

VDMFK-INFORMATION

ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS OF
THE WORLD

December 2023/207



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Credits

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Foreword

Dear artists,
dear ladies and gentlemen!

A new year is beginning and we are kicking it off with this new information brochure, in which you will find something slightly new.

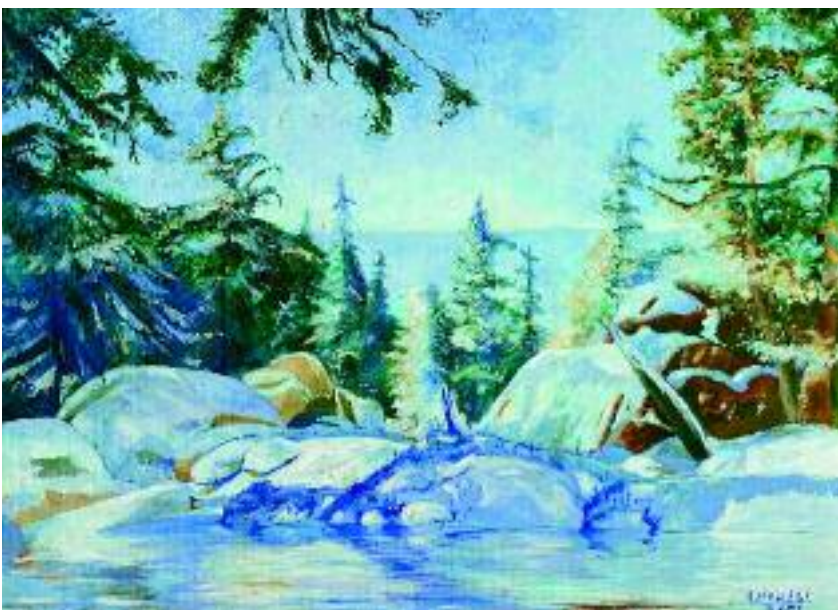
I would like to thank you once again for the trust you have placed in me when you re-elected me as President for the next six years. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we, the artists, are and will remain the most pivotal people in this beautiful and great Association. With the help of Director Mario Famlonga and his team, and with the help of the publishers, our task is to help it move forward and continue to evolve. It is everyone's duty to ensure that our Association continues to exist in the future so that future artists can experience what we are currently able to.

I have the honour of being a member of the jury committee. Once a year, the Jury reviews the work of the Scholarship Holders and Associate Members. In this regard, I would like to share some important details surrounding why or



VDMFK President Serge Maudet.

why not a work of art is chosen to be reproduced in a book, on a postcard, in a calendar or elsewhere.



Serge Maudet, (VDMFK President/France), Mouth Painter, 'Lumiere d'hiver', oil, 54x73 cm.

The following subjects are rarely or not at all selected:

- Subjects in black and white
- Faded subjects
- Subjects that are very dark

It is important that you make your subject stand out well to bring it to life: Try to create strong contrasts between light and shadow. This automatically makes the picture interesting and catches the eye.

In the future, we will be publishing a new 'Jury' section in our information brochure, in which you will be able to see some examples of this kind.

One last important point about your pieces: I would like to remind you that any painting made based on an original by a well-known or less well-known painter becomes a copy. You are therefore not allowed to sign your work and must instead indicate on the back of your painting: 'Copy of a work by ...'. Please note that copies may never be submitted for reproduction.

The World Day of Mouth and Foot Painters takes place on 5 September each year. I would like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation. Don't forget: The next one will take place on 5 September 2024.

I ask you to continue to work with each other and support one another. Happy reading. As always, I will be happy to help you. Take care of yourself!

With artistic greetings,

Serge Maudet
President of the VDMFK

Miscellaneous

GERMANY

- A great honour for the mouth painter Günther Holzapfel, who passed away in January 2019 and had been a Full Member of the Association since 1983. The municipality of Steinburg has named a street in his honour. The 'Günther Holzapfel Ring' will now commemorate the mouth painter for all of time. On his website, Günther Holzapfel welcomes his visitors with the words: 'I have never really seen my disability as a handicap, but rather as an enrichment that provides me with insights from a different perspective that I might not have learnt about as a "healthy person". Perhaps, as a "healthy person", I wouldn't have been as happy as I am now.'



Full Member Günther Holzapfel (right) passed away in January 2019. The municipality of Steinburg has named a street in his honour.

GERMANY

- From 6 to 15 October 2023, Berlin was home to Europe's largest open-air gallery thanks to the 19th 'Festival of Lights'. 'Colours of Life' was the title of this fascinating light art spectacle. «With this year's motto, not only did we want to draw attention to different art forms and variations of light art, but we also wanted to focus in particular on human values like individuality, dignity, respect and acceptance», according to the organisers. For the first time, mouth and foot painters were also part of this

spectacular event. With the works 'Poppy field' and 'For you. A bouquet of flowers full of faith - love - hope' two pieces by mouth painters **Thomas Kahlau (VDMFK Board Member)** and **Lars Höllerer (Full Member)**. Alternating every minute with eight other works of art, they spectacularly illuminated the Berlin Cathedral from 7 pm to 11 pm. The strong colours, which contrast well with the night-time relief of the Berlin Cathedral, the subjects and the life-affirming colour scheme were decisive factors for the festival organisers in choosing the images. Also, «we wanted to demonstrate the diversity of

art and artists, which of course also includes artists with disabilities». Thomas Kahlau and Lars Höllerer have therefore contributed in many respects to the realisation of diversity and the 'Colours of Life'. «This special group of artists directly shows us how art can transcend imaginary boundaries between different people. Their contributions encourage us as viewers to treat each individual and their differences with respect and appreciation.»



One work each by Full Member Lars Höllerer (left) and Board Member Thomas Kahlau was projected onto the Berlin Cathedral as part of the 'Festival of Lights'.



Luca Bucchi (Full Member/Italy), 'St Nicholas playing with the stars on a crescent moon', oil, 70x50 cm.

Artists' activities

ARGENTINA

Barcia, Cesar Andres

(Scholarship Holder)

- Cesar Andres Barcia held a painting demonstration in the central hall of the 'Sindicato de Seguros' building in the Buenos Aires city centre on 8 March 2023. The event was held to commemorate International Women's Day. The artist held an additional painting demonstration for children on 29 June 2023. Cesar Andres Barcia was also asked by the 'Asociacion de Acuarelistas Argentinos' to give an online seminar on his watercolour technique for its members. This seminar took place on 18 July 2023. The mouth painter also received two awards. First, he was honoured with a mention at the competition and exhibition as part of the 23rd edition of the 'Luis Gualchi' Salon of Plastic Arts. Second, he was recognised by the cultural department of 'Exaltacion de la cruz Bs.As.' for his artistic career as a local artist.

Moya, Maria Celeste

(Scholarship Holder)

- Maria Celeste Moya participated in the national and international Poncho Festival trade fair, which attracted more than 1.5 million visitors over 10 days. This event took place in July 2023.

Sosa, Carlos Alberto

(Scholarship Holder)

- Carlos Alberto Sosa travelled to Patagonia in November/December 2023 to hold art workshops with children as well as lectures and painting demonstrations. He will also be exhibiting his work as part of the Day of People with Disabilities on 3 December.

Vrbica, Wolfgang

(Full Member)

- Wolfgang Vrbica took part in a number of activities in 2022. From 19 August to 10 September 2022, an exhibition was held at the 'Enrique Udaondo' museum in the city of Lujan. In October 2022, he joined **Scholarship Holders Cesar Andres Barcia and**



Participating in the Long Night of Museums (from left to right): Scholarship Holders Cesar Andres Barcia and Maria Celeste Moya and Full Member Wolfgang Vrbica.

Maria Celeste Moya as part of the 'Night of the Museums' event. On 3 December 2022, he exhibited his works at the 'Fundacion Bioparque Temaikén', in the city of Escobar. Wolfgang Vrbica concluded his activities for 2022 on 14 December 2022 with a radio interview on Radio Delta in the city of Tigre.

BRAZIL

Borges, Gonçalo

(Associate Member)

- Gonçalo Borges took part in a series of

activities. From 7 to 30 September 2023, he exhibited his ceramic paintings at the 'Taiwan Cultural Center' in São Paulo. He previously held a solo exhibition entitled 'We are all equal in art', which was held at the Santo Amaro

Cultural Centre in São Paulo from 10 to 30 June 2023. He also showcased his works at an exhibition entitled 'Together we are infinite', which was held from 6 September to 7 November 2023. He organised this exhibition together with the Brazilian **Scholarship Holder Eliana Zagui**. It took place at the Hilton Morumbi Hotel in São Paulo.

