since birth. When he was only three years old, he learned to perform the most important everyday tasks with his feet. His ability to express himself artistically evolved gradually from writing and drawing exercises. After attending primary and secondary school, as well as high school, he then studied at the University in Jyväskylä. In 1968, he received a scholarship from the Association. This enabled him to work more intensively on his painting. He became a Full Member of the VDMFK in 1974. Risto Toivanen used a great variety of techniques and materials. He was especially fond of acrylics



***With Risto Toivanen, a long-time Full Member has departed forever. He had been part of the VDMFK family since 1968.***

and oils. His landscapes and compositions were painted in an abstract manner. He participated in many exhibitions

both at home and abroad. Risto Toivanen died on 29 December 2022.

### Deceased Scholarship Holders

## BRAZIL

### Ferraz, Moacir

**Date of birth: 10 November 1970**

**Passed away on: 15 December 2022**

**Painting technique: Foot painter**

Moacir Ferraz was born on 10 November 1970. At birth, Moacir seemed to show no physical disabilities. It was only after he turned one year old that his mother noticed a certain abnormality, as he was unable to stand or walk. It was later established that he suffered from spasticity and dyskinesia, with involuntary movements and tremors in all four extremities. He was therefore unable to move around or use his hands. Moacir was self-educated, teaching himself to read. Later he was able to learn about various topics by watching television or reading newspapers. He was also self-taught in the arts. He began painting and drawing in early

childhood. For a short time, the artist also had painting lessons with an academic painter. Moacir Ferraz successfully participated in several exhibitions. Scholarship Holder Moacir Ferraz died on 15 December 2022.

## COLUMBIA

### Jaimes Corzo, Daniel

**Date of birth: 1 April 1974**

**Passed away on: 21 August 2022**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Daniel Jaimes Corzo was born on 1 April 1974 in San Jose de Miranda, Colombia. In 1997, while cleaning a well and because of a related fall, he suffered a fracture of the cervical vertebrae C4 and C5, which resulted in paralysis of the upper and lower limbs. Despite a surgical procedure, the integrity of the nerves was not able to be restored. This caused quadriplegia. In 2010, he made his first attempts at painting with his mouth. With great

enthusiasm, he began to create paintings and was thus able to improve his artistic skills. Daniel Jaimes Corzo died on 21 August 2022.

### Quintero Lozano, Robert Guino

**Date of birth: 21 July 1968**

**Passed away on: 26 March 2023**

**Painting technique: Mouth painter**

Robert Guino Quintero Lozano was born on 21 July 1968 in Ibagué, Colombia. He attended primary school and secondary school until he had finished Year 4. Since 2008, the artist had been suffering from tetraplegia at the level of the C4 vertebra in conjunction with pulmonary insufficiency. He sustained this injury from a serious accident. He also had to have his left arm amputated as a result of the injury. He had private art lessons with the renowned artist and painter Carlos Parra. He died on 26 March 2023.



# We mourn for

## USA

### Bloom, Cynthia

**Date of birth:** 27 December 1963  
**Passed away on:** 7 December 2022  
**Painting technique:** Foot painter

Cynthia Bloom was born on 27 December 1963 in Alabama. Use of the medication 'thalidomide' by her mother caused her limbs to develop differently. This resulted in Cynthia Bloom being born with only one leg and arms that were not developed below the elbows. When she was only two years old, she learned to use her foot like a non-disabled person can use their hands. She styled her hair, applied make-up, wrote, and cooked independently, all with her foot. She also began to paint with her foot, among others, and was very enthusiastic about it from the start. The artist primarily painted landscapes, seascapes, animals, lighthouses, and religious motifs. Cynthia Bloom died on 7 December 2022.

