



VDMFK INFORMATION



**ASSOCIATION OF MOUTH
AND FOOT PAINTING ARTISTS OF
THE WORLD**

**JULY
2025/210**

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Elodie Cazes (France),
"Picton Valley", acrylics, 30 × 22 cm.

Credits

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Foreword by Tom Yendell, Board member of the VDMFK

In 2026 our Association will celebrate the 70th anniversary of this wonderful institution, which has made possible for me and thousands of other Mouth and Foot Painters to earn a living. 2026 will also see the Anniversary of the 40th year of my connection with the Association. Little did I know that as a young art student, at the age of 24, being part of this amazing organisation would change my life unbelievably.

In 1986 I had just received my Degree from Brighton University for my Expressive Arts course which had taken four years of my life, with my previous year at Hastings College of Art and Technology on the south coast of England, I thought that the five years of training as an artist was as

much as I needed. How little did I know! After 40 years of being a professional artist I realise now that I am still learning, and I learn something new every day when I paint.

I applied to the Association to become a student Artist in 1985; I was not accepted on my first attempt; this was mainly due to the fact that the work that I produced on my Expressive Arts course was not the type of image that our publishers would put on a Christmas card! Most of my time as a student Artist was experimenting, taking photographs of the wonderful South Downs in the south of England, then drawing over in pencil, then charcoal, then adding watercolour, then acrylic and oil to build up black-and-white images of the vista.

I was young and enthusiastic, but the type of work I was producing was definitely not Christmas card material! In 1987 I was very fortunate that the worldwide Association conference came to the UK. I and my future wife Lucy were invited to stay for the duration of the Artist conference and exhibition in London. This was the very first VDMFK event that I attended which was hosted by the Association. It was incredible for me as a young man to meet Artists from around the world that had been in Association since its foundation. One such artist was Peter Spencer, a mouth painter from England. My family knew of Peter's family because they lived two doors up from my mother's Auntie in Liverpool. Peter had lost his arms in an accident in the Second World War. He had taught himself to paint with his mouth. Our family received MFPA Christmas cards every Christmas, always with a line of encouragement from Peter to myself. The 1987 worldwide conference in England made me realise what a very important organisation the Mouth and Foot Painting Artist Association was. I was informed by another mouth Artist, Charles Fowler, who eventually became a good friend of mine, that if I wanted to have a good living, I should concentrate on becoming a mouth and foot Artist with the Association. His words of wisdom are something that I always pass on to new students!

The thing that I was so impressed with as a young 24 year-old Artist starting on his artistic career, was the fact that the MFPA was a business oriented and not a charity. Eric Stegman who started the Association believe strongly that just because you painted with your mouth or your foot, shouldn't mean that you should rely on charity to earn a living. This is the main Statute of our Association.



Mouth and Foot Painter Tom Yendell, Member of the VDMFK Board from England

I am in contact with many of my fellow able-bodied graduates from my student days at Brighton University and also other amazing able-bodied artists that I have got to know over the years. It has become very clear to me how hard these creative people have to work to earn their living. Being an independent able-bodied artist means having to try everything to make an income. Most able-bodied Artists have second or third jobs to be able to do the thing that they love.

When I joined the Association, it became very evident to me early on that all the worry of selling my work was taken away from me, because the Association had grown a network of wonderful publishing houses around the world that published the artists' work. That one single new painting that one has toiled over might be the next 'best seller' for our publishers!

When one has been a painter for many years, images that are produced are sometimes very similar, snowmen, robins, flowers and other card images; it can become very tiresome. Erich Stegmann always said he painted one painting for the Association and one painting for himself. This is very evident if you look at his work. Many of his images were fantastic for Christmas and greeting cards, however some of his other artwork, especially the ones he created painting scenes from life in the Second World War, were very obviously painted because he wanted to make a personal statement. I respect this approach massively.

I would like to encourage all our Artists from around the world to take their painting seriously, think passionately about our "Company", play an active part and if asked to complete something for the Association or our Publishers complete it as soon as possible. I was once told by a Public Relation company that it is no longer good enough to be a "Mouth Painter" or a "Foot Painter" but now have to sell yourself as well! This can be doing something for our annual "MFPA Day" in September, or producing the letter for our Publisher to go out with their mailing to customers, or by linking your Social Media with our Association's or Publishers. After all that one new social media follower or friend hopefully will become a customer with the Association, and this will in turn pay our income!

I hope you have another fantastic six months creating wonderful artworks that we can sell to our customers around the globe, I look forward to seeing all your posts online! Keep Painting!

Tom Yendell
Board member of the VDMFK

Chris Opperman (South Africa),
"Old man playing the guitar", oils, 69 x 54 cm.



EVENTS

Chris 2005
Opperman

Artists' activities

ARGENTINA

PEÑA, SERGIO SEBASTIÁN (Scholarship Holder)

Sergio Sebastián Peña organised his first solo exhibition on 6 December 2024. It took place in "ECA Sur, Espacio Contemporáneo de Arte" in San Rafael, Mendoza. At this exhibition, Sergio Sebastián Peña received an award and three international prizes: the "Dante Quintero" international prize, the "Manuel García Ferré" international prize and the "Benito Quinquela Martín" international prize.