BELGIUM

Villeneuve, Jacques

(Full Member)

- The publisher Belgium organised an

exhibition of artwork by Jacques Villeneuve. This took place at the Imelda Hospital in Bonheiden. The exhibition featured 30 of the artist's works of art.

Chagas, Maria Goret

(Associate Member)

- Maria Goret Chagas was invited by the Franca City Council to hold an exhibition of painting demonstrations at Pier 16 in Brooklyn New York to promote the city's name. «It was a wonderful event», according to the artist.



Artists' activities

COLUMBIA

Montero Ramírez, Aydee (Scholarship Holder)

- Aydee Montero Ramírez took part in the exhibition 'Love and Acceptance', which opened on 23 May 2023 and ran until 13 June 2023. Around 70 people attended the exhibition opening, including well-known Colombian television actors and people with disabilities.

GERMANY

Mittelbach, Werner (Scholarship Holder)

- Werner Mittelbach exhibited his works in the Göggingen City Library in October 2023. The theme of this exhibition was 'Paths to Art'.

GREAT BRITAIN

Trent Robert (Full Member)

- Robert Trent had the opportunity to exhibit three of his works in September 2023 as part of a collective exhibition

organised by the local 'Warsash Art Group'. The pictures on display received awards. Robert Trent was given the honour of having his painting 'St Marks Square' selected by the jury without knowing it was painted with his mouth. The artist also gave a major radio interview to the BBC in November 2023, which was heard by over 200,000 listeners.

INDONESIA

Agus, Yusuf (Associate Member)

- Yusuf Agus took part in a painting exhibition at 'JX International in Surabaya' on 18 November 2022. The event was opened by the Governor of East Java, Khafifah Indar Parawansa. He also held painting demonstrations for the numerous visitors. The artist also took part in the International Art Exhibition for Disabled People from 8 countries from 19 September to 3 October 2023: The artists came from Australia, Brazil, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, Poland and Indonesia. On 6 October 2023, he also took part in the 'On The Spot' event in Sanggar Merah Putih, Balai Pemuda Surabaya. He presented his works and gave painting demonstrations.

Amanatullah, Muhammad (Scholarship Holder)

- Muhammad Amanatullah had the honour of attending and being honoured at an event called 'Gebyar' on 14 December 2022 to mark the International Day of Disability. This was also reported in the local media. On 20 December 2022, he took part in a painting competition as part of the national championship for disabled painting with the theme 'Working without

limits'. Of the 193 works of art submitted by participants from all over Indonesia, he took 1st place.

Harama, Salim (Scholarship Holder)

- In September 2022, Salim Harama took part in a Disability Day celebration organised by the Indonesian Ministers of Social Affairs. He exhibited some of his works and gave painting demonstrations. He was also invited to give a painting demonstration at a one-day exhibition at 'Indonesia Social Welfare' in Jakarta on 30 December 2022.

Rusdi, Faisal (Scholarship Holder)

- Faisal Rusdi took part in a community exhibition on 10 December 2022 entitled 'Let's create a better place: Ending the stigma, creating an inclusive society'. He also gave painting demonstrations as part of the event. Furthermore, he was invited to participate in the International Wheelchair Day event on 1 March 2023 at 'Kiara Artha Park' in Bandung to exhibit one of his works and give a painting demonstration. Faisal Rusdi also took part in an international exhibition for the disabled in 'Bale Seni Barli' from 19 September to 3 October 2023.

Saerang, Patricia Jane (Associate Member)

- Patricia Jane Saerang received an award for her inspiring painting in December 2022. This honour was awarded by 'OASE', an institution founded by Indonesia's First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo. Patricia Jane Saerang also took part in the 'Tong Tong event' from 28 to 30 July 2023, which was held by the Shalimar Hotel with the theme 'Vintage' in Malang, East Java. The artist also participated in an exhibition that ran from 22 September to 22 October 2023 and was organised by 'Open Arm' in Selasar Sunaryo, a gallery owned by one of Indonesia's best-known artists.

Subadri, Sabar (Associate Member)

- Sabar Subadri took part in an event in January 2023, where he was given the honour of presenting his foot painting to the Vice Governor of Central Java Province, Taj Yasin Maimoen, and painting a work of art. On 18 March 2023, he held a painting demonstration in front of trainers from the Sunday school of the Christian Church of Western Indonesia (GPIB). He was also given the opportunity to exhibit his work and conduct a painting demonstration at an

Continued on page 8

Artists' activities

event organised by the Visual Communication Design Department of Satya Wacana Christian University. This is part of the exhibition of design works with the theme 'The Local Heroes'. This event took place from 16 to 19 May 2023 in the main hall of Satya Wacana Christian University. He was also invited to exhibit 13 works of art and demonstrate his skills at an event called 'The Literacy Expo 2023', which was organised by the Salatiga City Library and Archives from 3 to 9 July 2023.

GUATEMALA

Nájera Carazo,
María Eugenia
(Scholarship Holder)

- María Eugenia Nájera Carzo exhibited her works as part of the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the founding of the 'Atico' gallery in Guatemala. This event took place on 4 May 2023.

ICELAND

Karlsson, Bjarnason
(Scholarship Holder)

- Bjarnason Karlsson had the opportunity to organise a solo exhibition in his home country Iceland, which was visited by Icelandic President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson. The artist also travelled to Nepal for two months, where he organised various events and held painting demonstrations.

CROATIA

Perkovic, Stjepan
(Scholarship Holder)

- Stjepan Perkovic was able to hold a solo exhibition from 14 to 20 August 2023. It was entitled 'Sparks of Life' and took place at the Kulturno-pastoralni centar Baganelovica in Jezera on the island of Murter. Stjepan Perkovic exhibited 21 paintings and 20 drawings with subjects from the small fishing village of Jezera on the island of Murter.

The exhibition was organised and held as part of the vocal seminar 'Jazzera'. The artist was able to hold another solo exhibition on 14 September 2023. This took place in Zagreb and was called 'Star Runner'. It was organised by the Society for the Physically Disabled. Stjepan Perkovic showcased 15 of his works in acrylic, on canvas and in watercolour. The exhibition was opened by the president of the society, Viktorija Lisec.



Numerous guests attended the opening of Stjepan Perkovic's exhibition in Jezera on the island of Murter.

PHILIPPINES

Reyes, Jason C. Delos
(Scholarship Holder)

- To mark the 32nd National Arts Month, the Santa Cruz City Council awarded Jason C. Delos Reyes a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding contributions, dedication to and hard work for the Santa Cruz City Council, especially in the tourism industry. The award was presented on 27 February 2023 at the city council building in Santa Cruz, Laguna. He also exhibited his artworks at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center from 21 to 24 February 2023 as part of the 'Celebration of the Philippine Heart Month' with the theme 'Listen to the Beat'.

Tongco, Julius
(Scholarship Holder)

- Julius Tongco held an exhibition on 19 February 2023 entitled 'Buwan sa Alampart Art Exhibition'. It was held at the Island City Mall, Tagbilaran City, in celebration of National Art Month.

POLAND

Warachim Katarzyna
(Scholarship Holder)

- Katarzyna Warachim organised a solo exhibition in the gallery of the Central Public Library in her hometown of Gliwice. The exhibition was entitled 'Bujda na kółkach' (A Swing on Wheels) and featured 44 oil paintings. The exhibition lasted from 17 April to 15 May 2023.



Yohai Levy (Associate Member/Israel), 'White and yellow flowers in the field', acrylic, 40x30 cm.

New Members/Scholarship Holders

GREAT BRITAIN

Beetham, Leanne

Date of birth: 4 December 1987

Place of birth: Hull

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Leanne Beetham was born on 4 December 1987 with a condition called Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita (AMC). This condition meant that she would never be able to use her arms or walk. As a result, she has become accustomed to using her mouth for most of her everyday tasks, including creating artwork, which she has been doing since the age of three. Since childhood, she has had a love of animals and her two passions have come together naturally. Leanne Beetham has been supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder since 2004. In June 2009 she completed her studies with a 'BSc



Leanne Beetham has been a Scholarship Holder of the VDMFK since 2004. She will become an Associate Member of the Association on 1 March 2024.

