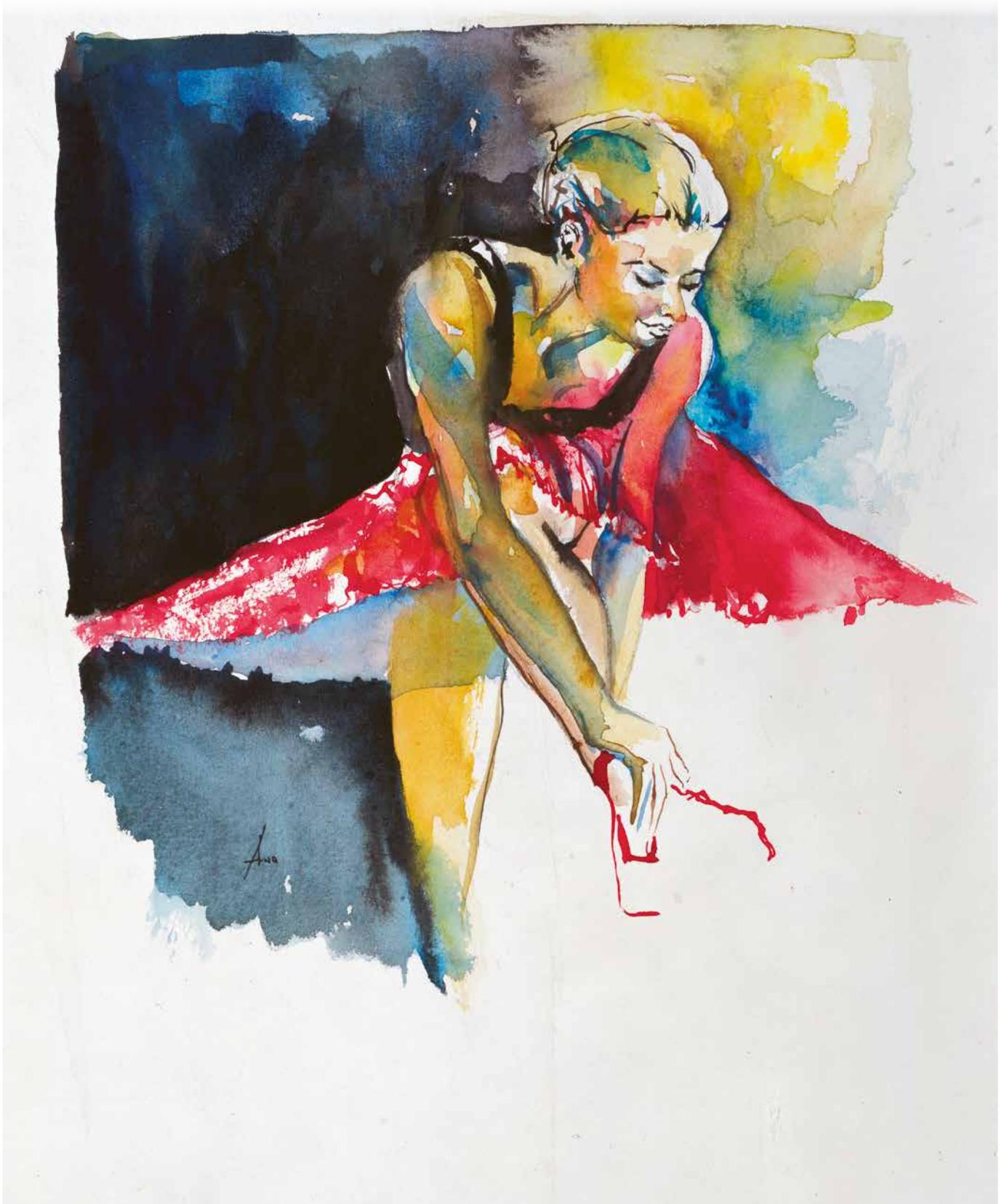




# VDMFK INFORMATION



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

**DECEMBER  
2025/211**

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**Ann Lund Wahlberg (Full Member/Denmark),**  
**"Ballerina 03 Lacing a Ballet Shoe", watercolour, Aquarell 32 × 24 cm**

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## Foreword by Serge Maudet, VDMFK President

Dear artists,

I would like to take the opportunity of this foreword to give a brief overview of my personal career and my work as President.

I was born on 1 February 1954. I was born with a disability, and that is precisely what has made me the person I am today. I began to paint; it became indispensable – it is my therapy and my lifeline. Painting was a way for me to overcome all this suffering and to show: "Yes, I will be able to guide the brush with my mouth and paint just as well as, if not better than, others with their hands." This is not an expression of pride, but reality – I forgot my disability.

One day, someone said to me: "I will take you to Denise Legrix." Denise was a well-known and recognised writer and at the same time a great painter. She was a remarkable personality! And I met her. It was something incredible, because I already had a certain degree of talent – one could say – and I brought her a photo of a painting I had made: a small blonde girl sucking her thumb in front of a candle. In front of this picture, Denise asked me: "Do you paint with your hands?" I replied that I guide the brush with my mouth. "Would you not like to be part of the artists who paint with mouth and foot, the VDMFK?" I replied: "But that is for people with disabilities!" When I painted, I often forgot that I myself belonged to this group. As you can imagine, I contacted the VDMFK – and that was the decisive moment!

For me, the VDMFK represented a remarkable Association of artists worldwide. I received a scholarship for seven years. From that day on, this truly gave me the confidence to continue. I doubted my abilities, but I was certain about the path I had

chosen. Thus, in 1981, I became a Full Member of the VDMFK and, in 2002, a member of the Board. And my path continued.

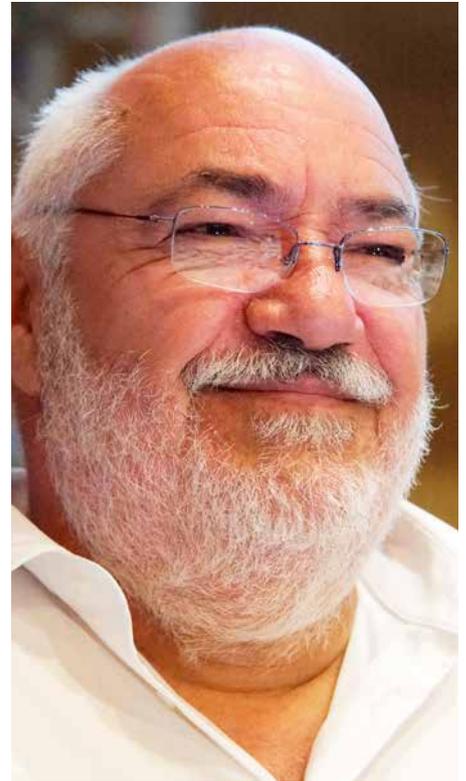
In 2013, following the death of our President, Mr Bonamini, I became President.

Before me, three individuals had held this office: Erich Stegmann, Founding President, Marlise Tové and Eros Bonamini. Thanks to Mr Johannes Gasser, Legal Consultant, and Mr Mario Famlonga, Director, we restructured the Board.

We promoted an open culture of debate and expanded the decision-making processes. New ideas are continuously being gathered on how the Association can be advanced and strengthened – how young Scholarship Holders can best be supported in their artistic development and how cooperation with publishers can be intensified for the benefit of all.

The situation surrounding our postcard and calendar activities gives us cause for concern, as the habit of writing cards threatens to disappear. We have attempted to respond: after numerous unsuccessful attempts to open online shops, we launched a major initiative with an art platform, about which we will inform you in detail at the appropriate time. You see: we are doing everything we can to help our Association, which is close to our hearts, to flourish.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with a personal message: do not forget what is essential – our art. Everyday life may present many challenges, but I encourage you to continue developing your artistic skills – take part in online or in-person courses, contact your colleagues if you



*VDMFK President Serge Maudet reflects in his own words on his membership in the VDMFK.*

have questions, and participate in workshops offered by publishers. In this way, you can help to secure our Association sustainably.

