



# Sixty Years of Self-Help, Not Charity



MFPA Newsletter, Fall 2023

The artists of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists want to thank you for your support as we continue to strive toward our dream of artistic excellence and financial independence. Through your loyalty we have been able to accomplish so much in the year 2023, and we are pleased to share our experiences with you.

## A Meeting of the Minds

One of the many reasons that the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists is so unique and empowering is because it is the member artists themselves who control the Organization.

The Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists is a "democratic cooperative", meaning all artists have a voice in MFPA operations, and the association is controlled by the artists themselves. The artists elect, via postal ballots, delegates to represent their interests, which is the manner in which the association has operated since the first delegates meeting in 1965..

Delegates are elected via postal ballots by the member artists from within MFPA. For electoral purposes, MFPA divides the world into 4 regions: the Americas; Europe, Africa and the Middle East; Australasia and Oceania; the far East. The democratically elected delegates pass necessary resolutions, statutes and approve annual accounts and budgets. The delegates also vote to appoint a management board made up of 7 disabled artists (plus one able bodied legal counsel). The management board appoints a president, who also serves as the president of the Association, who must be a mouth or foot painter who has won high acclaim for his success as an artist, both within the Association and internationally. The management board also appoints able-bodied staff to oversee the publishing houses. The statutes governing management require holding a delegates' meeting every 3 years, however in more recent times they have met more frequently.

This year, a delegates meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. Chosen to represent the Americas were:: **Brom Wikstrom (USA)**,



First Delegates Meeting, Toronto Canada 1965

Dale Tabor (USA), and Susie Matthias (Canada). There, the delegates met to discuss important matters affecting MFPA and vote on upcoming resolutions. However, the meeting wasn't all business and, as always, served as an opportunity for old and new friends to reconnect, reacquaint and enjoy one another in a beautiful city.



Italian Foot Painter, Simona Atzori



The MFPA Board



USA Mouth Painter, Brom Wikstrom



MFPA Delegates Meeting



MFPA President, Serge Maudet



USA Mouth Painter, Dale Tabor





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## A Meeting of the Minds... continued













Top: Delegates enjoying a meal and entertainment during the convention; USA mouth painter, Brom Wikstrom and Polish mouth and foot painter, Stanislaw Kmeicik demonstrate their painting; Delegates gather for outdoor fun.

Bottom: Italian foot painter, Simona Atzori and Canadian mouth painter, Susie Matthias pose for a photograph; Traditional Danish Welcome; USA mouth painter, Brom Wikstrom and NZ Board member, Grant Sharman, catch up.



### Best In Show...

Associate member Sara

Jane Parsons (TX) recently
earned a spot in a juried art
show for her portrait of her
mother-in-law "Helen". The
event was a big success and
featured a wide variety of
artists from the Austin area.

## New Faces

We would like to welcome a new students to the MFPA USA Family:

Mouth Painter, Paul Olone (CA) Mouth Painter, Frank Estrada (CA) Mouth Painter, Jaime Rankin (OH)

We look forward to seeing more of their incredible artwork.

#### In Memoriam

This year, the MFPA USA mourns the loss of Assosiate member, Robert Roycroft (OR), Student mouth painter, Buster Medeiros (HI), and Student mouth painter, Mark Sotak (FL). Their loss is deeply felt by the Association and all who knew and loved them.

#### Art is Food.. For the Soul...

Student Artist Peter Soby (CA) recently joined forces with Proper Good Soup, a family owned business selling delicious ready-made meals. Siblings, Jen and Christopher Jane, thought that Peter's unique and whimsical work was perfect for their new split pea soup label. We are also excited to announce that Peter is currently working on a new follow up book to the much beloved "Muffin's Fun and Curious Christmas". Stay Tuned!





### Congratulations!!

Student Artists, **Jesus Montoya** (CA) became the luckiest man alive when he married the love his life, Deborah, earlier this year.

We wish the beautiful new couple a life-time of happiness together.

#### How to contact us:

MFPA Inc,

2070 Peachtree Ind Ct, Ste 101, Atlanta GA 30314 Phone: 770 986 7764 • Email: mfpa@mfpausa.com

Website: www.mfpausa.com • Facebook: MFPA USA