(Hons) Applied Animal Behavior & Training' at Bishop Burton College.

Although Leanne Beetham has had a passion for animals and art since childhood, the course has had a significant impact on how she sees and understands the animals she photographs and paints. Her new understanding has enabled her to capture the small details that make each of her animal subjects unique. Leanne Beetham lives with her grandmother in Hull and enjoys concerts, shopping and going out with her friends. Her artistic talents also include designing her own tattoos and logos for a number of local rock bands. She often paints animal subjects with watercolours.

New Scholarship Holders

The following mouth and foot painters will be supported by the Association as Scholarship Holders starting 1 March 2024.

AUSTRALIA

Barry, Bernadette Maureen

Date of birth: 23 July 1960

Place of birth: Elizabeth Vale

Painting technique: Foot Painter

Bernadette Maureen Barry was born on 23 July 1960 in Elizabeth Vale. As a result of her mother taking the drug thalidomide during pregnancy, Bernadette Maureen Barry was born with severely shortened arms. Her hearing and heart were also seriously affected. She uses her feet and mouth for all of her daily activities. She grew up as the middle child of five siblings. As a child, she spent a long time in hospital. When Bernadette Maureen Barry was eleven years old, her parents bought her oil

paints. She really enjoyed painting. She attended schools for children with disabilities and switched to a regular school at the age of eight. At school, Bernadette Maureen Barry was not allowed to use her feet, so she didn't have the opportunity to learn art. Bernadette Maureen Barry has a son who was born in 1997. Painting has had a positive influence on Bernadette's life

difficulties because Robson Suniga was no longer able to work because of his physical disability. His mother looked after him after the accident. Robson Suniga is now married and has two children. In 2021, he was told by a professor that there are painters who paint with their mouth and feet, and she told him about the VDMFK. He was motivated by the idea of one day being part of the VDMFK himself. He was very happy with his first picture; he loves to paint and to find out after such a long time that he can create something on his own.

BRAZIL

Suniga, Robson

Date of birth: 25 August 1980

Place of birth: Indiavaí

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Robson Suniga was born on 25 August 1980 in Indiavaí in the interior of Mato Grosso. From the age of 11, he worked as a farm labourer and looked after the cattle. He had an accident at the rodeo on 27 July 2002. As a result of the fall while riding, he suffered a shock to the spinal cord and fractured his cervical spine (C4/C5). The family had many dif-

New Scholarship Holders

COLUMBIA

Barbosa Jaimes, Juan Jose

Date of birth: 13 September 1989

Place of birth: Saravena Arauca

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Juan Jose Barbosa Jaimes was born on 13 September 1989 in the municipality of Saravena Arauca. He spent his childhood in the countryside with his parents and five siblings and attended school until the age of 11, after which he helped his parents with their daily work. At the age of 18, he was drafted into military service, where Juan Jose Barbosa Jaimes remained for 17 months until he fell into a ravine in an accident on 6 June 2009 and injured his spinal cord. In the military hospital, he was diagnosed with spinal cord trauma C4-C6. After a long period of hospitalisation, he was discharged in May 2011 and his family brought him home. In July 2018, he met a friend who was able to teach him how to paint. He received painting lessons in his home.

Moscoso López, Yury Liliana

Date of birth: 13 May 1983

Place of birth: Rovira

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Yury Liliana Moscoso López was born on 13 May 1983 in the municipality of Rovira. She spent her childhood with her three brothers in La Vereda, where she also attended primary and secondary school. She finished high school at the age of 16 and worked as a teacher for three years. She then began studying at the University of Tolima. Despite working several part-time jobs, her income was not enough to continue her university studies. She moved to Bogota to work as a security guard. In 2009, she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease (rheumatoid arthritis). Initially she was able to continue working, but in 2011 Yury Liliana Moscoso López lost her job and moved in with her sister in Ibagué. The disease conti-

nued to progress. Her upper limbs have been stiffened since 2016. As Yury Liliana Moscoso López has always been interested in art, she began to draw and paint with her mouth. She learnt about the VDMFK from friends.

Arévalo Bayona, Maria Torcoroma

Date of birth: 14 September 1982

Place of birth: Abrego Norte

Painting technique: Foot Painter

María Torcoroma Arévalo Bayona was born without arms on 14 September 1982 in Abrego Norte (Colombia). She completed her primary and secondary education. She first discovered her passion for painting as a child and began to paint with her feet. She participated in several exhibitions. She lives with her three children with her parents. She likes to paint with oil colours; through painting she can express her feelings. She would like to develop artistically.

CROATIA

Terihaj, Kristina

Date of birth: 5 January 1985

Place of birth: Slavonski Brod

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Kristina Terihaj was born in Slavonski Brod on 5 January 1985, the first of three children. Immediately after birth, she was diagnosed with arthrogryphosis congenita multiplex. Kristina Terihaj has needed a wheelchair since birth and is completely dependent on support. Kristina attended school until the 8th grade, but her parents could not see her attending secondary school because of the distance. Kristina then lost her friends. Thanks to her joining the youth choir, Kristina Terihaj was able to make friends again. Kristina Terihaj started painting in October 2021. Painting helps her to relax. She mainly develops her skills online.

FRANCE

Aïche, Virginie

Date of birth: 11 April 1980

Place of birth: Nogent-sur-Marne

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Virginie Aïche was born on 11 April 1980 in Nogent-sur-Marne. Since the age of 21, she has been paraplegic due to a gunshot wound. After training as a psychotherapist, she completed advanced training as a therapist for child and adolescent psychopathology. Virginie Aïche is very curious by nature and enjoys learning and interacting with people. Through all these interactions, she became interested in art. Virginie Aïche likes museums and exhibitions. While watching videos, she discovered a painter who paints with her mouth. She got Virginie Aïche to try out watercolour painting. Virginie Aïche started mouth painting in December 2020. She would like to take lessons to improve her skills and learn other techniques.

Spiess, Mélodie

Date of birth: 3 July 2006

Place of birth: Belfort

Painting technique: Foot Painter

Melodie Spiess was born in Belfort on 3 July 2006 with cerebral palsy as a result of a stroke. She has a sister who is three years older and has been a motivating force for her since early childhood. Melodie Spiess lives with her family in a single-family home in Alsace. Melodie Spiess has been receiving physiotherapy, speech therapy and psychomotor therapy as well as adapted sports lessons since she was 6 months old. Melodie Spiess' goal is clear, with no alternative: she wants to become an artist and painter. This decision was made following a year of numerous job and school visits. The family found an institution in which art is highly valued alongside school. Melodie Spiess also takes painting lessons and attends workshops outside of

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New Scholarship Holders

school. Melodie Spiess is a young girl who aspires to make a living doing what she loves. She attaches great importance to human values and has an incredible instinct for observation and listening. Despite her difficulties in speaking, she communicates very well in writing.

INDIA

Iyengar, Ashrita Varadarajan

Date of birth: 24 November 2004
Place of birth: Mumbai
Painting technique: Foot Painter

Ashrita Varadarajan Iyengar was born on 24 November 2004 in Mumbai. Until the age of 9, she was a healthy, normally active, athletic girl. On 7 August 2014, she was diagnosed with 'Japanese encephalitis' with a rare viral fever and had to be admitted to intensive care. She was hospitalised for almost four months and had lost the ability to speak and three of her limbs. After being discharged from hospital, she was almost unable to move, she could neither swallow nor speak. She continues to work on her recovery at home and in therapy centres. Ashrita Varadarajan Iyengar has many hobbies, including learning Korean and Japanese. She speaks English, Hindi, Marathi and Punjabi. In 2015, she started using her toe to type on her mobile phone and later on her laptop. During the lockdown (2021), she became interested in painting. She began to mix colours with her right toe. She was encouraged by her family to learn to paint at home. After the second lockdown, she began to speak a little.

Lama, Dhan Kumar

Date of birth: 8 August 1974
Place of birth: Teesta Valley
Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Dhan Kumar Lama was born on 8 August 1974 in the Teesta Valley, Darjeeling district of West Bengal. While

on active military service as a soldier in the Indian Army, he suffered a spinal cord injury. Since retiring, he has lived at the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Khadki, Pune. He started mouth painting in June 2021. Dhan Kumar Lama has a wife and two children. Besides painting, he loves to sing.