Artistic greetings,  
Serge Maudet, President

## Miscellaneous

### MEXICO

The Mexican publisher invited the implementation of a project entitled "Nuestro Arte en tus manos" (Our Art in Your Hands), which is dedicated to people with visual impairments. Forty-three Mexican artists each created a tactile work made of reliefs and materials that can be touched and felt by hand. The exhibition opened on 6 May 2025 in a museum in Guadalajara. At the beginning of July, the exhibition was moved to Mazatlán. From July to September, this cultural city presented the exhibition at the "Mazatlan Museum of Art" and at the "Angela Peralta Gallery". The project has aroused great interest and admiration. The following artists took part: **Gerardo José Uribe Aguayo** (Full Member), Lidia de Jesus Lopez Cháidez (Associate Member) as well as the Scholarship Holders **Adriana Leticia Estrella González, Ana Rosa Ortega Torres, Araceli Gallardo Ibarra, Bertha Guadalupe Álvarez Perez, Carlos Fernando Corrales Araujo, Carlos Leobardo Taba Cedillo, César Yarén Díaz Moreno, Claudia Carolina Ortega Iturbe, Claudia María Gaxiola Fierro, Edith Adriana Herrera Chávez, Felipe Romero Cortes, Fidel Serapio Blas Balderas, Gabriel Cortés Gutiérrez, Héver Leticia Castaneda López, Itzél**

**Angelica Cota Reyes, Jaime Adán Fierro Sanudo, Jesus Abigail Arredondo Osorio, Johan Erik Chavez Moreno, José Luis Torices Gutierrez, Juan Pablo Burboa Rios, Juana Teresa Huerta, Lázaro León Pavana, Lizbeth Azucena Moroyoqui López, Lucia Emilia Corona Martinez, Luis Fernando Cota, Luis Rogelio Fontes Molina, Maria Alejandra Nava Neri, Maria del Carmen Nuño Sanchez, Marioa Dolores Jauregui Lechuga, María Guadalupe Rosas Rivera, Rosalía Torres Reyes, María Socorro Juárez Penuelas, Martha Olivas Torres, Miguel Ángel Tinoco Lopez, Omar Ríos Martinez, Perla de Fatima Orduno Cerritos, Rogelio Robles Torres, Rosa María de Guadalupe Escalante, Rosario Elena Millán, Rubén Zavala Rodriguez and Yazmín Pineda Lima.**

### POLAND

In August 2025, the Polish publisher presented an impressive group exhibition at the renowned Beskids Museum in Wisła. Under the title "Art from the Perspective of the Hands," 35 works by mouth and foot painting artists from Poland were exhibited. The exhibition took place from 6 to 31 August 2025 and attracted art lovers as well as visitors from the region. The following mouth and foot painting

artists took part in the exhibition: **Stanisław Kmieciak** (Full Member), **Walery Siejtbatałow** (Associate Member) as well as the Scholarship Holders **Martyna Gruca, Mikołaj Kastelik** and **Bartosz Ostałowski**. As part of a painting demonstration, visitors had the opportunity to watch the artists at work and experience their creative processes at close hand.

### PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

The two Board members **Ann-Lund Wahlberg** (Denmark) and **Tom Yendell** (Great Britain) presented framed works by the British artist and Board member **Tom Yendell** to the organisation "Heilpädagogisches Zentrum (HPZ)" in the Principality of Liechtenstein on 17 June 2025. The pictures are intended for the furnishing of a new residential building. This is located in the immediate vicinity of the headquarters of the Association in Schaan. The HPZ supports people with impairments in the areas of living, working and everyday life. With its own residential project and a diverse range of activities – including creative arts and crafts – the organisation creates space for participation and self-realisation.

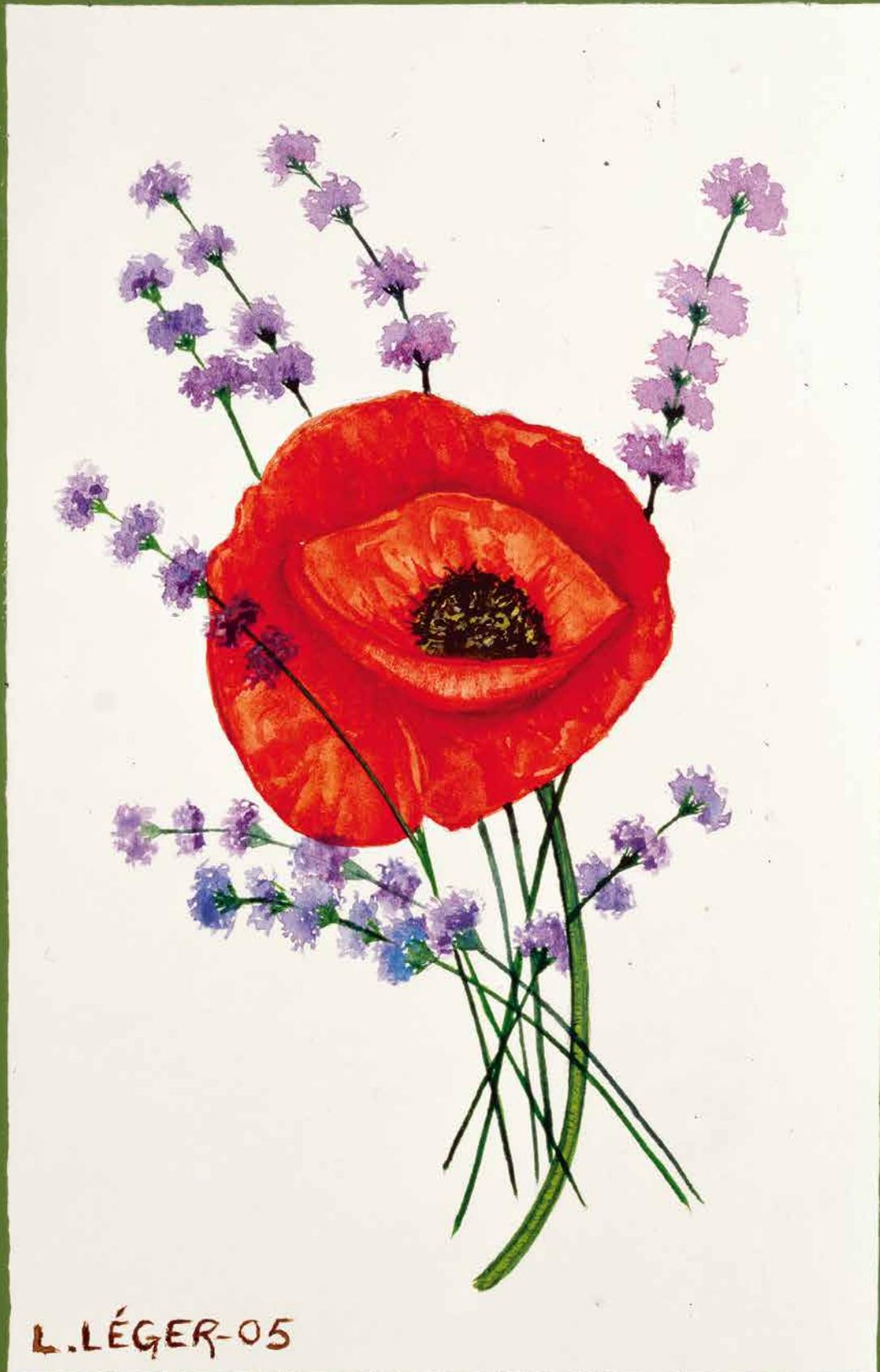


*The project by 43 Mexican artists for people with visual impairments met with great interest from the public as well as during the exhibitions.*



*The two Board members Tom Yendell (left) and Ann-Lund Wahlberg (centre) presented the works to Christian Hausmann, Managing Director of the HPZ.*

Lénaïc Leger-Lysles (Associate Member/France),  
"Lovely Poppy!", mixed media, 32 x 24 cm



EVENTS

## Artists' activities

### ARGENTINA

#### MOYA, MARÍA CELESTE (Scholarship Holder)

María Celeste Moya was honoured by the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Catamarca in recognition of her career as an art advisor. Furthermore, the artist participated in the "LIV National and International Poncho Festival" from 18 to 27 July 2025. In addition, she was honoured for her lecture delivered at the art exhibition "Hybrid Connections" organised by the "Civil Association Art to the World", which took place from 25 August to 23 September 2025. This took place in the presence of the Director of Culture of the city as well as the Minister for Tourism and Innovation.

### AUSTRALIA



*Patricia Jackson, Scholarship Holder from Australia, on the occasion of her painting demonstration.*

The traditional "Royal Queensland Show" was a great success this year. The highest visitor numbers for many years were recorded. VDMFK Board

member Grant Sharman from New Zealand, Patricia Jackson (Scholarship Holder from Australia) and Grant Alexander Philip (Scholarship Holder from New Zealand) attended the show on different days in order to give painting demonstrations and speak to the public with great success. The following national and international artists were honoured as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Itzhak Adir (Full Member/ Israel) for the work "The Village"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Tan Kok Leong (Full Member/ Singapore) for the work "Mountain Scene"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place A.E. Stegmann (Founding President of the VDMFK) for the work "Two on the Way to the Mountain Chapel"

Awards were also presented to:

- Trevor C. Wells (former Board member/Great Britain) for the work "Silent Winter"
- Alison Lapper (Full Member/Great Britain) for the work "Frosty 2022"
- Luca Bucchi (Full Member/Italy) for the work "Verità o inganno"
- Jingsheng Liu (Full Member/China)

- for the work "Cat under the Tree"
- Theresa Helen Matthias (Full Member/Canada) for the work "A Pair of Orcas"
- Soonyi Oh (VDMFK Board member/ South Korea) for the work "Hope"

### BELGIUM

#### TALBI, SARAH (Scholarship Holder)

Sarah Talbi was selected to participate in the exhibition of the French secondary school in Brussels, which was also attended by the French Ambassador to Belgium. For her, it was an honour to be among the 30 Belgian and French artists. Furthermore, she took part in the exhibition "Carrousel du Louvre" in April 2025, at which she also gave a presentation of her foot painting.

### BRAZIL

The Brazilian publishing house took part in the "Mega Artesanal" fair 2025.