### Medeiros, Edward

**Date of birth:** 5 February 1957  
**Passed away on:** 15 July 2023  
**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Edward Medeiros was born on 5 February 1957 in Honolulu, Hawaii. In November 1973, he suffered a spinal cord injury at the level of vertebrae C4-5 during a football game and became a quadriplegic as a result. Ever since, he was paralysed from the shoulders down and had extremely limited mobility in his right arm. After six and a half years of hard work, he graduated from the university with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Unable to take up full-time employment, Edward Medeiros spent the next few years doing voluntary work. Edward then embarked on a journey of 'self-discovery' that would last more than a decade, and he pursued his desire to become a freelance writer. In 2006, his girlfriend Beverly took him to an exhibition featuring disabled artists. Edward Medeiros' interest in painting

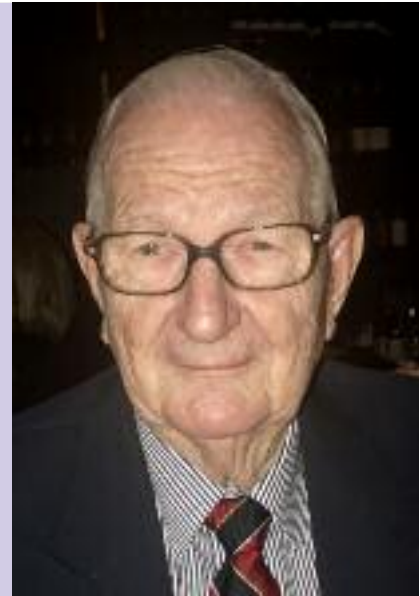
## Deceased publishers

## AUSTRALIEN

### Jackson, Frank

**Publisher Australia**  
**8 May 1935 - 11 March 2023**

Frank Jackson was born on 8 May 1935 in Hull, Yorkshire, England, the second son of Stephen and Florence. After the War, the family decided to leave England and travelled by sea to Auckland, New Zealand. They lived in Milford on the North Shore of Auckland, where Frank and Peter attended school. In 1951, Frank Jackson's father fell ill, which made it necessary for Frank to leave school at the age of 15 to help to run the family business. Frank was a good businessman and managed many businesses throughout his life. He has dabbled in almost everything, including baby clothes, souvenir



***Publisher Frank Jackson passed away on 11 March 2023***

shops, the export of smoked eel, sewing machines, electronic devices for weight loss, coffee, or hotel equipment.

was piqued. He began to take art lessons as well. It was a challenge for him, but he began to see nature through different eyes and liked to capture it in his own little world. Edward Medeiros was a Scholarship Holder of the Association since 2009. He died on 15 July 2023.

### Sotak, Mark W.

**Date of birth:** 17 January 1963  
**Passed away on:** 9 July 2023  
**Painting technique:** Mouth painter

Mark Sotak was born on 17 January 1963 in Rocky River, Ohio. He attended high school from 1977 to 1981. In 1981, he began his studies in 'marine biology' at the University of Tampa. Shortly after starting his first year of study, Mark Sotak suffered a spinal cord injury in a traffic accident. Since then, he was no longer able to use his arms or legs. He pursued a challenging double degree, which he completed in 1990 with a Doctorate of Laws and a Master of Arts in Sports Management. In August 2002, through the encouragement of a good friend, he began learning

to paint with his mouth. Because of his immense enthusiasm, he created a wide range of paintings such as landscapes, lake impressions, animal paintings or portraits. The VDMFK has granted him a scholarship since 2008. Mark Sotak died on 9 July 2023.

# The significance of painting

Below is the significance of painting for mouth painter Shely Cohen, Associate Member from Israel.

## What painting means to me

*I have always been artistic - during my childhood and youth I knitted, sewed and wrote my diary. I had not tried painting. I was injured in a car accident at the age of 18, 3 months before my military service. This proved to be an injury that would change my life.*

*For months I continued to believe that I had a chance of getting better and returning to my normal life. As time went by, I realised that this was not going to happen and that this disability was not just going to pass. While my childhood friends were joining the army, my energy and efforts were focused on overcoming this injury.*

*It was painful for me to see all my friends going on with their lives and being successful, while I was not even*



**Mouth painter Shely Cohen, Associate Member from Israel.**

*able to think about studying, working or making plans for the future. It was my personal fight for survival. I was so far away from thinking about the future.*

*Years later I went on to study film at the university and later event production. Although I was told that I would not be able to work in this field because of my disability, I was determi-*