P V, Kavitha

Date of birth: 14 December 1980
Place of birth: Kannur
Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Kavitha P V was born on 14 December 1980 in Kannur. She grew up with five siblings. She contracted polio at the age of one. As Kavitha P V was unable to attend school for health reasons, she was taught at home. She also learnt mouth painting on her own. She began by making embossed pictures and later learned to paint with watercolours. In 2017, Kavitha P V married a man who also has health impairments. He supports and motivates her to pursue her passion.

Sherin Latheef, Shifna

Date of birth: 16 February 2009
Place of birth: Gudalur
Painting technique: Foot Painter

Shifna Sherin Latheef was born on 16 February 2009 in Gudalur without arms. She lives with her parents and two siblings in Gudalur. Her mother is a housewife and her father a chauffeur. Shifna Sherin Latheef attends the 'Fathima Girls High School' in Gudalur. Her mother has always encouraged her to pursue her passion for painting. She was her first teacher and learnt everything from her. When Shifna Sherin Latheef was in kindergarten, her mother encouraged her to take part in art competitions. She has been taking professional painting lessons since 2022. Shifna Sherin Latheef has already taken part in numerous competitions and won awards.

ITALY

Fakhoury, Nadir

Date of birth: 16 January 1994
Place of birth: Rovereto
Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Nadir Fakhoury was born on 16 January 1994 in Rovereto and has lived in Malcesine, Verona for many years. He attended secondary school and later completed a vocational diploma as an electrician. He has always been passionate about painting and the landscapes of the region, but never actually set out to learn this art until his accident. On 23 December 2020, Nadir veered off the road on a bike ride. It took several hours before passers-by discovered him and called for help. Nadir Fakhoury broke his 4th and 5th cervical vertebrae in the fall and has been a quadriplegic ever since. His interest in painting was aroused by an art therapist in the rehabilitation ward of the hospital in Negrar (Verona), who encouraged him to pursue his nature and try painting with his mouth. As a self-taught artist, with the exception of a watercolour course, he developed his technique over the course of two years and also mastered oil paints. He lives with his mother and brother, who are a great help to him in his daily life and encourage him with his passion for painting.

MEXICO

Moroyoqui López, Lizbeth Azucena

Date of birth: 28 January 1985
Place of birth: Guasave
Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Lizbeth Azucena Moroyoqui López was born on 28 January 1985 in Guasave, Sinaloa, where she still lives today. In 2006, she completed her degree in psychology and was offered a position as HR manager at a journalism company. In the same year, she was involved in a serious road accident. On arrival at the

New Scholarship Holders

hospital and after many examinations, she was diagnosed with a C5-C6 spinal cord injury. On 20 August 2010, she was hired as a teacher for a primary school special education group. Due to the pandemic situation in 2020, the facility closed its doors. In 2017, she began attending painting courses in the city of Culiacán alongside her work. It was there that she discovered her love of painting. To improve her painting skills, she started watching art and painting tutorials on various YouTube channels. From 2018 to 2020, she attended private painting lessons with Lidia Cháidez López (Associate Member of the VDMFK).

NORWAY

Vik, Henriette Nyhammer

Date of birth: 9 August 1990

Place of birth: Eid

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Henriette Nyhammer Vik was born in Eid on 9 August 1990 with a tumour in her spinal cord. The tumour cripples her nervous system. As a result, she has no controlled movement in her legs and limited movement in her arms. In her everyday life, she uses her mouth to carry out daily tasks. As a child, Henriette Nyhammer Vik did sport to strengthen her body. At the age of six, she was able to walk with a little help. At the age of eight, the tumour in her spinal cord began to grow and she had to be operated on so that part of the tumour could be removed. After the operation, Henriette Nyhammer Vik lost control over her body. She had to use her mouth to help herself. She has always loved drawing and is creative. Henriette Nyhammer Vik had many other hobbies and enjoyed arts and crafts, but during the Covid lockdown she decided to try watercolour. Painting is a hobby that she can do all by herself and without help. She completed her bachelor's degree in psychology in 2019. In May 2022, she decided to quit her job and concentrate fully on her art. Painting gives Henriette Nyhammer Vik

a fantastic feeling of happiness and strength.

SERBIA

Obrovacki, Marija

Date of birth: 23 May 1970

Place of birth: Novi Sad

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Marija Obrovacki was born on 23 May 1970 in Novi Sad. Six months after her birth, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She attended primary school in Novi Sad. Marija Obrovacki lived with her parents and regularly visited rehabilitation centres. In 2009, Marija Obrovacki began using the services of a personal assistant. This work helped her to develop and become independent. Marija Obrovacki is one of the founders of the 'Aufrecht leben' centre, which offers personal assistance services for people with disabilities. In 2013, she moved into her own flat in Novi Sad. At the age of 51, she enrolled in secondary school. She started painting with her mouth in 2021.

SPAIN

Jiménez Lara, Sonia

Date of birth: 14 September 1977

Place of birth: Algeciras

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Sonia Jiménez Lara was born on 14 September 1977 in Algeciras and suffers from spastic tetraparesis. She began her artistic career years ago by painting tissues with a brush and later started painting on canvas. Due to gradually developing difficulties in performing the work by hand, Sonia Jiménez Lara decided to take a break and practise graphic design with a tactile graphics tablet. When she developed necrosis in her wrists and was no longer able to continue with this form of artistic expression, she taught herself the technique of painting with her mouth. In her dormitory, she was encouraged by

the workshop teacher to continue painting on silk scarves. This technique has given her the opportunity to continue her artistic career. Sonia Jiménez Lara's attitude, perseverance, enthusiasm and patience enable her to overcome the limitations that arise and continue to create art. She likes to use landscapes and natural elements as the subject of her works, emphasising her love of flowers.

THAILAND

Nontaruk, Thummarong

Date of birth: 15 October 1973

Place of birth: Bo Phloi

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Thummarong Nontaruk was born on 15 October 1973 in Bo Phloi, Kanchanaburi. He finished primary school in his home town and then started working in a factory. In 1997, he was shot on his way home from work. Since then, he has been unable to move from the shoulder down. Seven years after this incident, Thummarong Nontaruk met his future wife. She supports her husband wherever she can. Thummarong Nontaruk is trying to earn a living by painting pictures. He learnt to paint from YouTube videos. The art teacher Khongrit Laothong taught him additional techniques at home. He paints pictures with his mouth and with watercolours.

Pholphan, Jantee

Date of birth: 16 August 1985

Place of birth: Ubon Ratchathani

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Jantee Pholphan was born on 16 August 1985 in Ubon Ratchathani with a congenital deformity. Due to her disability, she was unable to go to school and her parents took care of her. With the help of a teacher who visited her at home, she was able to finish secondary school. She has been painting with her

Continued on page 14

New Scholarship Holders

mouth since she was 8 years old. Jantee Pholphan loves painting and has a talent for it. Painting has changed her outlook on life and has given her a renewed sense of vitality.

USA

Hyslop, Corey

Date of birth: 31 May 1986

Place of birth: Harvey, Florida

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Corey Hyslop was born on 31 May 1986 in Harvey, Florida. Corey Hyslop has been a C3/C4 quadriplegic since a motorbike accident in 2007. After the accident, he had to learn to adapt and keep pushing to achieve his goals. He holds a Master's degree in Human Resources and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Illinois. Corey Hyslop worked in the HR department of a large company for ten years. In his spare time, he likes to play poker, read about technology and enjoy good music. Although Corey Hyslop has no formal training in art, he has recently found that painting is a therapeutic outlet that he would like to expand upon.

Tranby, Jayden

Date of birth: 27 August 2009

Place of birth: China

Painting technique: Foot Painter

Jayden Tranby was born on 27 August 2009 in China without arms. When he was almost two years old, he was adopted by a family from Oregon. He has learnt to perform all activities with his right foot, including writing and painting. Jayden Tranby struggles with social anxiety and selective mutism. Painting offers him an excellent opportunity to express himself in this way. He began taking art lessons in middle school and enjoys developing his skills as an artist. Jayden Tranby draws inspiration for his artwork from the natural beauty of the places he visits in Oregon and other destinations he travels to. He got to

know the VDMFK through Linda Bannon (Scholarship Holder of the Association). As well as painting, Jayden Tranby also enjoys para-nordic skiing, building with Legos and camping with his family.