*Various artists from Brazil gave a painting demonstration during the largest arts and crafts fair in Latin America.*

## Artists' activities

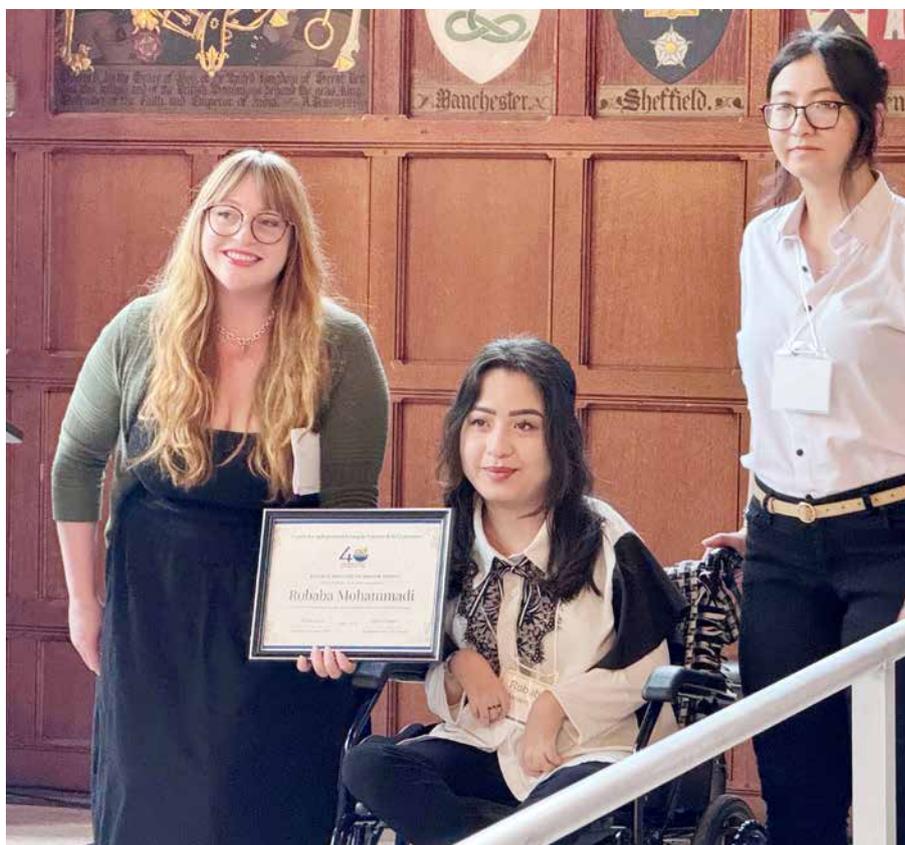
This is the largest arts and crafts fair in Latin America. It takes place annually – this year from 5 to 9 July 2025 in the city of São Paulo. A total of around 100,000 visitors were counted over the five days. The Brazilian publishing house used the opportunity to show its artists painting live and to promote mouth and foot painting and the Association.

### **BORGES, GONÇALO APARECIDO PINTO** **(Associate Member)**

Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges took part in a competition organised by the Brazilian Navy and the Brazilian Academy of Arts. The aim was to paint one of the local landscapes – a place called "Museu da Ilha das Flores", owned by the Brazilian Navy. There were 40 artists of various styles. Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges and Jeffersona Maia Figueira (Scholarship Holder) represented the Association. Both gave a painting demonstration lasting several hours.



*Gonçalo Aparecido Pinto Borges during his several-hour painting demonstration.*



*Robaba Mohammadi (centre) with the certificate she received for first prize for one of her works.*

### **DA CUNHA, MARCELO** **(Full Member)**

Marcelo da Cunha was honoured with the Hors Concours Trophy on 29 April 2025 at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Salon of Fine Arts, which took place at the Cultural Centre of the Marine Club. On 12 May 2025, he took part in the preparation of the exhibition "Maravilhas do Brasil" (Wonders of Brazil), which took place at the "Humberto Braga" Cultural Centre, Court of Auditors of Rio de Janeiro. The opening took place on 13 May 2025 with the participation of various artists of the Association from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Together with the artist Maria Goret Chagas (Full Member), he gave a painting demonstration.

## CANADA

### **MOHAMMADI, ROBABA** **(Scholarship Holder)**

Robaba Mohammadi took part in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the "Centre for Independent Living" in Toronto. The artwork she submitted for the "Sandra Carpenter Award" was awarded first prize.

## CROATIA

### **PERKOVIC, STJEPAN** **(Full Member)**

On 5 December 2025, Stjepan Perkovic took part in an exhibition at the Hungarian Cultural Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The organiser of the exhibition was the UNSU publishing house. In the morning, he attended an art workshop. In the afternoon, the exhibition was opened. These can be

## Artists' activities

viewed until 2 February 2026. Painters from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Hungary exhibited their works. The exhibition was opened by the Hungarian Ambassador to Slovenia, Andor Ferenc David. Furthermore, Stjepan Perkovic took part on 29 and 30 November 2025 with his latest six acrylic paintings on paper at the "UPSET ART Festival". Visitors and exhibitors were also able to experience his painting technique live. The "UPSET ART Festival" is a platform that celebrates the artistic contribution of all people without discrimination and has been held at the cultural centre in Zagreb since 2019.

### GERMANY

#### MITTELBACH, WERNER (Scholarship Holder)

Werner Mittelbach held an open studio day on 25 May 2025, at which his works could also be viewed. Numerous guests took the opportunity to admire his skill in mouth painting and to gain an insight into the artist's studio.

### GREAT BRITAIN

#### MORIARTY-SIMMONDS, ROSALEEN (Scholarship Holder)

In January 2025, Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds organised an exhibition of portraits of famous Welsh public figures or individuals with an iconic connection to Wales at the "Clarendon Fine Art Gallery" in Cardiff in order to raise funds for a charity called the "National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)". After around 100 guests attended the opening event alone and a steady stream of public visitors was recorded during the four-day event, the artist was able to raise and donate over £3,000. This initiative met with a



Full Member Triantafillos Iliadis during the painting demonstration.

strong response from the public and therefore also from the media.

### GREECE

#### ILIADIS, TRIANTAFILLOS (Full Member)

From 6 September to 14 September 2025, Triantafillos Iliadis accepted an invitation from the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE) to exhibit his works in Pavilion 15 of the international fair in Thessaloniki. This year, KEDE wished to showcase the power of will on behalf of all municipalities in the country and selected him from across Greece to exhibit his works. On 13 September 2025, he was honoured for the strength of will they saw embodied in his person and for the creative achievements he can demonstrate overall. His exhibition was visited by numerous people, including

government ministers, senior clergy and many children. Triantafillos Iliadis describes this as perhaps the best exhibition of his career. Throughout the entire exhibition, he painted in front of thousands of spectators.

### ICELAND

#### KARLSSON, BRANDUR BJARNASON (Scholarship Holder)

At the beginning of 2025, Brandur Bjarnason Karlsson had the honour of taking part in two exhibitions in which his most recent works were shown. The first exhibition was entitled "Magma Rising" at the "Heong Gallery" in Cambridge/Great Britain. It presented his series of volcanic eruption paintings, which he created with his mouth on handmade Nepalese paper. The exhibition explored the elemental force of nature and inner landscapes.

## Artists' activities



Scholarship Holder Brandur Bjarnason Karlsson in front of his picture series "Volcanic Eruptions".

The second exhibition entitled "Sögur" was a group exhibition at the "Gerðuberg" Cultural Centre in Reykjavík. The title means "Stories", and the show brought together various voices reflecting on moments of beauty, memory and perception. At the opening, each artist told the story behind their work, accompanied by Icelandic sign language interpretation.

"Petrokimia Gresik" on 30 June 2025 together with other artists from his city. It was entitled "Menebar Peona" and was held on the occasion of the celebration of the company's 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. During the event, the artist also gave painting demonstrations, which were admired by the visitors.

### INDIA

The two Scholarship Holders Narayan Ramakrishnan and Sunitha Thrippanikara took part in an art exhibition entitled "Empowered" on 23 and 24 August 2025. Sixteen artists with disabilities took part in the exhibition. Sunitha Thrippanikara gave a painting demonstration during which she painted a landscape in watercolour.

### INDONESIA

#### AMANATULLAH, MUHAMMAD (Scholarship Holder)

Muhammad Amanatullah took part in an exhibition at the company

### ITALY

#### FANTIN, MARA (Scholarship Holder)

Mara Fantin held a solo exhibition on 3 and 4 May 2025, which took place at a regional fair. The mouth painter presented various of her current works.

### NORWAY

The Norwegian publishing house held its traditional "Open House" event in November 2025. Around 70 originals were exhibited, including 15 by international artists of the Association. The mouth painters and Scholarship Holders Wenche Løseth, Brit G.

Skotland and Aase Helene Sveen were present.

#### SKOTLAND, BRIT GROTTERUD (Scholarship Holder)

The Norwegian mouth painter Brit Grotterud Skotland held a solo exhibition in Sætre, which opened in June 2025. She presented 25 of her works in a charming local art café called "Sjøbris".

### PHILIPPINES

The two artists Amado Binwag Dulnuan (Full Member) and John Roland Feruelo (Scholarship Holder) took part on 17 July 2025 in an event at the "Region II Trauma and Medical Center" in Nueva Vizcaya, which was held as part of the celebrations for the 47<sup>th</sup> National Disability Rights Week.