*ned to persevere and succeed.*

*After a while I realised that I should seek employment that would better suit me and allow for a slower pace and independent work. I began to deliver public speeches, especially in schools, to tell my personal story and inspire young people, but I still felt the need to express my creativity. Two of my friends were members of the VDMFK and suggested that I try painting with my mouth.*

*My instinct was to use oil paints, which turned out to be the best choice for me, as they dry slowly and I can easily mix, change and layer the colours as I paint. I was inspired by photos I found on the internet and started to paint them. The more I painted, the more I began to create original compositions. To me it is important that the subject of my picture is clearly mine.*

*I prefer very colourful paintings to symbolise both optimism and my restless spirit. I love reproducing moments from everyday life and painting people who are close to me. Sometimes I paint women to express how I would see myself if I had a heal-*



**Shely Cohen, (Associate Member/Israel) "Apple and Lamp", oil, 45x45 cm.**



# The significance of painting

thy body.

*Through the years I developed an inclination towards realistic painting, but in my paintings I intentionally retain some abstract textures and colours to prevent them from looking like photographs.*

*Never in my life would I have imagined that I would ever be able to express this love. Every time I paint, my goal is to improve my skills and the end result. This is something that should not be underestimated, as I had no one to believe in me, encourage me or praise me when I was growing up. When I was accepted into the Association of Mouth and Foot Painters, it was the first time someone recognised and acknowledged my skills and talent. I received feedback and encouragement that helped me to slowly and gradually overcome my fears and start believing in myself.*

*Nowadays, painting is a big, important part of my daily life. The mouth and foot painters, the other Members, the meetings and the exhibitions provide me with a sense of belonging.*

*Shely Cohen,  
Associate Member/Israel*



**Shely Cohen, (Associate Member/Israel) "Sun flowers", oil, 50x40 cm.**

## Cohen, Shely (Israel)

*Date of birth: 21 November 1966*

*Place of birth: Haifa*

*Associate Member since: 2023*

*Painting technique: Mouth painter*

Shely Cohen was born on 21 November 1966 in Haifa. At the age of 18, she was involved as a passenger in a serious traffic accident, in which she injured her C4 - C5 cervical vertebrae. This resulted

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 University in Tel Aviv. She also studied the realisation and management of events at the Levinsky Seminar, learned Spanish and the composition of children's books.

In 2007, she began to paint with her mouth. She found great enjoyment in it and made considerable progress in a very short time. Since 2008, she has been supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder. In 2023, she became an Associate Member of the VDMFK.

Shely Cohen paints with oils. Her favourite themes include flowers, landscapes and still lifes.

# Artists' activities

## ARGENTINA

### Barcia, Cesar Andres (Scholarship Holder)

- Scholarship Holder Cesar Andres Barcia had lots to celebrate in 2022. For example, he was asked by the cultural directorate of Exaltación de la Cruz, Buenos Aires, where he lives, to put on a personal exhibition of 12 works. This exhibition was opened in June 2022. All the exhibited works were related to tourist attractions in Exaltación de la Cruz. According to Cesar Andres Barcia, he created this series as an homage to the place where he lives. He was also asked by his hometown to exhibit his works and hold a painting demonstration on 14 September 2022, the day of the 50th anniversary of the Museo del Periodismo Bonaerense (Museum of Journalism). The artist was very happy to accommodate this request. Additionally, Cesar Andres Barcia participated in the 5th National Watercolour Competition, which was organised by



**Scholarship Holder Cesar Andres Barcia has been involved in many activities in recent months.**

the Association of Argentine Watercolourists 2022. At the award

ceremony on 8 October 2022, his work "Teatro Colon" received special mention. Furthermore, Cesar Andres Barcia and foot painter Agostina Antonella Semaan (Scholarship Holder) conducted a joint exhibition and painting demonstration at Bayer's local headquarters on 2 December 2022. On 3 December 2022, he participated in an event called "We are Diversity", which took place at Biopark Temaiken. There he joined the three VDMFK artists Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member), Agostina Antonella Semaan (Scholarship Holder) and Carlos Alberto Sosa (Scholarship Holder), all of whom gave painting demonstrations and exhibited works.

## BRAZIL

### Chagas, Maria Goret (Associate Member)

- Maria Goret Chagas has held two exhibitions at the São Paulo City Hall. One was part of a group exhibition called "Pluralidade".