Caricatures

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. On this page we show three of these caricatures.

'No appreciation of a father's hobby' is the title of this caricature.



'Take a seat' is the invitation in the caricature entitled 'Unpleasant visitor'



'SOS - Ship in distress!' is the title of this caricature by the German mouth painter Carl Ernst Fischer

The significance of painting

The following is the significance of painting for mouth painter Ronald Dale Tabor, Full Member from the USA.

The significance of painting

I think that painting can be important to anyone for various personal reasons. For personal reasons and in my physical condition, it gives me a different route to communication, creativity and productivity.

As a child, as a young person and then as an adult, I have always been interested in art. During my time at school, I was sought out for artistic questions and concerns. Later, with my physical disability, I was no longer able to continue with various activities, such as basketball, baseball, hunting, etc., except as a spectator. Although I remain an enthusiastic spectator, I was unable to physically take part. But my artistic skills were significantly improved and something I had always enjoyed became so much more.

When I paint in a school or public place, the kids will watch in awe for a while and then say, 'Dude, I can't do that with my two hands!' I then reply: 'Well, I can't do that either.' But I can do everything with my mouth that someone else can do with their hands.

Really, I enjoy painting. It is a way of expressing my own thoughts and feelings. It's also a way of capturing the beauty of nature that I see all around me. I guess you could say it even makes me feel good. However, there is another very important reason why I paint. It helps me to support myself and my family. Wherever I show my pictures, there is a great demand for the pictures I exhibit, as well as requests for pictures with other themes that have something to do with the local people. People seem to like my art and are willing to pay for it.



Ronald Dale Tabor, Full Member from the USA, at the Delegates' Convention in Copenhagen in July 2023. Wrapped in the flag of the host country Denmark.

Painting gives me valuable time and companionship with people who just want to watch me paint. It also gives me valuable time and compa-

nionship with other painters and artists of all kinds. Not only do I like to paint with my mouth, but I also enjoy talking with it. My art gives me the opportunity to talk to so many interesting people about so many interesting topics.



Ronald Dale Tabor (Full Member/USA), 'Spring begins', acrylic, 51x41 cm.

I feel that paintings speak to everyone in some way. They may evoke fond memories of a beloved place, person or pet with whom you have spent hours of joy. The pictures can take you back to an emotional high when you felt you had achieved something great. They can draw attention to the plight of another person whom you have been able to help or at least make others aware of. They can show you that you are not really alone when the wonders of nature and all its beauty are revealed in a well-painted picture.

The significance of painting

I'm sure other artists could probably add a lot to this list, but these are some of the main reasons that I'm a mouth painter. I would encourage everyone to always do whatever they can with the skills they have.

There is always something that someone can achieve.

Ronald Dale Tabor
Full Member/USA



Ronald Dale Tabor (Full Member/USA), 'Snow Delight', oil, 41x51 cm.



Ronald Dale Tabor (Full Member/USA), 'The peacock', oil, 87x41 cm.

Tabor, Ronald Dale (USA)

*Date of birth: 10 April 1948 Place of birth: Boone County, Arkansas
Full Member of the VDMFK since: 2013
Painting technique: Mouth painter*

Ronald Dale Tabor was born on 10 April 1948 in Boone County, Arkansas. He attended elementary school, high school and university in Arkansas. In

1969, he was seriously injured in a car accident, resulting

in quadriplegia. In 1970 he began to paint with his mouth. He taught himself mouth painting. In 1987, he became a VDMFK Scholarship Holder. He was admitted to the Association as an Associate Member in 2011. Two years later, in 2013, he became a Full Member of the VDMFK. He has been a member

of the 'Heart of the

Ozarks Art + Crafts Guild' since January 1986. He prefers to paint landscapes and animals using acrylic and oil techniques. Ronald Dale Tabor has often taken part in exhibitions and organised solo exhibitions. Numerous press reports have been published about the multi-talented mouth painter.

We mourn for

ITALY

Calloni, Luigi

Date of birth: 3 October 1948

Passed away on: 11 October 2023

Painting technique: Mouth and Foot Painter

Luigi Calloni was born without arms. He began to paint at the age of 12. He acquired his knowledge of painting by receiving instruction from experienced artists from Livorno and by attending the Art Academy in Ardenza. In 1977, Luigi Calloni had already received a scholarship from the Association. He has been a Full Member of the VDMFK since 1999. This allowed him to show his works to the general public. For example, a permanent exhibition was set up in Munich. Furthermore, he also participated in numerous exhibitions in Italy, Switzerland and Austria. His works were well received and recognised. He was honoured in the form of several

awards, cups and medals as well as certificates.

In his paintings, he preferred warm and lively colours which are a symbol for the atmosphere he liked to create. In time he preferred more and more figurative works and underlined his growing passion for religious art. His paintings were also of landscapes and expressions of feelings that reflected episodes of life. Luigi Calloni was also a poet and author. Like for his paintings, he also received numerous honorary distinctions for his literature. Luigi Calloni died a few days after his 75th birthday on 11 October 2023.



Full Member Luigi Calloni passed away a few days after his 75th birthday on 11 October 2023.

USA

Rycroft, Robert

Date of birth: 24 October 1948

Passed away on: 7 September 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

In 1983, at the age of 34 years, Robert Rycroft was so severely injured in a surfing accident that he was left paraplegic. This meant that he was no longer able to pursue his work in construction and had to look for a new occupation. Although he was paralysed from the neck down, he began to paint with his mouth. A friend of his gave him this idea of painting pictures. And so he began his first attempts with a sheet of paper, and a pencil between his teeth. He subsequently taught himself the technique of mouth painting. The Association supported him from 1989 with a scholarship. In 1996, he was approved as an Associate Member by the VDMFK.



Robert Rycroft most liked to paint landscapes, flower paintings and religious motifs. He loved to observe nature and to transpose his impressions into his works. For this, he mostly used the technique of watercolour painting for around a decade. He also liked to make pen drawings.

Robert Rycroft received numerous prizes and honours for his works. Furthermore, his pictures have already been on display in a variety of places in the USA. Robert Rycroft died at the age of 74 on 7 September 2023.

Robert Rycroft, Associate Member from the USA, passed away on 7 September 2023 at the age of 74.

CYPRUS

Kyriacou, Kyriacos

Date of birth: 4 November 1956

Passed away on: 21 September 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Kyriacos Kyriacou was very athletic in his youth and actively played rugby. At the age of 15, he suffered a diving accident that left him paralysed in his hands and legs. He began painting and drawing with his mouth during his rehabilitation in hospital. He then attended a private art school and later private art lessons. In 1979, he received a scholarship from the Association. He became a Full Member of the VMDFK just two years later.

His artistic work reflected both of Kyriacos Kyriacou's life lessons. On the one hand, his pictures were influenced by the island world of the Aegean. He often chose the subject of blue boats against the white karst coastline. However, he also favoured subjects like British landscapes, with their lakes and rivers, and the typical old English villages and small towns, with their reddish



Full Member Kyriacos Kyriacou passed away on 21 September 2023. He was 63 years old.

stone houses. He mainly painted with oil. Kyriacos Kyriacou has exhibited his work to the public at several exhibitions both in Cyprus and in Great Britain. Kyriacos Kyriacou died on 21 September

2023 at the age of 63.

Deceased Scholarship Holders

BRAZIL

Monteiro de Freitas, Severino

Date of birth: 5 March 1966

Passed away on: 30 August 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Severino Monteiro de Freitas was born on 3 May 1966 in João Pessoa - Paraíba, in north-eastern Brazil. Even as a child, he was an enthusiastic painter and artist. His works were shown at school exhibitions. At the age of 19, he moved to São Paulo. He married and became the father of three children. He divorced in 2016 and lost contact with his children. On 31 March 2017, he was shot

and wounded during his work as a security officer. The bullet damaged a cervical vertebra. He spent 40 days in a hospital and fell ill with pneumonia there. Despite very poor prognoses, he survived and began occupational therapy, during which he tried to paint with his mouth. He learnt of the Association at the rehabilitation centre. That is how Severino Monteiro de Freitas came to be supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder in 2021. Severino Monteiro de Freitas passed away on 30 August 2023.