#### TONGCO, JULIUS A. (Scholarship Holder)

Julius A. Tongco took part on 19 May 2025 in an art exhibition entitled "Enkwentro so Bohol Art Exhibit" at the BQ Mall Atrium in Bohol. Artists from various provinces took part. This event offers artists the opportunity to exchange ideas, techniques and styles and to work together collectively as a unit.

### POLAND

#### SAPINSKA, AGNIESZKA MARIA (Scholarship Holder)

Maria Agnieszka Sapinska took part in the exhibition "The Flower Is a Smile", which was organised by the project space "art.endart' and the artists" association "Kolonie Wedding". The works of the mouth painter were on display from 26 September to 12 October 2025.

## Artists' activities

### SINGAPORE

#### YEO KWOK CHIAN, AARON (Scholarship Holder)

Aaron Yeo Kwok Chian held a painting demonstration at the "Tanjong Pagar" underground station in Singapore in August 2025. This was met with great success, as many people stopped and watched. For him, it was a wonderful opportunity to engage with the public.

### USA

#### BEALER, EVERIN C. QUINTERO (Scholarship Holder)

Everin C. Quintero Bealer held a solo exhibition on 26 April 2025. During this, she gave painting demonstrations, which met with great interest from visitors.

## From the Association

### Photos and Videos

The VDMFK and our publishers are increasingly using websites and social media platforms to inform customers, friends and family about our remarkable Association. As the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen once said: "A picture is worth more than a thousand words!" Printed photos and videos are used by our Association everywhere: on the worldwide VDMFK website with our biographies, on the publishers' worldwide distribution websites, in our mailing packages and, of course, on our personal websites and social media platforms. We thought it would be a good idea to show our artists what portrait photos should look like.

### PHOTOS

We would like to update all photos of our artists worldwide in order to use them together with their biographies on the VDMFK website and in our publisher mailings. Please ensure that your photos mainly show you yourself. Remember to look behind you to check what will be visible in the background. The viewer should under no circumstances be distracted by the family cat or the laundry. Please do not try to overcomplicate your photo. A portrait photo essentially shows your face while you are painting with a brush or pencil in your mouth or with your foot.

### IDEAL SIZES FOR PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – Image size: 1200 × 628 pixels  
 Twitter Image – Size: 900 × 450 pixels  
 Instagram – Size: 1080 × 1080 pixels  
 LinkedIn – Size: 1350 × 440 pixels  
 Pinterest – Size: Pin size: 236 pixels × adjustable height

### VIDEO

We would be pleased if you could submit videos of ten seconds to two minutes. We are particularly interested in videos of you painting, but also videos of everyday activities in your life, such as hobbies, sport and enjoyment of life!

Please send your current photos and short videos to:

office@vdmfk.li

Please ensure that you label your files with your artist name.

Chris Opperman (Full Member/South Africa),  
"Mother & Daughter", oil, 58 x 34 cm



**PERSONAL**

Chris 2005  
Opperman

## New Associate Members

### ITALY

#### PAGANINI, ANNALISA

Date of birth: 12 June 1963

Place of birth: Motta di Livenza

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Annalisa Paganini was born on 12 June 1963 in Motta di Livenza (Italy). After completing compulsory schooling, she pursued a professional career in the healthcare sector and trained as a nurse. At the age of 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

She has always described herself as a "daughter of art", as her father was an architect and taught technical drawing at an upper secondary school. In addition, he had an immense devotion to painting, which he also wished to pass on to Annalisa Paganini.

Encouraged by our late President Eros Bonamini, she began to devote herself to mouth painting in 2012. Through private painting and art lessons with the renowned art teacher Mariella Aldrighetti, the artist was able to deepen her mouth painting. In addition, from 2003 to 2011, under the direction of Flavia Rossignoli, the artist attended various art courses, including colour theory according to Goethe, spirituality in art, Kandinsky and general art history. Since 2014, she has also been supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder.

### SPAIN

#### ANGHEL, FLORIN

Date of birth: 9 February 1981

Place of birth: Bucharest, Romania

Painting technique: Mouth painter



Florin Anghel was born on 9 February 1981 in Bucharest, the capital of Romania. In 2004, he suffered a gunshot injury, which resulted in a vertebral fracture at the level of the C5-C6 vertebrae and a spinal cord injury syndrome at the level of the C3-C5 vertebrae. Following a stay at the tetraplegic rehabilitation centre in Toledo, he was admitted in 2005 to the care centre for people with physical disabilities – the C.A.M.F. – in Leganés near Madrid. At this care centre, he had access to painting workshops, where he also began producing simple works in oil in 2005. Since 2008, he has been supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder.

The continuous progression of his mouth painting enabled him over time to create original works based on photographic references. The artist now paints elements of living nature, in particular people and wild animals, in a realistic manner with strong contrasts of light and colour. This led to his participation in nationwide painting competitions and exhibitions.

## New Scholarship Holders

### BRAZIL

#### FREITAS DA SILVA, THIAGO HENRIQUE

Date of birth: 22 May 1987

Place of birth: Rio de Janeiro

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Thiago Henrique Freitas da Silva was born on 22 May 1987 in Rio de Janeiro. After completing his school education, he became a soldier in the air force, was always active and enjoyed sports such as running, cycling, and body-board surfing. On 2 March 2008, he fractured the C4 and C5 vertebrae when jumping into shallow water, with the spinal cord being completely severed in the cervical spine area, resulting in severe tetraplegia. He received treatment with various therapies in two different hospitals. Thiago Henrique Freitas da Silva lives with his parents, who devote themselves to his care. By chance, he met Jefferson Maia (Scholarship Holder) at a lecture. Inspired by his work, Thiago Henrique Freitas da Silva himself began mouth painting in 2024. His first attempts were praised by other artists, and he subsequently developed a growing interest in art. This became a source of strength and self-realization for him.

loss of mobility. Only after an intensive period of rehabilitation was he able to regain control of his head and neck. In the years that followed, he devoted himself to artistic work – initially in ceramic decoration, later in painting. His artistic career gained momentum from 2018 onwards: he participated in several nationwide competitions, and his works were shown in group exhibitions.

#### CASTILLO, ALEXANDER

Date of birth: 21 June 1973

Place of birth: Cali

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Alexander Castillo was born on 21 June 1973 in Cali, Colombia. He is the father of a 30-year-old son and the grandfather of a 7-year-old granddaughter. Due to financial difficulties, he was only able to attend school up to the sixth grade and began working at the age of 15. At the age of 19, he became self-employed. In 1997, he sustained a severe spinal cord injury (tetraplegia C5–C6) in a motorcycle accident and has since been paralysed from the neck down. Despite everything, he found a new way forward. In 2023, through playing chess, he met David Dagua Sierra (Scholarship Holder), who drew his attention to the Association and an art course. Alexander Castillo has already taken part in two painting workshops.

#### PATIÑO RESTREPO, PAOLA ANDREA

Date of birth: 8 August 1976

Place of birth: Itagüí

Painting technique: Foot painter

Paola Andrea Patiño Restrepo was born without arms on 8 August 1976 in Itagüí, Antioquia. Her parents entrusted her to the care of her grandparents, who lovingly looked after her and her older sister Mónica. From an early age, her grandparents supported her

independence and motor skills with great commitment. She only began her schooling at the age of 15 and completed both primary and secondary education. Later, she took drawing lessons, participated in exhibitions and created a mural. After several years, she turned to paralympic swimming and became a national swimming champion. At the age of 29, she became the mother of a daughter. Paola Andrea Patiño Restrepo lives a secluded life and enjoys spending time by herself. Art, music and quiet moments accompany her everyday life.

#### TABORDA BARRERA, FABIAN ALBERTO

Date of birth: 14 June 1986

Place of birth: Yolombó

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Fabian Alberto Taborda Barrera was born on 14 June 1986 in Yolombó, Antioquia, as the youngest of six siblings. He grew up in a family of modest means and began working at the age of eight in order to support his mother. He attended school up to the seventh grade. At the age of 24, a serious accident changed his life: as a result of a headfirst dive into a swimming pool, he sustained a spinal cord injury at C4–C5, which led to tetraplegia. Despite this challenge, with the support of his wife and motivating companions, he found his way to mouth painting. Since 2024, he has devoted himself to art with dedication. Painting with his mouth became for him not only a form of creative expression, but also a path to personal development and hope.

### COLOMBIA

#### BENÍTEZ ÁLVAREZ, PEDRO JOSÉ

Date of birth: 8 January 1996

Place of birth: Betulia

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Pedro José Benítez Álvarez was born on 8 January 1996 in Betulia, Antioquia (Colombia). He experienced a happy childhood. He completed primary and secondary school through in-person education. In 2010, he underwent surgery due to an abscess near the spinal cord, followed by a second operation on the upper cervical spine. The result was tetraplegia – a complete

## New Scholarship Holders

### VEGA CLAVIJO, DUVAN

Date of birth: 22 March 1997

Place of birth: Besote

Painting technique: Foot painter

Duvan Vega Clavijo was born on 22 March 1997 in Besote and grew up in San Pablo, where he developed a deep connection with nature and animals, which awakened his curiosity to capture moments through drawing and writing. Despite his arthrogryposis multiplex, a disability that affects his hands, he showed exceptional determination from an early age. After completing primary school, he moved to Aguachica to attend High School, where he deepened his passion for art and literature. During this period, he continually explored new themes and techniques. After graduating, Duvan Vega Clavijo settled in Ocaña, Norte de Santander, where he currently lives and studies law. Despite financial difficulties that prevent him from accessing an art academy, he is self-taught and strives to improve his artistic skills.