BRAZIL

Works from a variety of artists from Brazil were exhibited at the "18th International Dental Prosthesis Congress". Painting demonstrations were also given here. This exhibition was held at the Expo Center Norte in São Paulo from 19 to 21 September 2024. The following mouth and foot painters attended: **Gonçalo Aparecido**

Pinto Borges (Associate Member), Maria Goret Chagas (Associate Member), Daniel Rodrigo Ferreira da Silva (Scholarship Holder) and Marcos Paulo Silva Machado (Scholarship Holder).

CHAGAS, MARIA GORET (Associate Member)

Maria Goret Chagas was honoured as part of an exhibition in Portugal. At this exhibition, 42 works were selected and only three trophies awarded. She won the trophy for third place!

DOS SANTOS, JOSÉ MARCOS (Scholarship Holder)

The short film "Muros da Vida" (Walls of Life) with the artist José Marcos dos Santos won a prize at the festival in Cannes. The long documentary about his life with the title "Marcos, força de vontade" (Marcos, Willpower) then won the main prize at the 12th International Film Festival for Persons with Disabilities in Moscow, which was held from 8 to 11 November 2024.

CHINA

LIN, CHENG-MEI (Scholarship Holder)

Cheng-Mei Lin participated in the 4th National Exhibition for Calligraphy and Painting by Persons with Disabilities on the topic of "Mouth and Foot" in July 2024 and was awarded the special prize for invited works. A certificate is issued for this.

CROATIA

PERKOVIC, STJEPAN (Associate Member)

Stjepan Perkovic exhibited his works as part of the "Trade and Craft Fair for all Four Seasons" in Zagreb on 8 March 2025. He presented his small-format drawings, predominantly acrylic paintings. He also gave painting demonstrations. In addition, the artist exhibited his works as part of his 17th solo exhibition, which was opened on 3 April 2025. The opening took place in the beautiful, spacious rooms of the Murai Cultural Centre in the city of Čakovec. He exhibited 20 acrylic paintings on canvas and paper, which portray a cross-section of his artistic career to date.

FRANCE

BELLOT, PIERRE (Full Member)

Pierre Bellot participated with his works in a trade fair for persons with disabilities in Mallemort on 12 November 2024. Here, he experienced an eventful day with various agenda items.

DUBARRE, ARNAUD (Full Member)

Arnaud Dubarre received the highest award of the "Académie Art Sciences et Lettres de Paris" with the platinum medal at the Hotel Intercontinental in



Sergio Sebastián Peña with his guests and the various awards.

Artists' activities



Arnaud Dubarre with his platinum medal and award

Paris on 6 October 2024. "For me, this is the highlight of my many years of work and my love of painting, particularly pastel painting", according to the statement by Arnaud Dubarre. The aim of the academy is to honour and promote women and men who contribute to the influence of culture in the artistic, literary and academic area through their talent and their work.

GERMANY

KRATZ, ANTJE
(Full Member)

The foot painter Antje Kratz exhibited her works in Gernsheim from 15 March to 28 May 2025. This exhibition bore the title "Not by hand – by foot". The numerous visitors were also astonished

at her painting skills, which she showed with painting demonstrations.

INDIA

The two Scholarship Holders **Sunitha Thrippanikkara (mouth painter)** and **Narayan Ramakrishnan (foot painter)** exhibition "The empowered". in a two-day exhibition at the Forum South Bengaluru on 24 and 25 August 2024. The response to and feedback from the exhibition with the title "The empowered" were very positive. A total of 16 artists with various disabilities participated in the two-day exhibition.

INDONESIA

AGUS, YUSUF
(Associate Member)

Yusuf Agus held a solo exhibition with the title "Life Stage" at Café

Casa Roberto in Semarang from 14 to 28 September 2024. The exhibition was opened by the head of the Office of Culture and Tourism of the city of Semarang.

RUSDI, FAISAL
(Scholarship Holder)

Faisal Rusdi participated in a joint exhibition from 14 August to 13 October 2024. On 19 October 2024, he was part of the art exhibition at the Semesta Festival 2024. This is a social movement organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs of Universitas Padjadjaran in Bandung. From 1 to 3 December 2024, he showed his works at a joint exhibition for the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs. **Sadikin Pard (Associate Member)** and he were invited to take part in exhibitions and painting demonstrations. In the course of this event, his friend Sadikin Pard passed away as a result of a heart failure.



The two Indian artists at the participated.

Artists' activities

SAERANG, PATRICIA JANE (Associate Member)

Patricia Jane Saerang participated in numerous activities in the months of September and October 2024. On 10 September 2024, she was elected head of the foundation "SETARA", which advocates for persons with disabilities being able to lead a life like everyone else. On 9 October 2024, she gave a painting demonstration at Hotel Niagara in the Lake Toba region. On 17 October 2024, she was invited as a speaker to a charity talk show in Jakarta, where she also spoke about the VDMFK.