**Associate Member Maria Goret Chagas giving her painting demonstration at the São Paulo City Hall.**

The other one was a solo exhibition called "O Pincel e a Imaginação". Both exhibitions took place from 2 to 17 June

2023. Maria Goret Chagas was presented with a certificate of honourable mention by Councillor Aurelio Nomura and by the President of the Academy of Sciences, Arts, History and Literature, Mr Samir Chelala.

### da Cunha, Marcelo (Associate Member)

- Marcelo da Cunha succeeded in holding a solo exhibition in the cultural space of the "Central Plaza Shopping" mall on 16 February 2023. The theme was "Men of the Countryside and Others" and it was curated by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Arts, History and Literature. Of the 25 works that comprise the collection "Men from the Countryside and Others", most are dedicated to rural themes that emphasise man's relationship to the earth as a basis for life. His goal was for each picture to reflect the harsh reality of these protagonists who, despite all adversity, fight to sustain their lives. The intention of the exhibition therefore extended far beyond a mere aesthetic presentation.

Fortunately, the exhibition was a hit with both the public and critics, so it was extended until 15 April 2023.

### Maia Figueira, Jefferson (Scholarship Holder)

- Jefferson Maia Figueira had a very large number of appearances in 2022. Some of which included participation in two exhibitions in Rio de Janeiro in February/March 2022, where he was awarded a silver medal and a bronze medal. Jefferson Maia Figueira also participated in several community exhibitions and frequently held painting demonstrations in schools.



# Artists' activities

## CHINA

### Huang, Guofu

(Associate Member)

- Guofu Huang had two major events during the year. The Rice Paddy Art Exhibition is his personal exhibition in celebration of 1 May 2023, Labour Day. The art exhibition was held from 29 April to 4 May 2023 in Niu Huang Village, Xinglong, Yubei, Chongqing, and received major support from the Culture and Tourism Committee and the Cultural Committee of Yubei District. He wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to spread positive energy to the people and also gave a lecture to teach calligraphy to young people. His rice paddy painting blends in with the natural surroundings, and people can enjoy art in such a peaceful place, providing a simply stunning experience.

His most recent personal charity exhibition was held at "Er Chang Cultural and



**Guofu Huang, Associate Member from China, giving his painting demonstration.**

Creative Park", a venue in Chongqing's Yuzhong district. The exhibition featured a total of 36 of his works of art and ran from 5 June to 4 July 2023. He was pleased to see so many visitors at the

exhibition, as his aim was to spread positive energy and inspire people.

## ESTONIA

### Tael, Allar

(Scholarship Holder)

- Allar Tael had the opportunity to hold a solo exhibition at Viljandi's "Kondas Center" from 7 January to 25 March 2023. Several newspapers covered his exhibition and numerous people visited



**Allar Tael in front of the Kondas Center, where his works were exhibited.**

it. Allar Tael was also invited to the event "Who can create a work of art?" A panel discussion was conducted with the lecturer of the Estonian Academy of Arts, Ms Merike Rehepapp, the artist Fideelia Signe Roots, who suffers from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and the mouth painter.

## FRANCE

### Vari, Szilvia

(Scholarship Holder)

- Szilvia Vari held a solo exhibition in Arles, where she lives, from 29 June to 19 July 2023. Works by **Joseph Martins (Scholarship Holder)**, with whom she is friends, were also on display.

## GERMANY

### Mittelbach, Werner

(Scholarship Holder)

- To mark the 50th anniversary of the Augsburg district, 50 people from the district were chosen to tell their life stories. This project bore the name "50 years - 50 people - 50 stories". Werner Mittelbach was granted the honour of being one of these 50 people. His story can be read at the following link: <https://landkreis-fuer-alte.de/2022/12/wernermittelbach/> Werner Mittelbach also took part in two joint exhibitions. One took place from 31 January to 28 February 2023 in the historic Augsburg Arsenal (Zeughaus), which was called "Mouth, Eye, Home". The other was held on 9 December 2022 at the Schwabmünchen Art Association (Kunstverein Schwabmünchen e.V.).