## FRANCE

### ZAGLIA, ELISE CÉCILE

Date of birth: 2 December 1990

Place of birth: Montbéliard

Painting technique: Foot painter

Elise Cécile Zaglia was born on 2 December 1990 in Montbéliard and today lives with her partner in Alsace. She was born with arthrogryposis, which affects her upper limbs. From an early age, she learned to use her feet for many everyday tasks. After completing a double Master's degree in accounting, controlling, and financial auditing, she now works as a clerk in sales administration. Previously, she worked there as a financial analyst and HR assistant. She speaks English and German fluently. Elise Cécile Zaglia discovered her passion for watercolour painting in a local creative village

association. After a longer break during her studies, she resumed painting in 2020, initially with the help of online courses, later through free experimentation. Today, watercolour painting is her most important means of expression. She is particularly inspired by flowers and plants – a passion she inherited from her father, a gardener. She shares her works on social networks, together with insights into her everyday life as a "handicapable" artist.

## GREAT BRITAIN

### YOUNG, DAVID

Date of birth: 17 October 1962

Place of birth: Southampton

Painting technique: Mouth painter

David Young was born on 17 October 1962 in Southampton. After completing his schooling, he worked as an upholsterer and carpet fitter and was very active in sports, particularly football, tennis and darts. In 1985, a tragic swimming accident changed his life: David Young sustained severe injuries to the cervical spine and has since been tetraplegic and dependent on a wheelchair. Despite severe physical limitations, he began painting in 2023 – initially with gouache, and now with enthusiasm in oil. Inspired by his artistically gifted mother, he finds expression, joy and new perspectives on life through art.

## INDIA

### KHAN, SHAHALAM

Date of birth: 20 May 1985

Place of birth: Saharanpur

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Shahalam Khan was born on 20 May 1985 in Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh, India). At the age of one, he contracted polio, which led to a severe disability:

both legs and one hand have been paralysed since then. Later, due to another illness, he also lost mobility in both hands. Despite these challenges, he developed a strong passion for art at an early age. At the age of four, he began to draw and paint – initially with his hand, later exclusively with his mouth. Today, Shahalam Khan is 99 % physically impaired and creates his paintings as well as elaborate pop-up greeting cards with his mouth. In addition to art, he passionately enjoys playing carrom and singing. In April 2025, he married a woman who is also disabled.

### SHINDE, LAXMI SANJAY

Date of birth: 3 February 1999

Place of birth: Solapur District

Painting technique: Foot painter

Laxmi Sanjay Shinde was born without arms on 3 February 1999 in Solapur District in the state of Maharashtra. Her parents taught her how to write, enabling Laxmi Sanjay Shinde to complete the 8th grade. She had a teacher who gave painting lessons, and from then on she developed an interest in painting.

## ITALY

### CAGNOLA, EMMANUELA

Date of birth: 23 April 1970

Place of birth: Kitgum, Uganda

Painting technique: Foot painter

Emmanuela Cagnola was born without arms on 23 April 1970 in Kitgum, Uganda. She was adopted in childhood by the Cagnola family and has since lived in Pettenasco on Lake Orta. After graduating from the Cozzano linguistic upper secondary school, she completed a one-year regional fashion diploma in Alessandria. She subsequently studied fashion design at Polimoda in Florence, where she completed a

## New Scholarship Holders

three-year postgraduate programme. Her works are characterised by African influences and are distinguished by an independent style. In addition to fashion, she has always been interested in painting. She attended courses on the development of clothing prototypes directly on mannequins as well as various workshops in creative painting. In addition, she completed a degree in philosophy and communication at the University of Vercelli.

### **GAROFALO, MARIO**

Date of birth: 8 October 1985

Place of birth: Naples

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Mario Garofalo was born on 8 October 1985 in Naples. As a result of an accident on 28 June 2002, he became tetraplegic. His artistic journey began in 2019 during a stay at a rehabilitation clinic, where an encounter with the painter Marco Gentile inspired him anew to take up painting. Since then, he has devoted himself intensively to art and began studying painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, which he is currently completing in his first year. In his work, Mario Garofalo prefers acrylic paints, which offer him a wide range of expressive possibilities and allow room for technical experimentation. He particularly enjoys painting portraits. As a child, Mario Garofalo already felt drawn to street art and cinema.

## MEXICO

### **BARAJAS MORENO, RAYMUNDO RAFAEL**

Date of birth: 23 January 1999

Place of birth: Mazatlán

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Raymundo Rafael Barajas Moreno was born on 23 January 1999 in Mazatlán. He grew up in a loving family of five and

showed an early interest in art and sport. His school years were characterised by sporting and artistic engagement. During secondary school, he discovered his passion for angling and oil painting, attended relevant courses and travelled regularly to sports tournaments. Alongside school, he became involved at an early stage in his parents' catering business, and later followed his childhood dream and began studying dentistry. A serious automobile accident resulted in a spinal cord injury, which led to tetraplegia. Despite the diagnosis that he would never be able to walk or study again, he did not lose his will to live. He began painting with his mouth, opened an Instagram channel for his art and soon became part of the Mazatlán art scene. In 2022, he founded his own car wash and later a clothing brand that uses his paintings as the basis for its designs. Both projects received strong support from the community. At the same time, he began studying painting and has since devoted himself fully to art.

### **GONZÁLEZ DE LA O, REYMUNDO MANUEL**

Date of birth: 15 March 1972

Place of birth: Guadalajara

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Reymundo Manuel González de la O was born on 15 March 1972 in Guadalajara as the youngest of eleven siblings. His mother died when he was six years old, and he took on a responsible role within the family by caring for his siblings while his father worked. At the age of 14, his body began to weaken and in 1994 he was diagnosed with Becker muscular dystrophy. Three of his older brothers have already died as a result of this illness. Despite increasing physical limitations, he attempted to lead an independent life. He worked in various jobs, including a seven-year period at the Guadalajara

bus station, before his health problems forced him to give up work. In order to remain financially independent, Reymundo opened a grocery shop, which he had to close in 2000 due to his increasing disability. Later, he worked as a street vendor in order to make ends meet. Through a friend whom he met through a Christian association, he was inspired to take up mouth painting. In 2021, he then officially began attending painting classes twice a week.

### **OROZCO ARREGUIN, JOSÉ MARTÍN**

Date of birth: 18 September 1973

Place of birth: Zapopan

Painting technique: Mouth painter

José Martín Orozco Arreguin was born on 18 September 1973 in Zapopan. He is married and has two sons and a daughter who died of acute myeloid leukaemia at the age of 18. Three months after the loss of his daughter, José Martín Orozco Arreguin was involved in a car accident in which he was so seriously injured that he has since been paralysed. Despite the physical limitations that now prevent him from moving his body and his hands, he found comfort in the positive energy of his family and in the support of his wife. In the years following the accident, he discovered a new talent: painting. Painting with his mouth became a challenge that he mastered step by step. This discovery brought him not only joy, but also the desire to continue his education and improve his artistic skills.

## New Scholarship Holders

### NETHERLANDS

#### CORNELIUS, DANIEL

Date of birth: 8 October 1996

Place of birth: Amsterdam

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Daniel Cornelius was born prematurely on 8 October 1996 in Amsterdam. After a twelve-week stay in hospital, he was able to be discharged home. Due to a lack of oxygen at birth, he lives with cerebral palsy. This affects the mobility of his hands and feet. At the age of three, he first attended a playgroup at a rehabilitation centre for two days a week. There he received instruction as well as various therapies. At the age of four, he moved to pre-school and attended it four days a week. He also completed both primary school and secondary school there. Afterwards, he worked for two years in his parents' office. Since the age of 20, he has been active at a day centre. At the age of ten, he already discovered his passion for painting – initially together with his grandmother. From the age of twelve, he painted for two years with his occupational therapist. Today, he devotes himself to his art with great dedication at the day centre. He completed a nine-month course in art history. In addition to painting, he has many other hobbies: he enjoys watching television, plays on the PlayStation 5 with his friend, uses a PC for gaming with a special head support and enthusiastically visits museums. At present, he paints only at the day centre, but is working to obtain additional support for painting in order to further develop his skills and fully realise his artistic potential.

### POLAND

#### DUDA, MONIKA

Date of birth: 30 April 1999

Place of birth: Rzeszów

Painting technique: Foot painter

Monika Duda was born without arms on 30 April 1999 in Rzeszów. In 2023, she began drawing and painting – inspired by her encounter with Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member) as well as with children who paint with their feet. At that time, she realised for the first time that she could draw and paint even without hands. She became aware that her disability does not necessarily limit her in these activities. When she started painting, some elements did not succeed as she had wished at first, but she found that good results can be achieved through movement and practice. In addition, creative work began to give her joy. She aims to learn new painting techniques, try out different forms of expression and above all experience enjoyment in the creative process.