JAPAN

MORITA, MACHIKO (Full Member)

Machiko Morita can look back on a series of activities in 2024. In addition to various painting demonstrations in schools, she was also part of two exhibitions. These included an art exhibition at her gallery in Takarazuka and an exhibition at a primary school.



Full Member Machiko Morita as part of her exhibition at her gallery.



"Open-house exhibition" of the Norway publishing house.

NORWAY

On 9 and 10 November 2024, the traditional open-house exhibition of the Norway publishing house took place. Since 2018, the publishing house has been organising an open-house event every year on the same weekend in November. In 2024, all the visitor records were broken. VDMFK Board member **Tom Yendell** from Great Britain was present on both days. He showed the impressed visitors how he paints with his mouth and writes and paints with his foot. The mouth painter **Aase Helene Sveen** (Scholarship Holder) also attended the event. 67 originals from all over the world were exhibited.

SINGAPORE

YEO KWOK CHIAN, AARON (Scholarship Holder)

Aaron Yeo Kwok Chian received a great honour: His painting "Passage" was awarded the renowned "Neo Kah

Kiat Arts Award" in silver. This prize acknowledges outstanding achievements by artists with disabilities and honours diverse talents in various art forms and disciplines.

USA

PARÉ, MARIAM (Full Member)

Mariam Paré ran a stand at Navy Pier during the "Chicago Live!" fair. "Chicago Live!" is a free festival for the performing arts, which took place from 21 to 22 September 2024 at Navy Pier. More than 600 artists from 80 ensembles located in Chicago performed one after the other on several indoor and outdoor stages on the 50-hectare pier. The performances covered all the artistic genres, from music, dance, theatre, improvisation to song and much more. Thousands of visitors attended.

Reinhard Melzer (Germany),
"Flowers at the window", watercolours, 50 × 40 cm.



PERSONAL

Melzer
01

We mourn for

Deceased Full Members

FRANCE

Bourgeois-Le Boulaire, Fanny

Date of birth: 18 June 1976

Passed away on: 15 February 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire suffered from arthrogryposis since birth, as a result of which she was unable to use her hands and legs. From early childhood, she instinctively used her mouth to perform the tasks of everyday life, to play, paint and draw. She consequently completed normal school education, ending with the school-leaving examination. Since her talent for painting was already apparent at an early stage, her parents decided to enrol her in a painting school. At the same time, Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire studied Communication Science. She worked in this field. At the age of nine, in 1985, she already received a scholarship from the Association. From 2001, she was an Associate Member of the VDMFK. In 2011, Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire became a Full Member of the Association. Her preference was watercolours, although she also painted pictures in oils. Her preferred subjects were flowers, people and portraits. Through her pictures, she wished to convey sensitivity, dreams and feelings. She presented her work to a broad public regularly at exhibitions.

Fanny Bourgeois-Le Boulaire passed away on 15 February 2025.

GERMANY

Höllerer, Lars

Date of birth: 27 September 1969

Passed away on: 4 February 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Lars Höllerer attended primary and secondary school as well as two-year business school. In May 1991, three months after he had completed basic military service, he had a serious accident on his motorbike. From that time, he was paraplegic. In the rehabilitation clinic, he taught himself to paint with his mouth. After this, he attended a free academy of arts, and while studying there, he found inspiration for painting. In 1999, Lars Höllerer became a Scholarship Holder of the Association, in 2005 an Associate Member and in 2007 a Full Member of the VDMFK.

Lars Höllerer mostly painted expressionist pictures and modern or abstract pictures with oil paints on canvas. They were partly underlaid with ink. The landscapes and still lifes are mostly based on the technique of naive painting. His great passion was, however, nude painting, which he practised in various techniques. Lars Höllerer was able to present his works at numerous solo and joint exhibitions at home and abroad.

Lars Höllerer passed away on 4 February 2025.

Deceased Associate Members

USA

Tabor, Ronald Dale

Date of birth: 10 April 1948

Passed away on: 1 December 2024

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Ronald Dale Tabor was born on 10 April 1948 in Boone County in the state of Arkansas and was paralysed in both arms and legs. 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.

Ronald Dale Tabor was a member of the "Heart of the Ozarks Art + Crafts Guild" from January 1986. He preferred to paint landscapes and animals using acrylic and oil techniques. Ronald Dale Tabor often took part in exhibitions and organised solo exhibitions. Numerous press reports were published about the multi-talented mouth painter.

Ronald Dale Tabor passed away on 1 December 2024.

GERMANY

Kolp, Markus

Date of birth: 18 February 1966

Passed away on: 30 December 2024

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Markus Kolp was born in Augsburg on 18 February 1966. In November 1982, the artist had a traffic accident. As a result, he became quadriplegic (C4) and one leg had to be amputated. Approximately four years later, he decided to continue his school education and he successfully obtained his secondary school leaving diploma (Mittlere Reife). For therapeutic reasons, he was advised at school to use his mouth for painting. He took pleasure in it and continued to practise mouth painting as a hobby even after school. Mouth painting became more and more important for him, and he was an autodidact in terms of learning this artistic activity. He quickly made great progress. "When I focus on the colourful watercolour paints, for me it is like I am in a whole different world, a world in which I can leave all my physical and emotional problems behind", he said. The VDMFK supported him as a Scholarship Holder from 2004. He was an Associate Member of the VDMFK since 2011.