Continued on page 28

# Artists' activities

## GREECE

### Triantafillos, Iliadis

(Full Member)

- Iliadis Triantafillos was bestowed a great honour. His exhibition, which had been on display at the Megaron Music Hall in Athens since 30 April 2023, was opened on 5 May 2023 in the presence of the Metropolitan Panteleimon of Maroneia and Komotini, who performed the inauguration, and the Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Christos Metios. Additionally, three bishops visited his exhibition on 12 May 2023, the Bishop of Santorini, the Bishop of Athens and the local Bishop of Komotini. The Lieutenant General of the 4th Army Corps, Konstantinos Demokritos, as well as many other people also came to see his paintings.



**Various Bishops of Greece visited the exhibition of Full Member Iliadis Triantafillos (centre) in Athens.**

## ITALY

- Dr Santina Portelli was a remarkably active Full Member of the VDMFK and an excellent painter from 2000 until her death two years ago. In memory of the artist, an exhibition of works by the late mouth painter was held from 3 May to 23 June 2023. This exhibition, entitled "In Viaggio" (Travelling), was held at the "Teatro della Cooperativa" in Milan. The idea for this exhibition was conceived by the artistic director Renato Sarti,



**The poster for the exhibition in memory of Dr Santina Portelli.**



**Dr Santina Portelli passed away on 8 May 2022. A year after her passing, an exhibition was held in memory of the artist.**

who greatly admired Santina Portelli. The idea was brought to life by Marina Ramonda, who assisted the artist with her care. Works were displayed that depicted Santina Portelli's artistic path from the 1960s to 2020.

The audience was impressed by her

journey, techniques and materials spanning decades of work. Marina Ramonda showed respect for Santina Portelli's style in the selection and exhibition of the works, even if she felt that her absence was especially obvious.





Brom Wikstrom (Full Member/USA), "Animal Heads - Chinese Zodiac", watercolour, 40x30 cm.

# Information from the office

## Submission of originals

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

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

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

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

**DHL Logistics (Schweiz) AG  
Für VDMFK  
Heldastrasse 66  
CH-9471 Buchs  
Schweiz**

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.

## Appeal to the artists of the VDMFK

Dear artists,

On the occasion of the 15th Delegates' Convention in July 2023, the publishers have asked us to issue the following appeal to all artists.

We ask that all artists send us videos with the following content: The artist is seen painting, commenting on the individual steps and talking about his or her everyday life.

The videos should be of high quality and no longer than about 20-30 seconds.

We kindly ask the artists to send the videos by e-mail to [office@vdmfk.li](mailto:office@vdmfk.li).

We would like to thank all the artists for their participation.



# Presentation of painting techniques

Soonyi Oh, Board Member of the VDMFK and foot painter from South Korea, demonstrates tips and tricks for “mouth and foot painting”.

This time the topic is: A modern expression of oriental painting with mixed materials.



*Slowly apply gelatine glue water (a mixture made of gelatine glue, alum and water) onto the Korean character paper attached on the drawing board using a flat brush.*



*Apply the mixture three times and then paint the background four times*



*Start with the light ochre (yellowish brown), then paint the darker colours.*



*After assessing the effect of the dried colours, paint darker ochre (dirty orange or brownish orange) by dabbing it with accents.*

# Presentation of painting techniques



*For the many small rocks in front of the mountains, use different brush strokes corresponding to the height and position of the mountains.*

*Achieve your own expression through ink gradation and variations in brush strokes.*



*Set up the brightness and shading of the mountains along their silhouette using the gradation in detail.*



*Draw the trees on the ground.*



*Position the trees in the right place, taking into account the proper allocation.*



*Once you are almost done with this step, draw the rocks and mountains in the middle.*



*Draw the buildings at the top of the picture and paint them as seen from a distance using simple brush strokes.*



# Presentation of painting techniques



*Incorporate variations in the space with some buildings clustered together in one part and sparsely scattered in another.*



*With the changes in gradation, portray various subjects with brush strokes.*



*Paint the leaves using acrylic paint and a knife.*



*Adjust the angles of the blade to the position, shape and angle of the leaves by positioning the blade vertically or at an angle.*