#### KOZDRA, MARIA MAGDALENA

Date of birth: 19 December 2011

Place of birth: Warsaw

Painting technique: Foot painter

Maria Kozdra was born on 19 December 2011 with a severe heart defect and had to undergo several life-saving operations in the first months of her life. Due to severe complications, both of her arms and the toes of her right foot had to be amputated. Despite these blows of fate, she developed a remarkable joy in life and learned to play, write and paint with her feet. Through encounters with artists who paint with their mouth and feet, she discovered her passion for art. Even after a stroke and further health setbacks, she fought her way back with great determination and continued her artistic education.

Today, she regularly takes part in art competitions, has won numerous prizes and appears at events as a young foot painter.

#### STRADOMSKA, JAGODA ŁUCJA

Date of birth: 7 March 2018

Place of birth: Dąbrowa Tarnowska

Painting technique: Foot painter

Jagoda was born without upper limbs on 7 March 2018 in Dąbrowa Tarnowska. She has learned to use her feet for everyday tasks such as eating, drinking, painting and playing. Despite intensive rehabilitation sessions, she approaches life with a positive attitude and shows patience and perseverance in order to achieve her goals. She discovered her enthusiasm for painting after an encounter with Stanisław Kmiecik (Full Member). At a young age, she already experiments with various techniques and regularly takes part in outdoor painting demonstrations, where she works together with other artists. Since 2024, she has attended art workshops and also has a passion for dancing and swimming.

### SOUTH KOREA

#### KIM, KYUNGAH

Date of birth: 8 July 1968

Place of birth: Seoul

Painting technique: Foot painter

Kyungah Kim was born on 8 July 1968 in Seoul. Her life took an unexpected turn at the age of just three months, when sudden seizures and high fever changed its course. The diagnosis of cerebral palsy led to muscle stiffness and a loss of motor function. At the age of eleven, she came into contact with painting by chance. During her two-year stay in hospital, the images she gradually painted with her left foot opened up a new world for her. After her discharge, however, she stayed

## New Scholarship Holders

away from painting for a period of time. When she heard in 1996 that art classes were being offered at a social centre, she finally wanted to start painting again. As Kyungah Kim had always cherished the wish to attend school, she became a mature student from 2000 onwards. She passed the primary, middle and secondary school examinations one after the other, thus opening the way to her dream of university studies. In 2005, she began studying Oriental Studies and received her diploma in 2009. Her accumulated skills and experience flowed into her artworks. Although she has difficulty moving her upper body and requires assistance with eating and personal matters, when she sits in her wheelchair in front of a canvas and holds a brush with her left foot, her passion for art is still tangible.

### SPAIN

#### HAMID, FAKIR

Date of birth: 3 August 1981

Place of birth: Beni Melal

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Fakir Hamid was born on 3 August 1981 in Beni Mellal, Morocco. Since his childhood, he has been confronted with the challenge of living without upper limbs. This, however, did not limit his passion for art. He learned to paint with his mouth and foot, which enabled him to express his feelings and experiences in a unique way. In Morocco, there were no schools or painting courses for people with his condition, so he acquired his artistic skills as a self-taught artist. In 2020, Fakir Hamid made the decision to emigrate to Spain in search of better opportunities. In Barcelona, he submitted an application for asylum. He had the opportunity to take part in several art exhibitions. With his art, Fakir Hamid wishes to inspire others and show that, despite all difficulties, it

is possible to find a path to expression and connection.

#### DO NASCIMENTO MARTINS, MOISÉS ANTÓNIO

Date of birth: 9 October 1979

Place of birth: Chaves, Portugal

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Moisés Antonio do Nascimento Martins was born on 9 October 1979 in Chaves, Portugal. He worked in construction and then as a plumber, his actual profession, until a automobile accident at the age of 25 forced him to give up his career. For two decades, he felt lost and without a clear purpose, until one day he remembered his love of drawing. In April 2024, he began mouth painting. Art immediately became his refuge and his purpose in life. Moisés Antonio do Nascimento Martins wishes to paint constantly and attends a vocational workshop.

### USA

#### DAY, GRACE RANAE

Date of birth: 26 February 2008

Place of birth: Omaha

Painting technique: Foot painter

Grace Ranae Day was born without arms on 26 February 2008 in Omaha, Nebraska, due to a rare, non-genetic condition. Her family supported her in everything she did. From an early age, she learned to act with her feet and began drawing at the age of two. At first, she only scribbled, but at the age of four she began to draw lines. Her sister Meghan Day, a talented artist, played an important role in encouraging her creative development and continuously motivated her. At the age of eight, she began to engage more intensively with painting. In elementary school, she learned from her art teacher about the importance of colours and painting techniques. In

middle school, her enthusiasm for art gained momentum again. She discovered a wide range of art forms, from watercolour and acrylic painting to digital designs and sculptures. Nevertheless, painting remains her greatest passion, which will accompany her throughout her life.

#### SAHLI, SCOTT

Date of birth: 15 August 1960

Place of birth: Oceanside

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Scott Sahli was born on 15 August 1960 in Oceanside, CA. He grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is the father of two sons and the grandfather of three grandchildren. Scott Sahli was a passionate hunter, angler and car enthusiast. He worked for many years as a master jeweller at Landstrom's Jewelry, where he designed jewellery and managed production. In 1999, he was diagnosed with a severe neurological condition (multifocal motor neuropathy), which severely limited his mobility. After living independently for many years, he eventually moved into a care home. There, at the suggestion of a member of staff, he rediscovered his artistic talent – this time with his mouth. Despite initial doubts, painting developed into a passion. Today, painting is the most important focus of his life. With his art, Scott Sahli wishes to encourage other people with disabilities and show that, with willpower, it is possible to achieve anything.

## The significance of painting

**Below is the significance of painting for mouth painter Leanne Beetham, Associate Member from Great Britain.**

Painting is a part of our evolution as a species; for centuries, it has been an integral part of our culture and the human experience. In the modern day, many have mistakenly viewed the practice of painting as a practically useless endeavour; when in fact, it goes much deeper. The oldest documented abstract painting dates as far back as 73,000 years ago (Blombos Cave, South Africa), the oldest known stencilled painting – of a hand – dates back 65,000 years (La Pasiega Cave, Spain), and the oldest discovered realistic painting – featuring animals (my favourite subject) – is 45,500 years old (Leang Tedongnge Cave, Indonesia).

Art has shaped our language, as well as our understanding and appreciation of the world and universe; it has been used to document and record important events and discoveries, to educate, plan ideas, invoke emotions, make political statements, fantasise and tell stories, communicate a point, as therapy and relief, and simply as an aesthetic – creating and appreciating beauty for beauty's sake.

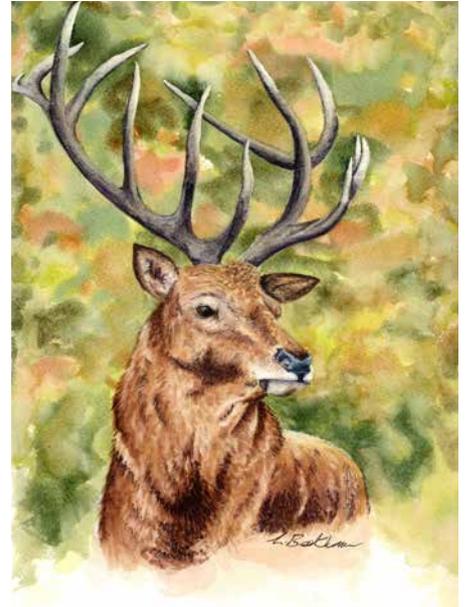
We decorate our homes with art in the same way that we ordain our bodies with clothes, colour our hair, paint faces with makeup, or tattoo our flesh. It is the purest way of expressing ourselves as individuals. Whether you're creating or displaying art; even gifting is unique – your choice of wrapping paper, the design on the card, etc; we often take pride in selecting what's most fitting for ourselves, the receiver, and the occasion. It's a ritual, not just about the gift itself.

The ability to create art requires playfulness, imagination, and

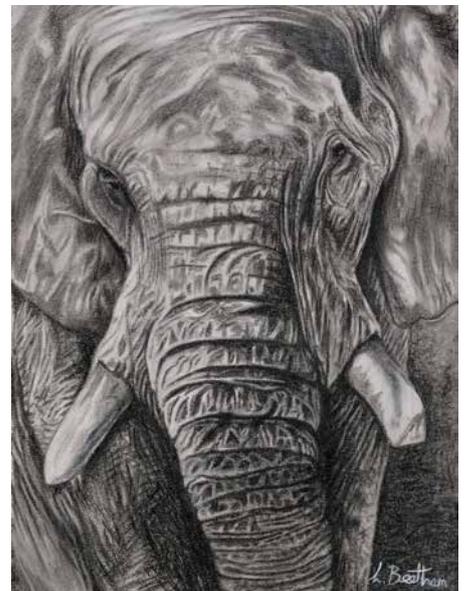
experimentation – attributes which have been connected by scientists to high intelligence. This ability is something which comes naturally to most children; however, if neglected and forced into a conformist way of thinking, it risks fading over time. This doesn't mean it's lost, though. The thing is, art isn't about doing anything right. Despite what many believe, it requires no talent, only practice and a little daring. Dare to try, to get things wrong. Enjoy the process and learn to play again! Your end result may not be what you intended, but that doesn't make it wrong. To quote Andy Warhol, "Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art!"