GREAT BRITAIN

Hopkins, George

Date of birth: 23 December 1946

Passed away on: 5 September 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

George Hopkins was born on 23 December 1946 in Kent. He suffered from cerebral palsy, could not move his arms and was confined to a wheelchair. The mouth painter attended the Society Bordin School for persons with cerebral palsy in Peterborough. In 1985 George Hopkins began to paint with his mouth. He taught himself mouth painting. He started to receive support from the Association as a Scholarship Holder in

Continued on page 20

We mourn for

1991. He also took private lessons with a teacher. George Hopkins was married and his hobbies included visiting galleries, sightseeing, sport and animals. George Hopkins passed away on 5 September 2023.

ITALY

Martini, Antonio

Date of birth: 8 June 1941

Passed away on: 29 August 2023

Painting technique: Foot Painter

Antonio Martini was born on 8 June 1941 in Orbetello. He had cerebral palsy and painted with his foot beginning in 1961. He was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder from 1989. He was an autodidact. Antonio Martini went to primary school. He had a car, which he drove with his feet. He regularly organised successful solo exhibitions, which were met with great enthusiasm. Antonio Martini passed away on 29 August 2023.

SWEDEN

Dahl, Karin

Date of birth: 9 March 1982

Passed away on: 29 September 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Karin Dahl was born on 9 March 1982 in Skövde/Sweden. Since an accident in 1982, she was paralysed. She was only able to move her head. Nevertheless, horseback riding remained her hobby. In autumn 1989, Karin Dahl started painting with her mouth. She attended various painting courses in Mullsjö, where she learned to paint in watercolours. Karin Dahl has been supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder since 1993. She has been able to present her work to a broad public time and again at exhibitions. Karin Dahl passed away on 29 September 2023.

SWITZERLAND

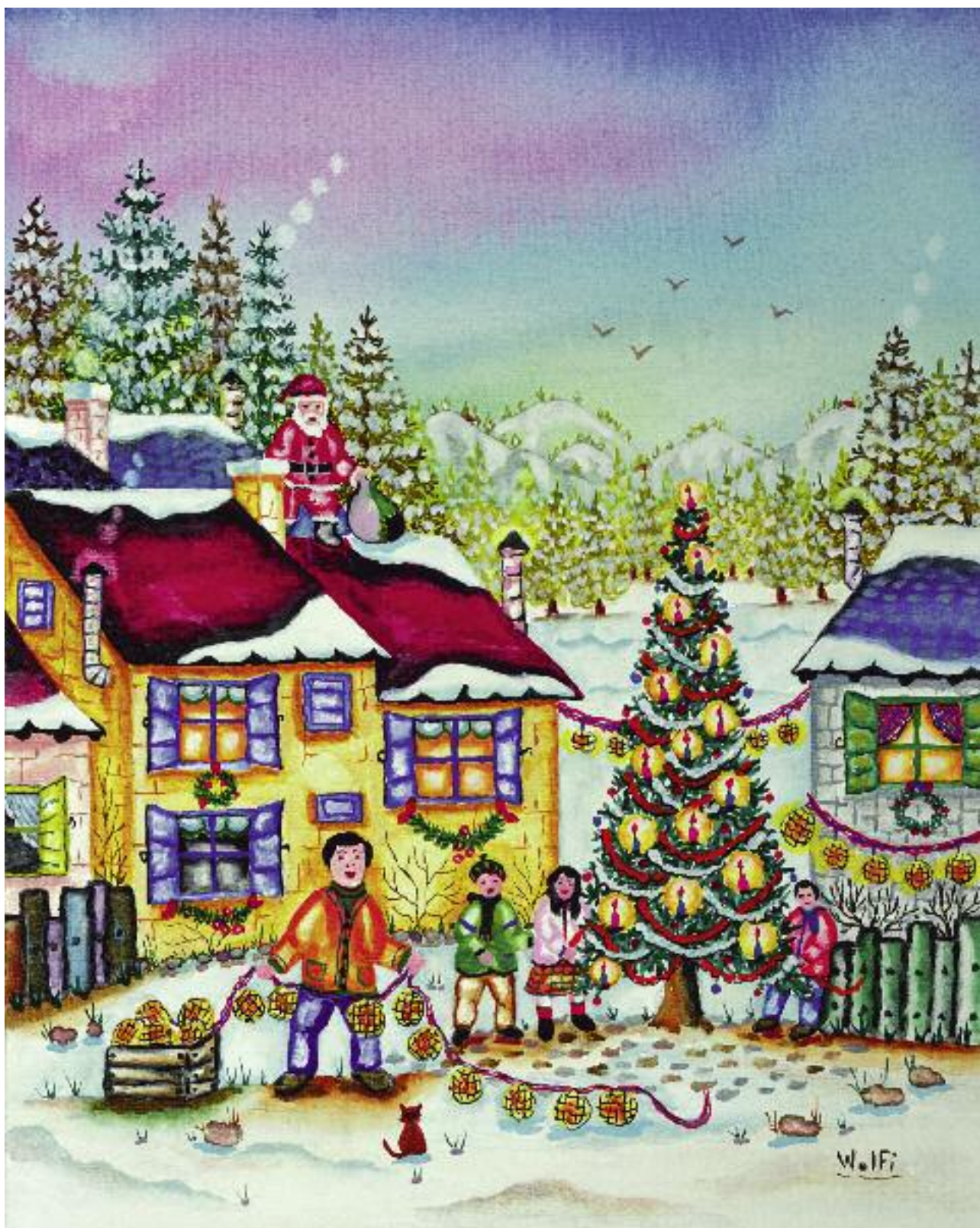
Leisi, Antoine René

Date of birth: 3 April 1965

Passed away on: 4 August 2023

Painting technique: Mouth Painter

Antoine René Leisi was born on 3 April 1965 in Grenchen in the canton of Solothurn. He spent his childhood in the canton of Ticino, where he was able to marvel at the many landscapes. He began cycling at the age of ten. He was a schoolboy and raced his bike on the road. At the age of 19, he had to make an important decision. He opted for the 'safer' option, getting a job. Unfortunately, his parents could not afford to support him with his sport. At the age of 20, after finishing his compulsory schooling and an apprenticeship, he completed an apprenticeship as a sheet metal body builder. He also worked as a fitter for metal plants in Sursee. It was a job that he liked and that gave him satisfaction. Unfortunately, he was the victim of a car accident on 27 January 1991 and became a quadriplegic with a lesion of the 4th-5th-6th cervical vertebrae. He began to paint in 1995 after reading a book by Joni Eareckson, a mouth painter with quadriplegia. He began to pursue this passion by painting while lying in a hospital bed. For him, painting served as a kind of therapy that immersed his mind in a dimension of colour. He chose colours based on his mood, without thinking about the content and form. He painted on canvas or sheets of paper, letting himself be guided by the brush he held in his mouth, by the channel he used to physically express the emotions and feelings of his state of mind. Antoine René Leisi has been supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder since 2019. He passed away on 4 August 2023.



Wolfgang Vrbica (Full Member/Argentina), 'Christmas', mixed media, 50x40 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**

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.

VDMFK personalities

In the section 'VDMFK personalities', we present mouth and foot painters who have made outstanding contributions to the Association along its 60-year history. This time we present mouth painter Riek de Vos from the Netherlands.

Mouth painter Riek de Vos was born on 6 January 1928 in Benschop in the Netherlands. She was a founding member of the Association and was one of the mouth and foot painters who met in the Principality of Liechtenstein in 1956 to found the VDMFK.