Flowers and landscapes were Markus Kolp's preferred subjects. He painted these on the canvas in watercolours or acrylics. He often had the opportunity to present his works to a wide audience during solo and group exhibitions.

Markus Kolp passed away on 30 December 2024.

Deceased Associate Members

INDONESIA

Pard, Sadikin

Date of birth: 29 October 1966

Passed away on: 2 December 2024

Painting technique: Foot painter



Sadikin Pard was born on 29 October 1966 in Malang. He was born without upper extremities. He completed primary and middle school. He then attended the Faculty of Psychology of Universitas Muhammadiyah in Malang. In addition, he was very skilled with computers.

As a result of his disability, Sadikin Pard began to perform his everyday tasks with his feet very early on. Over time, he also began to draw and paint with his feet. This led to him being granted a scholarship by the Association from 1989. In 2013, he was approved as an Associate Member by the VDMFK.

Sadikin Pard preferred to paint in oils. Landscapes, still lifes, people and the animals of his homeland were his preferred subjects. During his artistic career, he was able to look back on numerous exhibitions, which gained considerable coverage in the media. His hobbies included chess. Several prizes in national chess tournaments bore witness to his talent.

Sadikin Pard passed away on 2 December 2024.

THE PHILIPPINES

Sasutona, Jovito

Date of birth: 7 October 1963

Passed away on: 18 December 2024

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Jovito Sasutona sustained a spinal injury during swimming at the age of 17, which resulted in paraplegia. From then, he was bound to a wheelchair. He consequently began to write and paint with his mouth. He taught himself these skills. He proved himself to be a great talent in this regard. In 1989, he became a Scholarship Holder of the Association. His great progress led to him becoming an Associate Member of the VDMFK in 2007.

The wonderful landscape and vegetation of his home islands formed the main subject of Jovito Sasutona's paintings. He designed these in a very original and powerful way. The exact, detailed reproduction of his subjects was impressive. Various artistic creations by the artist clearly compete with classical art.

Jovito Sasutona passed away on 18 December 2024.

Deceased Scholarship Holders

SWEDEN

Dgheim, Hisham

Date of birth: 7 April 1958

Passed away on: 9 February 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter



In 1976, one year before completing his university degree, Hisham Dgheim had a diving accident. From then, he was quadriplegic and was able to use neither his arms nor his legs. In 1982, he began to paint with his mouth. He taught himself mouth painting. In 1983, he moved to Sweden, where he continued his education through private lessons and training seminars.

Hisham Dgheim often chose subjects from nature and landscapes for his works. The focus here was on his adopted country. He painted many winter landscapes and the deep snow-covered coast with the black silhouette of a forest and the black edge of a rock in the mouth of a cave. The procession of the penguins in front of the snowy mountains of a fjord in the far north was also among his preferred subjects.

In 1986, Hisham Dgheim received a scholarship from the Association. In 2000, he became an Associate Member of the VDMFK. This gave him the opportunity to bring his works to the attention of a wider public through exhibitions.

Hisham Dgheim passed away on 9 February 2025.

ARGENTINA

Sosa, Carlos Alberto

Date of birth: 19 May 1964

Passed away on: 13 March 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

The mouth painter Carlos Alberto Sosa was born on 19 May 1964 in Buenos Aires. He suffered from spastic quadriplegia and muscular atrophy, which led to paralysis in both arms. The artist began painting in 1978; from 1992, he took lessons with Ms María Elena Jaime. In 1993, he became a member of the artists' organisation "South Art" and participated in numerous exhibitions. From 1994, he was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder. Carlos Alberto Sosa passed away on 13 March 2025.

COLOMBIA

Zamora, Efraín Hernández

Date of birth: 18 May 1950

Passed away on: 3 June 2024

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Efraín Hernández Zamora was born on 18 May 1950 in Santa Fe, Bogotá. In 1982, Efraín Hernández Zamora was injured by a bullet at the fourth cervical vertebra and was paralysed in the arms and legs from then. The artist dedicated himself to mouth painting from September 1997. He taught himself. The artist preferred to paint subjects from his homeland. He has been supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder since 1999. Efraín Hernández Zamora passed away on 3 June 2024.

HUNGARY

Kormos, László

Date of birth: 23 March 1968

Passed away on: 10 January 2025

Painting technique: Foot painter

László Kormos was born without arms in Tiszafüred, Hungary, on 23 March 1968. He attended eight years of the general school. In 1990, he began to paint with his right foot and participated in a weaving course in 1993, which he completed successfully. He worked part-time for several years at a facility for persons with disabilities, where he manufactured wall hangings, bags and cushion

Deceased Scholarship Holders

covers, among others. He used every possible opportunity to perfect his painting skills and often participated in joint exhibitions in Hungary. From 1993, the foot painter was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder. László Kormos passed away on 10 January 2025.