So now the question – why do I paint? Simply put, because I can. It's in me, like an urge. I love the challenge, the intimacy experienced with my subjects, the freedom of being able to create anything I want to from nothing, the ability to capture and preserve a moment in time... I have painted and drawn for almost all of the reasons discussed above, and I am able to continue doing so because the MFPA has enabled me to build my career from it. There is nothing more satisfying than combining your passions with your career; for that I am truly grateful.

I think that, as a person with a disability, sometimes this becomes more profound. I have physical restrictions and need help in many aspects of my life; but my paintings are mine to do with as I please, and it reminds me to appreciate the little things. We don't often realise how little we know a subject until we try to paint or draw it. I particularly love being surprised by the mundane – even a common black beetle is



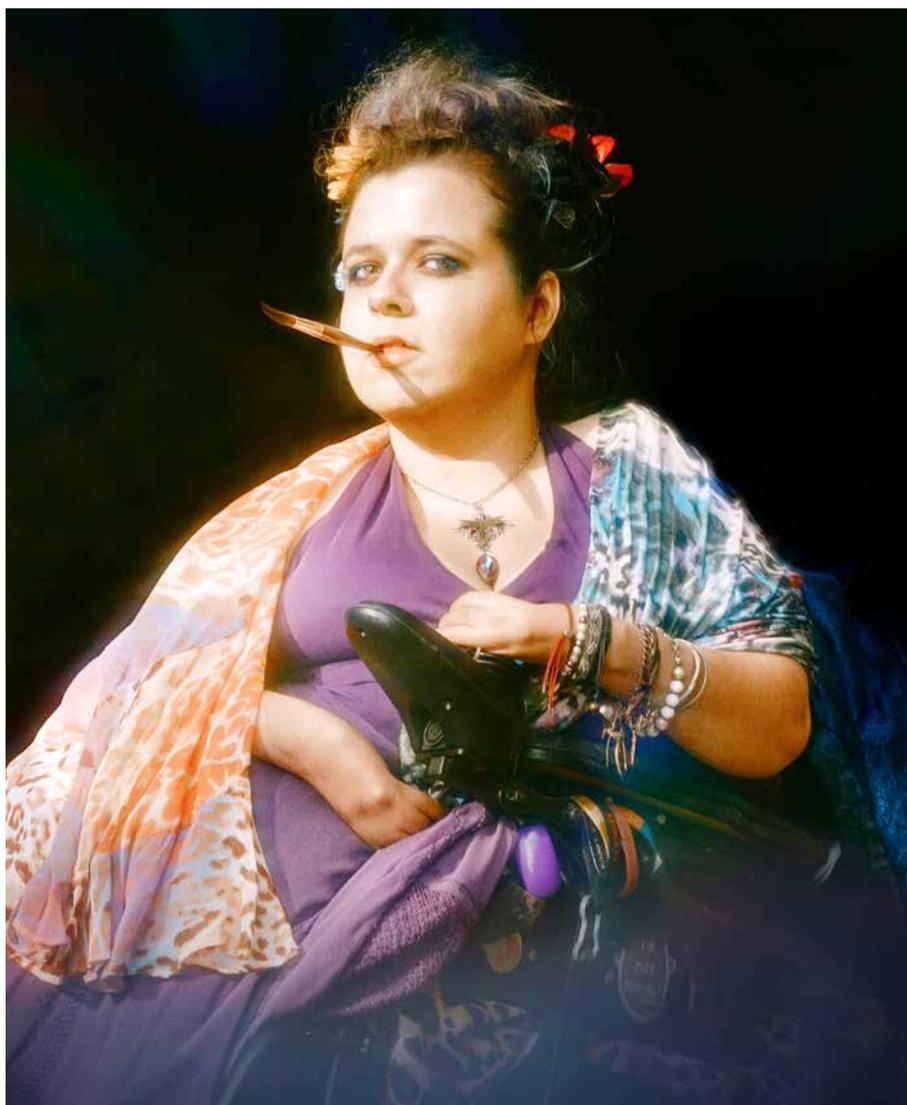
*Leanne Beetham (Associate Member/ United Kingdom), "Red Prince", Watercolours, 36 × 25cm*



*Leanne Beetham (Associate Member/ United Kingdom), "Chandrika", Watercolours, 22 × 29cm*

bursting with beautiful iridescent colours, if you take the time to truly look.

Furthermore, I often enjoy using my art as a conduit for education. To start thoughtful conversations, and get people thinking. How I create (by



**BEETHAM, LEANNE  
(GREAT BRITAIN)**

Date of birth: 4 December 1987

Place of birth: Hull

Associate Member since: 2024

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Leanne Beetham was born on 4 December 1987 with the condition called arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (AMC). As a consequence, she can use neither her arms nor her legs. It has become the norm for her to use her mouth for most everyday tasks. This also includes painting, which she has been doing since she was two years old. Leanne Beetham lives in Hull and likes to attend concerts, to go shopping or to go out with her friends. Her artistic talents also include designing her own tattoos and logos for a number of local rock bands. Since 2004, she has been supported by the Association as a Scholarship Holder. In 2024, she became an Associate Member of the VDMFK.

Leanne Beetham has had an affinity for animals since her childhood. In June 2009, she completed her studies with a "BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Behaviour and 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. She often paints with watercolours.

*Leanne Beetham from the United Kingdom has been an Associate Member of the VDMFK since 2024.*

mouth) enables me to talk about disability awareness and challenge stereotypes; whereas my subject matter (usually nature), enables me to raise awareness of a species, environment, and/or an important cause – which are huge passions of mine.

I truly hope that, even after I am long gone from this world, my works continue to evoke such conversations. I want to leave behind something meaningful, that inspires positive change. At the end of the day, life – no matter how long lived – is ultimately short. We can only truly live on through our ideas and the things we create (be it paintings, music, film, or

anything else you can think of). The sheer fact that we have found art thousands of years old is a testament to that.

Leanne Beetham  
Associate Member/Great Britain

## We mourn for

### AUSTRIA

#### Pezeshki, Farshad

Date of birth: 28 January 1967

Passed away on: 27 July 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Farshad Pezeshki was born on 28 January 1967 in Tehran (Iran). He completed primary and lower secondary school and subsequently attended a technical college. Since 1990, following a motorcycle accident, Farshad Pezeshki had been tetraplegic from the neck down (C3–C4 tetraplegia). As part of a therapeutic measure, he began mouth painting in 1992. Later, he interrupted painting for many years, but resumed it in January 2004. He regularly took painting lessons. In addition to painting, the artist's other hobbies included playing the harmonica as well as organising events and festivals for the preservation of Persian culture and music in Salzburg. Farshad Pezeshki had been part of the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder since 2006. He passed away on 27 July 2025.

As a Scholarship Holder, he had been supported by the VDMFK since 2006. André Luis Estanislau passed away on 5 August 2025.

### GREAT BRITAIN

#### Archer, Jacky

Date of birth: 14 May 1954

Passed away on: 28 September 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Jacky Archer was born on 14 May 1954 in London. In 1985, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a disease which over time led to paralysis of the upper and lower limbs. In 2004, she began mouth painting in a day centre, which she taught herself. Shortly afterwards, she was able to successfully present one of her paintings at an exhibition organised by social institutions. The mouth painter was very keen to continue developing artistically. Since 2008, Jacky Archer had been supported by the VDMFK. She passed away on 28 September 2025.

#### Juarez Covarrubias, Carlos Mauricio

Date of birth: 27 September 1992

Passed away on: 8 August 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Carlos Mauricio Juarez Covarrubias was born on 27 September 1992 in Mexico City. When he was one year old, a doctor diagnosed Duchenne-type muscular dystrophy. Year after year, his muscles lost strength and, at the age of eight, he began to use a wheelchair, as he was no longer able to move his legs and arms. During secondary school, he began to take an interest in art and thus in mouth painting. He took private painting and art lessons to improve his artistic talent. Carlos Mauricio Juarez Covarrubias had been supported by the VDMFK as a Scholarship Holder since 2015. He passed away on 8 August 2025.

### SPAIN

#### López Martínez, Joaquín

Date of birth: 17 August 1947

Passed away on: 13 October 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Joaquín López Martínez was born on 17 August 1947 in Tarancón. He suffered from spondylometaphyseal dysplasia (congenital in nature), which caused bone and joint malformations. He lived in a care centre for people with physical disabilities (CAMF). Joaquín López Martínez had always been an enthusiastic painter. He created works in all painting techniques, including pyrography, ceramics and painting on silk. The progression of his illness severely restricted him and he became depressed because he could no longer take part in the activities he enjoyed most. In 2020, he began mouth painting, which improved his state of mind. Since 2023, he had been supported by the Association. He passed away on 13 October 2025.