*Gradate the leaves with the knife.*



*After painting the mountains, paint the buildings in the distance in the background white.*



*Gradually reveal the buildings and show the rough outlines and the sense of technique by using the knife for the height of the buildings.*



*Once you have finalised your overall expression, decide where you want to place the signature. Consider placing your signature in proper relation to the trees on the ground.*

# Letters to the editor

**Below is a letter from Marta de Frutos Álvarez, Scholarship Holder from Spain.**

## **A hobby and a passion**

*Hello to all of my colleagues, I was involved in a car accident in 1996. Such an accident causes enormous psychological effects that you can't simply shrug off. It's as if the ground is being pulled out from under your feet when your life as a completely independent person suddenly changes and you realise that from now on you will be entirely dependent on others. I have to be honest; it was a terrifying experience. Obviously, a spinal cord injury always results in a change.*

*I am constantly dependent on the help of another person, and I use an electric wheelchair to get around. Overcoming such a fate requires, in my opinion, inner strength and a supportive family environment.*

*Two of my greatest passions are painting and sport. These are two activities that I thought I would never be able to do again with my injury. I have found in these two passions a way to escape from my daily routine, finding the*



**Marta de Frutos Álvarez, Scholarship Holder from Spain, sent us a letter in which she tells us about her love of skiing.**

*independence I lost due to my injury in painting and skiing.*

*Ever since I was a child, I have always been an enthusiastic sportswoman. I played basketball, danced, participated in athletics, rugby and much more. Thanks to the También Foundation (<https://tambien.org>), I was able to make one of my dreams come true and go skiing. Given the severity of my injury, I would never have dreamed that I would be able to do such a*

*thing. While skiing, I felt a sense of freedom and enjoyed it to the fullest. Simultaneously, I was in close contact with nature. Such activities help you to boost your self-esteem and also give you the confidence and strength you need to face other challenges in life.*



**Marta de Frutos Álvarez, Scholarship Holder from Spain, skiing.**





*Roberto Zomero (Associate Member/Italy), "Colourful Flower Arrangement", oil, 28x18 cm.*

# Publishers' activities

## BRAZIL

- The Brazilian publisher hosted a community exhibition from 16 January to 3 February 2023. It was called: Art with the Mouth, Foot and Heart. This exhibition was also organised by the artist Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member). The exhibition was hosted at the House of Culture in the city of Franca - State of São Paulo. Works by the following mouth and foot painters from Brazil were put on display: **Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member), Ivana Soares Bandeira (Scholarship Holder), José Henrique Taveira Breda (Scholarship Holder) and Diogo Alexandre de Sousa Silva (Scholarship Holder)**. The participating artists showed how they produce their works by painting with their mouths on the floor of the exhibition. An audience of those especially interested in art attended the opening of the exhibition on 16 January. During her opening remarks, Maria Goret Chagas emphasised how much she was looking forward to showing her work to the public. In her speech, she spoke of the dedication and talent of other artists who have increased their canvas production and overcome difficulties, and she expressed her excitement at their inclusion in the exhibition, which made the event even greater.



*The participating mouth and foot painters at the exhibition in Brazil (from left to right): Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member), José Henrique Taveira Breda (Scholarship Holder), Ivana Soares Bandeira (Scholarship Holder) and Diogo Alexandre de Sousa Silva (Scholarship Holder).*



*Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member) not only helped co-organise the exhibition, but also held a painting demonstration.*



*Scholarship Holder Diogo Alexandre de Sousa Silva put on a convincing painting demonstration.*



*Scholarship Holder José Henrique Taveira Breda during his painting demonstration.*



# Publishers' activities

## POLAND

- The Polish publishing house 'AMUN' celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2023. This anniversary was also the focus of its traditional workshop, which took place in Wisła from 31 May to 4 June 2023. The participating artists were **Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member), Mariusz Maczka (Full Member), Waleri Siejtbatałow (Full Member)** and the **Scholarship Holders: Miłosz Bronisz, Arkadiusz Cyprian, Teresa Frys, Grzegorz Gawryszewski, Martyna Gruca, Mikołaj Kastelik, Marika Kropidłowska, Jadwiga Markur, Bartosz Ostałowski, Stanisław Jan Salach, Joanna Sobierajska, Jan Sporek, Katarzyna Warachim, Małgorzata Waszkiewicz and Mariola Wower**. The theme of the workshop, led by artist Monika Ślósarczyk, was "Man and face". With enthusiasm and great motivation, the artists painted the figure of the model. It was a pleasure to see how concentrated the participants approached their task. The week also featured a banquet to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the publishing house AMUN. There were dances, as well as trivia about the publishing house and the VDMFK.