JAPAN

Chino, Seiko

Date of birth: 21 September 1941
Passed away on: 25 November 2024
Painting technique: Mouth painter

Seiko Chino was born on 21 September 1941 in Nagano and suffered from cerebral palsy from birth. Through the complete paralysis of all her limbs, she already began to write and draw with her mouth when she was school age. In 1982, she began to engage seriously with art and learned the fundamentals of painting under the guidance of a well-known art professor. She was thereby able to participate in numerous exhibitions. From 1998, the VDMFK granted her a scholarship. Seiko Chino passed away on 25 November 2024.

MEXICO

Sáenz Portillo, Francisco

Date of birth: 17 December 1948
Passed away on: 29 December 2024
Painting technique: Mouth painter

Francisco Sáenz Portillo was born on 17 December 1949 in Polanco Batopilas, Chihuahua. He graduated from high school and then became a private accountant. In 1988, an accident changed his life and that of his family. He suffered from a cranial trauma as a result, was then in a coma for about one month and was subsequently moved to Los Mochis for rehabilitation. The cranial trauma resulted in paralysis of the upper and lower limbs. The VDMFK Scholarship Holder Perla Fabiola Espinoza Vega encouraged him to try mouth painting and taught him for a long time. From then, his enthusiasm for painting knew no bounds. From 2007, he was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder. Francisco Sáenz Portillo passed away on 29 December 2024.

SLOVENIA

Gorjanec, Nevenka

Date of birth: 24 October 1949
Passed away on: 12 December 2024
Painting technique: Mouth painter

Nevenka Gorjanec was born in Ljubljana on 24 October 1949. She was born with spinal muscular atrophy. In 1980, when her state of health worsened, she began to paint with her mouth. She most enjoyed painting animal pictures in oils. From 2011, the mouth painter was supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder. Nevenka Gorjanec passed away on 12 December 2024.

TUNISIA

Ben Radhia, Houda

Date of birth: 25 August 1962
Passed away on: 12 March 2025
Painting technique: Mouth painter

Houda Ben Radhia was born in Bizerte on 25 August 1962. She was quadriplegic from birth. From 1966 to 1979, the mouth painter took a training course at a retraining centre in Brevans in France. At the age of 15, Houda Ben Radhia began to paint with her mouth. She taught herself to paint and draw. In 1988, she had her first solo exhibition in Bizerte. In 1991, the VDMFK decided to support the artist as a Scholarship Holder. Houda Ben Radhia passed away on 12 March 2025.

Deceased publisher

Heinz Abletshauser

Date of birth: 23 June 1937

Passed away on: 14 February 2025

Publisher in numerous countries

Heinz Abletshauser was born in Munich and spent his early childhood there. Towards the end of the Second World War, however, he was evacuated with his mother and his younger sister to a small village in Bavaria. In 1945, Germany capitulated, and while the celebrations for Victory in Europe Day were in full swing, the ten-year-old Heinz Abletshauser witnessed the tragic shooting of his seven-year-old sister by an American soldier on the open street. This horrific event left its mark on him his whole life.

In 1956, at the age of 19, Heinz Abletshauser met the physically disabled German artist Arnulf Erich Stegmann. Shortly before, Arnulf Erich Stegmann had founded the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, an international organisation intended to enable physically disadvantaged artists to earn a living through designing and selling Christmas cards. At that time, there was only a handful of such artists, yet Stegmann realised that he needed external help to make his vision a reality. As a result, Heinz Abletshauser was asked to travel to London and helped to establish an independent sales structure through tireless hard work and skilful business practices, which integrated print and direct mailing requirements in a viable commercial business. The success on the British market created a business model that he was to later use successfully in other countries worldwide.

Three years after his arrival in London, Heinz married his first wife Judy, and they had three daughters: Michele, Fiona and Selina. However, he soon spent increasingly more time travelling abroad and opening numerous new publishing houses to expand the global business according to the British model. And he worked. And he worked. And he worked!

By the mid-70s, the demands of the growth and management of publishing houses had already had a great influence on Heinz's private life. He therefore asked his younger brother Dieter to join him to share this great challenge and to give sales a new, more youthful dynamic.

Today, almost 70 years later, the number of mouth and foot painting artists who earn their living thanks to the VDMFK has grown to around 720, distributed across almost 70 countries. This was primarily possible through Heinz's commercial influence. What a legacy!



At the beginning of the 80s, Heinz remarried after he had met Maria through mutual friends. She brought a six-year-old son called James into the marriage. During the following 45 years, Maria was invaluable to Heinz, who was still often away on business. Although Maria never gave up trying to convince him to find a better work-life balance, Heinz remained faithful to addressing his great challenge until his deteriorating state of health forced him to make a change.

Maria's support and personal care for Heinz remained steadfast, however, despite the health problems with which he was confronted until the last.