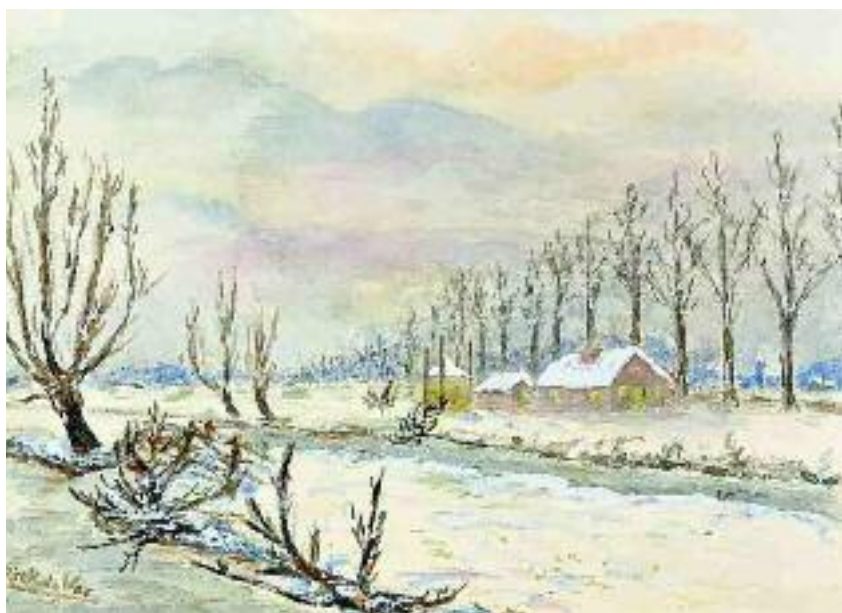
Riek de Vos was born severely physically disabled as a result of brain damage. She couldn't walk, nor could she use her hands. Nevertheless, she attended primary schools, where she learnt to write, draw and paint with her mouth. Riek de Vos left school at the age of 14. To pass the time, she liked to draw. She started painting lessons at the age of 25. In 1954, she made contact with founding president A. E. Stegmann. At the time, he was busy looking for people who painted with their mouths or feet to found the Association. Arnuld Erich Stegmann took a painting of her, which appeared on a card in the same year. As a result, she became a founding member of the VDMFK and was able to



Riek de Vos, mouth painter from the Netherlands, died on 3 November 2007. She was the last living founding member of the Association.

earn her own living from then on. Riek de Vos' favourite subjects were flowers. Her watercolours were appreciated and popular because of their subtle colours. During her more than 50 years as a Full Member of the VDMFK, she has very often been able to present her works to

a broad public through exhibitions at home and abroad. She has also received various awards and honours in Europe and America over the years.



Riek de Vos (deceased Full Member/Netherlands), 'Winter Landscape' watercolour, size unknown.



Riek de Vos (deceased Full Member/Netherlands), 'Ster van Bethlehem', watercolour, 27x23 cm.

Announcements from the Jury

With this issue of VDMFK Information, we are launching a new section called 'Announcements from the Jury'. Below we present a text by Werner Marxer, who has been a member of the VDMFK Jury for decades.

I regularly hear questions from artists about how the Jury actually works. I would like to present some facts on this subject. These statements reflect my personal opinion, but also adhere to the generally recognised principles of the Jury.

The Jury consists of five international experts carefully selected by the Board. It is formed in such a way that the greatest possible diversity of perspectives and expertise is incorporated. The Jury's task is to judge the submitted works as objectively and fairly as possible in terms of their quality, originality and artistic expressiveness. The Jury meets at least once a year at the Association's headquarters for several days to assess the works of art submitted. What does the assessment involve?

Painting technique

The craftsmanship of a painted picture is of great importance. We assess the techniques and skills that have gone into the work. We ask ourselves, what is the technique behind the brushwork? Has the artist achieved a coherent texture and overall design that corresponds to the chosen subject? Is the colour composition appropriate to the choice of subject, the season and the time of day? How does he or she approach formal design rules? Is the arrangement and distribution of line and surface elements coherent? Does the work follow recognised design rules or is the arrangement of the individual elements and the colour scheme more random, or is there a conscious and clear design that corresponds to the chosen subject?

These, among many others, are some of the important questions that the Jury asks itself when assessing a picture.



Werner Marxer, long-standing member of the Association's Jury.

Choice of subject/originality/Independence

The choice of subject is considered completely independently of the jury member's personal taste. The Association depends on receiving subjects that can be used as artwork for publications. But that is only one aspect. How a picture can convey a theme, a story, places or thoughts to the viewer, or make the viewer think, is just as important and influences the assessment. Can new methods or innovative approaches be recognised in the work? Are there any fresh ideas or particularly creative approaches? A high degree of recognisable independence and originality is valuable.

Topicality

How does a work of art relate to current trends and developments in the art world? Where does one's own work stand in the context of the current art scene? Is there any reference to the current art scene at all, or is the work detached from it in every respect, without any reference to it? An essential question in the assessment is the artist's history of works. Has there been any recognisable artistic development over the years, have new skills or new means of expression been acquired? Is the existing potential being utilised and expanded? A recognisable development in

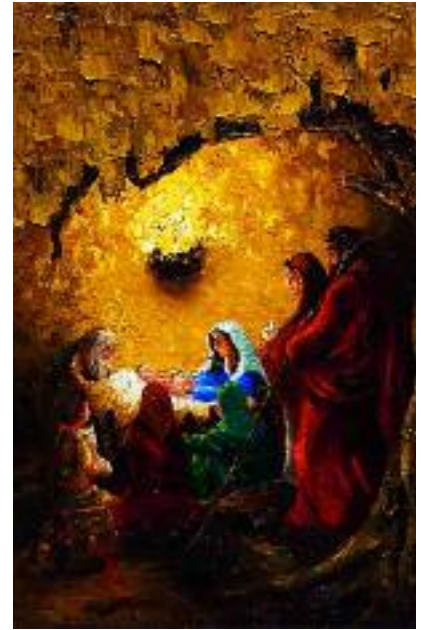
one or more areas is recognised in the assessment.

The jury members take a lot of time to carefully examine and evaluate the submitted works. Each member strives to do so objectively and fairly. Naturally, individual perspectives and expertise are included in the assessment. However, a jury member's personal preferences with regard to techniques and subject preferences do not play a role in the evaluation. This is precisely why we always base our decisions on the objective criteria mentioned above.

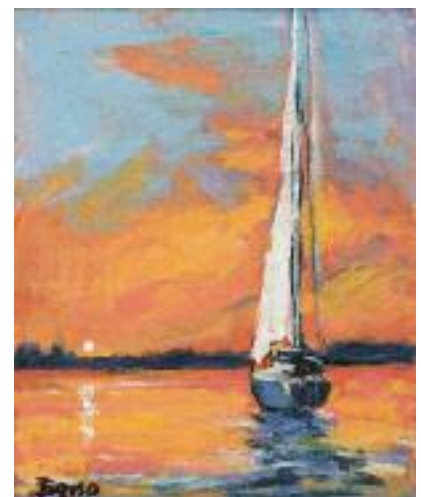
In certain cases, the Jury is planning to provide artists with feedback on submitted works. This should primarily provide information on the current assessment, but especially suggestions for theoretical and practical professional development.

Werner Marxer
Jury Member

Announcements from the Jury



For the Board and Jury, it is important that mouth and foot painters all over the world are aware of which subjects attract great interest, favour and popularity. On this page we present a few subjects that we know attract a lot of attention at presentations and exhibitions. This selection is intended to make it easier for our artists to find the right subjects.



Interview

Mouth painter Kun-Shan Hsieh from Taiwan has been a member of the Association's Board since 2002. We spoke to him about the development of the VDMFK during his tenure and the focus of his work for mouth and foot painters around the world.

Mr Hsieh, you have been a member of the Board of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World for over 20 years now. What is so appealing about this position?

Kun-Shan Hsieh: First of all, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all Members, Associate Members and Scholarship Holders and thank you for the opportunity to serve as a Board Member and oversee the introduction and advancement of many of our concepts over the past two decades. To me, the Board's function is not limited to administrative or managerial tasks; it is much more important that we provide a platform for a lively and direct exchange of opinions between our artists, publishers and employees. The VDMFK has grown rapidly over the last 65 years and the Board's goal remains to ensure the sustainability of our organisation. At the same time, we are committed to the constant discovery of new talents and support the creative process of our members as much as possible. I myself was trained in both Eastern and Western art. So, in addition to painting, it was a great pleasure for me to contribute my skills during my time as a jury member. My greatest achievement as a Board Member is the knowledge that I have initiated and facilitated many dialogues and exchanges within our Association and that I have been able to help everyone involved to make many mutually beneficial decisions.

If you look back over these 21 years, what has changed during this time? What are the differences between the VDMFK of 2002 and that of 2023?

Kun-Shan Hsieh: In this time, I have witnessed the profound impact that



VDMFK Board Member Kun-Shan Hsieh: "I believe that great works of art are the foundation of this Association."

technological advances have had on our Association. When I took up my post, the use of the Internet was widespread, but not yet as closely linked to our lives as it is today. People had an optimistic view of the new century, and our Association had not yet realised the endless possibilities and challenges of the Internet to our business model. However, I am very happy that with the growing use of the Internet and social media, the connections between our artists have increased in a way that I could not have imagined when first starting out. I consider it an invaluable experience to be able to see the work of others and learn from it immediately. I personally follow the work of many of our artists on social media, as I consider it a great asset for my work as a Board Member.