*The mouth and foot painters from Poland taking part in the publisher's 30th anniversary workshop and festivities.*



*Foot painters enjoying the workshop (from left to right): Martyna Gruca (Scholarship Holder), Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member) and Stas Salach (Scholarship Holder).*



*Two Scholarship Holders at the workshop (from left to right): Mikołaj Kastelik, Joanna Sobierajska and Katarzyna Warachim.*

# Publishers' activities

## SLOVENIA

- The Slovenian publishing house organised an exhibition on the topic of the 'Slovenian and Hungarian Sea' at the Liszt Institute in the centre of Ljubljana, which was held from 2 December 2022 to 9 February 2023, i.e. from the International Day of Disabled Persons to the Slovenian Cultural Festival. The publishing house exhibited 43 paintings in various techniques on this topic. In addition, on the day of the opening, an international workshop was held in which painters from four countries could participate.

From Slovenia: **Vojko Gašperut (Full Member)**, **Benjamin Žnidaršič (Full Member)**, and **Scholarship Holders Dominik Lozar and Eric Pibernik**.

From Serbia: **Dejana Backo (Scholarship Holder)**.

From Croatia: **Stjepan Perkovic (Scholarship Holder)**.

From Bosnia and Herzegovina: **Mladen Sekulic (Scholarship Holder)**.

The workshop was attended by about 125 students from the local commercial school. The exhibition was opened by the Hungarian Ambassador in Ljubljana, His Excellency Andor Ferenc Gábor. As a symbol of gratitude, the publishing house presented the Liszt Institute with a painting by the painter Nevenka Gorjanc. The Liszt Institute opened its doors to local mouth and foot painters for the second time. Due to the gallery's location in the centre of Ljubljana in a very busy area, the exhibition was able to attract many visitors.



*The vernissage was also accompanied by music.*



*Scholarship Holder Stjepan Perkovic from Croatia also attended the event and the workshop in Slovenia.*



*Mladen Sekulic, a mouth painter from Bosnia and Herzegovina, was also a guest at the Slovenian*



*The exhibition of the Slovenian publishing house was opened by the Hungarian Ambassador in Ljubljana, His Excellency Andor Ferenc Gábor.*



*Scholarship Holder Eric Pibernik during the workshop.*



# Publishers' activities

## SPAIN

- The Spanish publishing house organised a collaborative exhibition of works by Spanish mouth and foot painters in Castilla-La Mancha from 3 to 30 November 2023. At the opening, which was accompanied by musical performances, **Scholarship Holder Marta de Frutos Álvarez** and **Scholarship Holder Lorenzo Higuera Mariana** held painting demonstrations that were met with great interest.



*The two Scholarship Holders Marta de Frutos Álvarez (right) and Lorenzo Higuera Mariana at the painting demonstration.*

## CZECH REPUBLIC

- The Festival of Understanding is a traditional event that brings together two worlds: the world of people with disabilities and that of people without disabilities. The 21st year of this festival took place from 16 to 18 May 2023 at the 'Lesní mlýn' in Mariánské Lázně. The

artists from the Czech publishing house UMUN participated in the festival for two days. On the second day of the festival, a vernissage with paintings by mouth and foot painters was planned, which was held by Bára Štěpánová, a well-known Czech actress and moderator. Visitors were able to browse the paintings and talk to the artists directly. An art workshop took place the follo-

wing day, where visitors were able to watch the artists paint and ask questions about their creative process. The following **Scholarship Holders** participated in the exhibition: **Lenka Bromková, Šárka Dvorská, Jakub Hříbek, Pavel Hejhal, Tomáš Janoušek and Veronika Svatošová.**



*The mouth and foot painters from the Czech Republic who participated in the festival and workshop.*