Heinz Abletshauser died peacefully among his family on 14 February 2025 at the age of 88. Heinz Abletshauser worked in the following countries: Great Britain, Estonia, Australia, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Austria, Spain, Germany, the Philippines, Singapore, Mexico, Greece, Belgium, the Netherlands, Thailand, Hong Kong, Peru, Colombia, the USA, Canada, South Korea.

The significance of painting

Below is the significance of painting for mouth painter Machiko Morita, Full Member from Japan.

The meaning of painting pictures

I was born with cerebral palsy. From an early age, I was tortured by the question of why I was different. It was difficult to rid myself of the resentment about my lack of abilities, despite all my efforts.

At the suggestion of my family, I then learned to paint with my mouth. This opened up many more opportunities to me and strengthened my self-confidence.

Fortunately, I already met several Full Members of the VDMFK during my time at school and, under their leadership, I was able to achieve the milestone of my older colleagues in the Association. As I was still a school pupil at that time, painting still took second place after lessons, and it was only after I was awarded the scholarship that I concentrated on painting more seriously; since then, I have spent increasingly more time painting, one could almost say that it comprises my whole life.

I had difficulties in demonstrating mouth painting to people or speaking about it for a long time. I could not get away from the thought that "the pictures should simply be valued as they are, not as pictures by people with disabilities". When I think back on this, my view of painting was strongly marked by the daily struggles with all the difficulties that the disability entails, and not yet mature.

I was only able to think more flexibly and freely and be more self-confident when I saw how skilfully and calmly an older colleague ate from his plate with his mouth at dinner. Over time, after I had often experienced how the



"On the ice", watercolours, 21×27 cm.



"Gion Festival", watercolours, 36×26 cm.



Machiko Morita, Full Member from Japan, has been part of the VDMFK as a Full Member since 1992.

people watching my demonstration or looking at my pictures were so impressed and moved, and when I heard that I had given them courage, my stubborn thoughts about my disability but also about painting dissolved little by little – like melting ice.

I now know that painting constantly influences and changes me. The opposite is also true.

Painting is the recipient of my feelings. Whether joy, annoyance, grief or fun, all my feelings are absorbed and, at the same time, cleansed by pictures. My greatest joy is that I have discovered this wonderful world of pictures, and I truly appreciate it as a partner that accompanies me through life.

Machiko Morita
Full Member, Japan

MORITA, MACHIKO (JAPAN)

Date of birth: 3 April 1956

Place of birth: Ashiya City

Full Member of the VDMFK

since: 1992

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Machiko Morita fell ill with a high fever in her first year of life. As the illness progressed, she suffered from cerebral palsy, which led to a persistent level 1 disability. At a middle school for persons with disabilities, her interest in painting was aroused. With the new hope of being able to lead an independent life with the help of painting, she completed middle school. She already received several awards for her works during her time at school.

Machiko Morita learned watercolour painting, woodcut and drawing. After secondary school, she attended an affiliated art club. She is now mostly engaged with oil painting. She is interested in all subjects – including landscapes, still lifes and portraits. By participating in various exhibitions, she was able to expand her skills. She then received a scholarship from the Association in 1980, which gave her the opportunity to exhibit her works internationally. In 1992, she became a Full Member of the VDMFK.

In the recent past, Machiko Morita began to pass on her knowledge of and skills in mouth painting. She teaches the basics of painting to various groups of people, including children. Furthermore, she publicly demonstrates her mouth painting technique and gives lectures in this area.

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 the caricature "Pumped air".



① LOOK, THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH AIR.



③ A FLAT TYRE – NOT AGAIN!

Hiroko Kimura (Japan),
"Light red hibiscus flowers", watercolours, 42×33 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
Switzerland**

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

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

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

- name
- country
- original title
- technique
- on sale or not on sale
- date of completion

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.

Dear artists,

In January 2025, we asked in an email survey how you wish to receive the info magazine in future.

The following options are available:

- Online on the website
- By email
- Printed by post

If you have not yet participated in the survey, please inform us how you wish to receive the magazine in future.

Reply to: office@vdmfk.li

Best wishes The VDMFK team

Presentation of painting techniques

A snowy cityscape

This artwork shows a snowy cityscape, composed in one-point perspective. Through the techniques of controlled ink distribution and blending typical of East Asian painting, spatial depth between the foreground and background is conveyed.

The diffuse colours are used effectively to portray the lights of the city, while the portrayal of the falling snow underlines the harmony of the composition.



1. Paint the area of the sky in which the snow is falling in a deep navy blue on the paper.



2. Apply a deep navy to the upper part that forms the sky and gradually lighten it downwards with a colour gradient.



3. Apply the colours in 3 to 4 steps. Paint parts of the sky white to adapt them to the snowy landscape and also use a slightly deeper white tone.



6. Draw the buildings and signs in the foreground with harmonious ink strokes and colour them in lightly with tones that suit a night scene.



4. After the background colour has dried completely, sketch the snowy cityscape.



7. As soon as the entire piece has dried, apply slightly deeper colours.



5. Create a complete sketch, emphasising the buildings and people in the foreground. For the buildings in the background, create a feeling of depth by portraying them only lightly in the falling snow.