### BRAZIL

#### Estanislau, André Luis

Date of birth: 14 October 1963

Passed away on: 5 August 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

André Luis Estanislau was born on 14 October 1963 in Rio de Janeiro. When he was nine years old, he was no longer able to keep up with his classmates when playing football. As a result, a doctor determined that he was suffering from a degenerative disease, namely Becker-type muscular dystrophy. As the disease progressed, he was no longer able to use either his arms or his legs. In 1993, encouraged by his brother, who also suffered from progressive muscular atrophy and was a Scholarship Holder of the VDMFK, he began to devote himself to mouth painting. André Luis Estanislau painted landscapes, faces and abstract motifs.

### MEXICO

#### Cota González, Luis Fernando

Date of birth: 14 July 1993

Passed away on: 1 August 2025

Painting technique: Mouth painter

Luis Fernando Cota González was born on 14 July 1993 in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico. In 2011, he went for a walk along a river with his family and friends. He jumped into the water but forgot to check the depth. He hit the ground and was unable to move his limbs because his intervertebral discs were compressed. In 2015, he became aware of the Association and two months later, he attended painting lessons with Luís Gilberto Soto Álvarez (deceased Scholarship Holder). Luis Fernando Cota González had been a Scholarship Holder of the Association since 2022. He passed away on 1 August 2025.

Tom Yendell (Full Member/Great Britain),  
"Winter Couple Sends Greetings!", watercolour, 31×22 cm



SERVICE

## 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  
Heldaustrasse 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](mailto:vdmfk@vdmfk.li)**

#### **Return of originals**

Due to lack of storage we have to return the originals to our artists from time to time. We send back those originals that have already been reproduced or motifs that are not needed for other purposes any more. The VDMFK does not need these paintings any more, so please do not submit the returned originals again. You can use your works for your exhibitions or sell them. However, please take into account that the purchaser does not acquire the right to reproduce the original.

For private sales please use the form of the VDMFK, which has to be signed by the respective purchaser.

## Art that connects

### Thoughts and impressions from my first jury process at the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists

My name is Editha Tarantino, and I have been working as an art lecturer for the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists for seven years. However, my enthusiasm for art has accompanied me since childhood – I have never stopped painting. For many years, painting has been my profession. I completed comprehensive training in all techniques of the fine arts. I received my fundamental artistic training at a renowned art school in Munich, where I was able to deepen my skills in figurative painting. Later, I continued my training with a recognised painter.

Fascinated by the old masters, I visited museums and exhibitions, studied art literature and undertook study trips at home and abroad, which broadened my artistic horizons. For over 15 years, I have been teaching at art academies in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and have had the opportunity to accompany many artists on their creative paths. In addition to teaching technique and execution, my concern is to convey the joy of painting – because for me, painting is "fitness for the soul".

My own motifs range from classical portraits to landscapes, flowers and urban scenes, through to modern forms of expression such as street art. In doing so, I adhere to the rules of art, but implement them in a contemporary, modern form. Through my work at the Au art publishing house (Switzerland), I also had the privilege of accompanying numerous artists of the VDMFK, promoting their individual strengths and supporting their development. This work gave me valuable insights into the particular challenges of mouth and foot painting

and sharpened my eye for technique, originality and expressive power.

In September, I was able to take part in a jury process in Liechtenstein for the first time – an intensive and enriching experience. Around 2,000 works by artists from all over the world were submitted for assessment. Even at first viewing, I was deeply impressed by the diversity, expressive power and emotionality of the works. Each brushstroke told a story – of passion, joy of life and artistic maturity.

The abundance and quality of the submitted works did not make the selection easy. Particularly fascinating was the wide range of styles and techniques – from sensitive watercolours to luminous acrylic paintings through to experimental works. This diversity vividly demonstrates how strong and vibrant the art of mouth and foot painting artists is today.

Based on my first experience as a juror, I would like to encourage all artists to select their works carefully for submission. Motifs should not only be artistically convincing, but also reproducible – for example for cards, calendars or other publications. Equally important is the conscious choice of medium. Watercolour, for example, is a very demanding technique that requires a great deal of experience. For some artists, acrylic or gouache may be better suited to implementing their ideas more clearly and confidently.

This first jury process impressed me deeply and reinforced my conviction that art connects people worldwide – across borders and physical limitations. I regard it as a great



*Editha Tarantino has recently joined the Association's jury.*

honour to be part of this inspiring community and to contribute my experience to promoting and making visible outstanding works of art.

Editha Tarantino  
Member of the Jury

## 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.



"THE ENDLESS PEDESTRIAN CHAIN"

"DADDY FETCHES FRESH MILK"



"DIVERSIONARY MANOEUVRE"

Mi-Soon Han (Full Member/South Korea),  
"Bouquet with Red Roses & White Lilies", oil, 45 x 33 cm



**PUBLISHERS**

M S, Han

## Publishers' activities

### BRAZIL

From 18 to 24 March 2025, the impressive art exhibition "São Paulo, terra boa" took place, a collection of 21 unique paintings created in 2019 by various artists in honour of the city of São Paulo. This exhibition has already been presented at renowned venues such as the City Hall, the "Memorial da América Latina" museum, universities and private companies. A particular highlight of this edition were the live painting demonstrations by the mouth and foot painting artists **Gonçalo Borges** (Full Member), **Daniel Rodrigo Ferreira da Silva** (Scholarship Holder) and **Marcos Paulo Silva Machado** (Scholarship Holder). Visitors had the opportunity to experience the creative process at close hand and to engage directly with the artists.



*The painting demonstration by the mouth and foot painters was met with great interest.*

### FRANCE

From 6 to 12 July 2025, a special painting course took place at a guest centre in the heart of the French Dordogne. The seminar brought together ten artists from French- and English-speaking countries – united by their shared passion for painting.



*The opening of the German publishing house's exhibition drew a large number of visitors.*

The five-day course was led by the renowned pastel master Jerzy Moscicki, who guided the participants thematically through the world of still life and landscape painting. At the outset, each of the artists present – including VDMFK President **Serge Maudet**, VDMFK Board member **Tom Yendell**, the two Full Members **Arnaud Dubarre** (France) and **Keith Jansz** (Great Britain) as well as the Scholarship Holders **Michael Marseille**, **Joseph Martins**, **Christine Minet**, **Melodie Spiess** and **Szilvia Vari** – presented their personal style. This enabled the course leader to address individual strengths and development opportunities in a targeted manner. Under the guidance of Jerzy Moscicki, the participants discovered new approaches to painting – technically sound and at the same time sensitive.

### GERMANY

On 19 February 2025, the time had finally come: the exhibition "Art Knows No Borders" at the gallery of the Stuttgart Artists' Association, the oldest artists' association in Germany and one of the most renowned art institutions in the Stuttgart region, was officially opened. Around 30 works by 13 international mouth and foot painting artists were on display there until 10 April 2025. What was special about the works of art? They did not only present a finished image, but also revealed the creative process that led to their creation. The range of themes was broad: still lifes, urban scenes, landscapes as well as portraits of people and animals were presented on paper – from realistic to abstract. The techniques used were equally diverse, manifested in acrylic, oil or watercolour paintings.



*Participants at the workshop of French- and English-speaking artists in France.*

## Publishers' activities

### MEXICO

The Mexican publisher held the exhibition "Nature Revealed Without Boundaries" at the Academy of San Carlos from 22 November 2024 to 10 January 2025. The mouth and foot painting artists were accorded respect and admiration for their achievements. Works by 45 artists were exhibited.

### POLAND

From 8 to 12 June 2025, the Polish publisher once again held its traditional workshop in Zakopane. It is a town in the immediate vicinity of the Tatra Mountains (the highest mountain range in Poland) and offers many beautiful views. The Full Members **Stanisław Kmiecik, Mariusz Mączka, Walery Siejtbatałow** and the Scholarship Holders **Arkadiusz Cyprian, Teresa Frys, Jadwiga Markur, Mikołaj Kastelik, Jan Sporek, Mariola Wower, Marika Kropidłowska, Bartosz Ostałowski, Martyna Gruca, Joanna Sobierajska, Grzegorz Gawryszewski, Monika Kamińska, Miłosz Bronisz and Staś Salach** took part. The theme of the workshop, under the direction of the artist Mariusz Drohomirecki, was inspired by the surrounding nature.



*The Scholarship Holders present (l. to r.): Jennie Sjöström, Maria Andreasson, Lena Maria Vendelius and Ingeborg Östling.*

The artists drew inspiration from the world around them. The mouth and foot painting artists worked with commitment and high motivation. It was a pleasure to see how focused the participants approached their task. The course instructor gave the artists many valuable pieces of advice that they were able to use in their work.

### SWEDEN

With walls adorned with colourful original paintings, the Swedish publisher opened the doors to its

annual spring exhibition on 3 May 2025. This year, it was the first exhibition since the pandemic at which artists had the opportunity to take part and present their works. The publisher presented 39 originals in various techniques, painted by Swedish artists. The opening address was given by Scholarship Holder **Lena Maria Vendelius**, who welcomed the guests with a musical performance and a presentation by the mouth and foot painting artists.



*The participants of the workshop in Zakopane (Poland).*