VDMFK President Serge Maudet writes in the foreword to this brochure: "It is the duty of all of us to ensure that our Association continues to exist in the future so that future artists can experience what we are currently able to experience." Where do you see the focus of the VDMFK's future work and what

should be done to make the President's appeal a reality?

Kun-Shan Hsieh: The greatest blessing for an artist is to be able to concentrate fully and completely on the creation of their work without any other worries. To ensure that we can continue to offer our members an ideal creative environment, we must first improve the overall quality of our works of art. I believe that great works of art are the foundation of this Association; they should resonate with our potential customers and satisfy the marketing requirements of our publishers. A regular source of income is the best form of support for any artist. As I mentioned in the previous section, it is vital that artists connect with each other. Whether over the Internet, in face-to-face events or through our internal competitions - if all our artists can have a regular exchange of ideas about creative concepts, media and technological prospects, I believe this will be of great benefit both to the advancement of our Association and to the artists themselves.

Your time in office has also seen some unpleasant events. The financial and banking crisis in 2008, the

war in Eastern Europe in 2014 and since 2022, as well as a global pandemic have kept humanity busy. How was the Association affected by these events and what measures did the VDMFK take in response?

Kun-Shan Hsieh: Due to the nature of letters and cards, our sales figures have always been closely linked to changes in the external environment. The wave of digitisation has led to a fundamental change in our notion of handwritten documents. They have evolved from a simple means of communication into collector's items that chronicle important moments in life. In other words, the importance of the content is proportional to the utilisation of the tangible prints. The unprecedented pandemic and the wars that followed pushed people back to fostering relationships, which led to an increase in our sales figures. However, all kinds of negative economic factors soon put an end to this growth. In order to sustain our Association, we were forced to take further cost-cutting measures. Of course, these measures should only be temporary, as they would damage the creative environment of our members. To extricate ourselves from this predicament, a close cooperation between our artists and publishers is crucial. By conducting precise market research, we can bring out more products that meet the needs of our customers, which would contribute to a significant improvement in our sales figures.

You are from Taiwan, a major Asian country. What status do people with disabilities have in your society? How are they supported and what measures or support in Taiwan or Asia could also benefit mouth and foot painters in other countries?

Kun-Shan Hsieh: In terms of the awareness of equal rights for people with disabilities, Taiwan still lags behind other advanced nations. Public understanding of this issue is still changing, both in the general public and in the community of people with physical disabilities. Taiwan has a strong tradition of

mutual aid and people are willing to help those in need; however, this practice has limited all subsequent efforts to the realm of charity and disregarded the intention and ability of the disabled to provide for themselves. Under current legislation, mentally or physically impaired Taiwanese can receive basic support for a normal life, with the country's world-renowned national health insurance scheme providing them with affordable, efficient and excellent medical care. In my country, almost all major medical facilities organise permanent exhibitions of artwork in their various rooms to provide mental stimulation for patients and staff. Our Taiwanese artists have already taken part in several exhibitions in such hospitals and have received very positive feedback. If similar exhibitions could be organised in other countries, it would not only be an opportunity to expand our public relations efforts, but we could also use our artistic talents to give something back to society.



Kun-Shan Hsieh (Full Member/Taiwan), 'Boat in the pond in the blooming park', oil, 50x61 cm.

Letters to the editor

On 29 September 2023, the Swedish Scholarship Holder Karin Dahl passed away. Scholarship Holder Lena Maria Vendelius sent us an obituary for her friend, which we are honoured to publish in its entirety.

RIP Karin Dahl

Life is not fair. I think we can all agree on that. It's not easy either. This week we had to bid farewell to a



wonderful person. Karin Dahl. She passed away at the age of just 41. When I think of Karin, the first thing I see is her cheerful face, her bright eyes and her wonderful smile.

On Midsummer's Day 1985, an accident occurred that would change the lives of Karin and her family forever. Her family wanted to go on a trip. Her father and older brother drove ahead in the car, followed by Karin's mother, aunt and grandmother and Karin, who was three years old at the time. Suddenly, another car approached them. Father Henrik managed to swerve out of the way, but mother Elisabet, who was driving right behind him, didn't make it and in a split second her whole life changed. Karin's grandmother died, as did her aunt. Her mother suffered serious injuries and Karin was completely paralysed from the head down. It seemed she had lost every-

thing. From then on, she could no longer even breathe without assistance and spent the following two and a half years in hospital. But there was one thing she didn't lose - her good mood!

This, and her unique patience, helped Karin grow into a strong and proud young woman. When you spoke to her, she often smiled and you could tell that she was calm. «Yea, of course I am», said Karin. «I enjoy life and am lucky enough to have a real interest -

was accepted as a Scholarship Holder into the Association of Mouth and Foot Painters.

When you look at Karin Dahl's pictures, you immediately notice two things. Humour and warmth. They are painted in such a way that it is impossible to tell whether the artist is an adult or a child. The style is innocent and moving and arouses curiosity.

At times, her disability was extremely difficult and painful, but Karin had an almost supernatural ability to smile through her tears. Now she has been freed from her body and is no longer in pain. I like to think that she is dancing and breathing in the fresh air in a world where we will meet again one day.

In October 2016, Karin and I had an art exhibition together at 'Konstnatta' in the museum in Falköping.

Lena Maria Vendelius

Scholarship Holder of the VDMFK

my art. Without it, I don't know what life would be like today.»

And Karin was an outstanding artist. She has had several solo exhibitions and in 1992, at the age of just 10, she





Ko Shu (Full Member/Taiwan), 'Flowers & Bird', watercolour, 45x45 cm.

Publishers' activities

FRANCE

- After participating in 2017, 2021 and 2022, the French publisher of mouth and foot painters once again repeated the extraordinary Art Shopping experience at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris this year. Over the years, Art Shopping has evolved into THE art event in Paris, where hundreds of artists can present their artworks to thousands of visitors and art lovers. The exhibition brings together carefully selected French and international artists and galleries who have the unique opportunity to present their paintings, sculptures, digital art or photography in a more personal way.

VDMFK President Serge Maudet and Full Members Henri-Claire Hembert and Arnaud Dubarre utilised the platform to interact with the audience. Although the three artists each have their own artistic style, technique and approach to expressing art, they share one common experience: their appreciation for this show and the opportunity to interact with the public. They were able to talk about their creative process, explain the inspirations behind their work and answer visitors' questions. The exhibition took place from 20 to 22 October 2023 in Paris.



VDMFK President Serge Maudet presented his painting skills as part of the exhibition.



The mouth and foot painters who took part in the exhibition at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris (from left to right): Arnaud Dubarre, Henri-Claire Hembert and VDMFK President Serge Maudet.



Foot painter Henri-Claire Hembert during his painting demonstration.



The presentation by mouth painter Arnaud Dubarre aroused great interest among visitors.

Publishers' activities

BRAZIL

- On 14 October 2023, several Brazilian artists held a collective exhibition and painting demonstrations at the 'Sítio Burle Marx' in Rio de Janeiro. The site where the famous Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx lived has become a historical heritage of the country and is visited by anyone who wishes to immerse themselves in nature and enjoy a unique experience. The artists who participated in the event included the following **Scholarship Holders: Carlos Eduardo Rosa Fraga, Victor Santos Pereira, Ricardo Gonzales Rocha Souza, Débora Ferreira dos Santos, Eduardo Moreira de Melo, Márcio Alcântara da Silva.**



The Scholarship Holders who took part in the collective exhibition with painting demonstrations.



Victor Santos Pereira (left), Eduardo Moreira de Melo (centre) and Ricardo Gonzales Rocha Souza.

NORWAY

- The Norwegian publishing house held an 'Open House Exhibition' at the Norwegian publishing house 'Grini Mølle' in Oslo on 11/12 November 2023. This open-house exhibition always takes place on the same week-end in November and has become a fine tradition. Unique paintings by 21 mouth and foot painters from 12 different countries in a wide variety of techniques (oil, acrylic, silk and watercolour) were on display. The numerous visitors were also able to enjoy interactive features about the artists and the Association. The event attracted a great deal of interest on both days.



This year's exhibition by the Norwegian publishing house once again generated a great deal of interest among the guests.