8. Accentuate the colours of the signs and use perspective to portray spatial depth and to express foreground and background based on the position and angle of the buildings.



9. Accentuate the people on the streets and the falling snow, while gradually deepening the background colour to strengthen the overall atmosphere.



10. Strengthen the colours in the areas that require more emphasis overall, and portray the shapes in a way that suits the snowy landscape.



11. Draw the people with umbrellas and add more colour to the umbrellas.



12. Carefully identify the features of the snowy landscape and highlight the techniques that were used to portray the night-time cityscape and the feeling of falling snow by emphasising these once more.



13. As soon as the artwork is finished, apply the seal as a stamp in a last step.



Health and care

Tips and advice for “Health and care” by Brom Wikstrom, Full Member from the USA

I am pleased to be able to provide some health tips that have helped me after almost 50 years with a disability. I am glad that I was able to integrate them into my everyday life.

1. Sufficient sleep and plenty of water:

Maintain a regular daily routine and avoid caffeine in the evenings. Drink enough water in order to cleanse your body and to keep your joints supple.

2. Stretching and exercise:

Even moderate exercise promotes heart health, accelerates recovery after injuries and improves mental performance. I perform stretching in the mornings for my legs, to reduce spasticity and to promote circulation.

3. Social contacts:

Contact with friends and family for emotional support and the participation in self-help groups for people with disabilities have helped me to reintegrate into society.

4. Prayer, meditation and focused breathing:

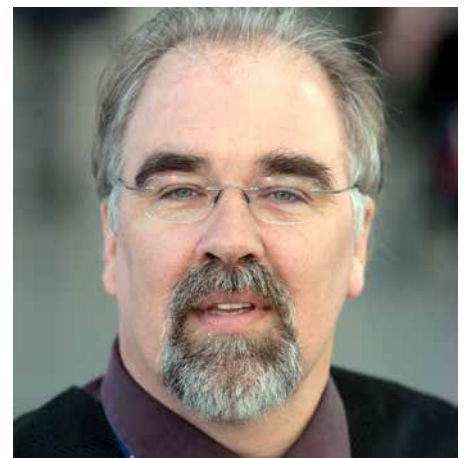
Calming the mind to alleviate fears has a positive effect on the psyche and increases well-being and the feeling of connection with higher states of being.

5. Keeping active:

Painting, sport, writing, being creative. Word games and social contacts keep your mind healthy

and prevent depression. Help others whenever possible.

Brom Wikstrom,
Full Member, USA

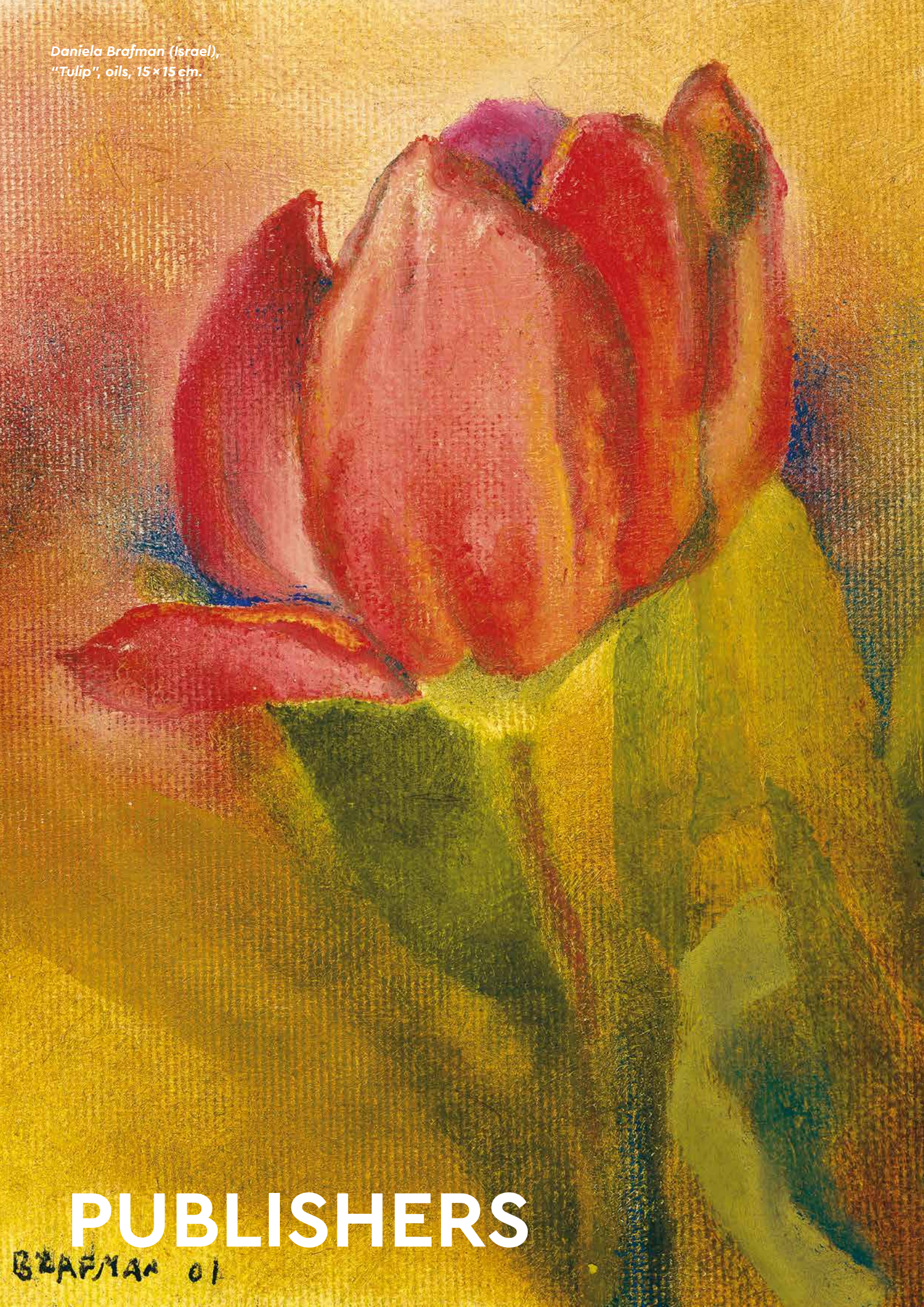


"Venice 1", watercolours, 22 x 16 cm.



Help others whenever possible.

Daniela Brafman (Israel),
"Tulip", oils, 15 × 15 cm.



PUBLISHERS

BRAFMAN 01

Publishers' activities

BRAZIL

The publishing house of Brazil participated with numerous artists from the country in the "Mega Artesanal" art fair, which lasted from 27 to 31 July 2024. "Mega Artesanal" is the largest fair for crafts in Latin America. It offers a wide selection of products, courses and workshops as well as the possibility to establish contact with people and companies from the same industry. The Brazilian publishing house is represented every year with a stand at which several paintings are also exhibited and painting demonstrations are given. The following mouth and foot painters participated in this event in summer 2024: **Gonçalo Borges (Associate Member) and the Scholarship Holders Daniel Rodrigo Ferreira da Silva, Domingos Dupé Ferreira Silva, Ivana Soares Bandeira, Marcos Paulo Silva Machado, Victor Pereira Santos.**



Exhibition in the parental home of Or Yehuda. Netta Ganor (right) provides information about her life.

ISRAEL

On 27 November 2024, the opening of an exhibition in a very special boutique in the parental home of Or Yehuda took place. The tenants were very

excited to hear Full Member Netta Ganor (right) tell them about her life. Full Member Yochai Levi was also present. Other artists were not able to come as a result of the war.



Impressions from the "Mega Artesanal" art fair.

Publishers' activities

POLAND

On the occasion of a joint exhibition at the Geological Educational Centre (Geonatura) in Kielce, the Polish publishing house exhibited 29 pictures by the mouth and foot painting artists. The exhibition was opened on 26 September 2024 and lasted until 30 December 2024. The exhibition showed great stylistic diversity. The following artists participated in the exhibition: **the Full Members Stanisław Kmiecik and Walery Siejtbatałow as well as the Scholarship Holders Martyna Gruca, Stanisław Salach and Agnieszka Sapińska.** On the occasion of the preview, a painting demonstration took place. The mouth and foot painters present demonstrated their painting skills to the great interest of the guests and answered the questions of the enthusiastic visitors.

Benjamin Žnidaršič (Full Member), Martina Pavlovič (Scholarship Holder), Dragica Sušanj (Scholarship Holder) and Neja Zrimšek Žiger Neja (Scholarship Holder) were shown. The exhibition was supplemented with works by deceased mouth and foot painters. Approx. 100 children from schools and nursery schools in Logatec took part in the art workshop. The mayor of Logatec, Mr Menard Berto, opened the exhibition. Many people came to the opening – art enthusiasts from all over Slovenia. The exhibition was open until 1 February 2025.



Mladen Sekulić from Bosnia and Herzegovina took the opportunity to participate in the workshop.

SLOVENIA

The publishing house in Slovenia held an international art workshop and an exhibition on the topic of "My Slovenia" on 13 December 2024. The event took place in the idyllic location of Logatec, approx. 30 km from Ljubljana. The gallery belongs to the church and bears the name "Gallery Maria and Martha". A total of 61 pictures were exhibited on this topic. The following Slovenian painters participated in the art workshop: **Vojko Gašperut (Full Member), Željko Vertelj (Associate Member) and the two Scholarship Holders Dominik Lozar and Eric Pibernik.** Stejpan Perković (Associate Member) from Croatia also participated. The two **Scholarship Holders Dejana Nežić from Serbia and Mladen Sekulić from Bosnia and Herzegovina** were also present.

In addition to works by the mouth and foot painters present, paintings by



Eric Pibernik Eric, Scholarship Holder from Slovenia.



The Scholarship Holder Dejana Nežić from Serbia also travelled to Slovenia to participate in the workshop and to show her works at the exhibition.

