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A PRIVATE MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LOS ALTOS HILLS, CALIFORNIA

# Los Altos Hills

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Aaron Alvarez Mendoza

## FINE ART IN THE PARK

**MONTEREY CAR SHOWS  
IN THE HEIGHTS REVIEW  
TRAVELING AGAIN TO NYC**

Carol Dabb - Art Director  
Kathy Berry - Los Altos Rotary Club President 2020-2021  
Sandy Mingia- Director - 2021 Fine Art in the Park

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# ENJOY AN OUTING AND BENEFIT OTHERS AT THE SAME TIME

By Grant Anderson

**H**ow often do you get to do something really fun for yourself while benefiting others at the same time? Everyone knows how hard this past year has been, but it has been especially hard on charitable organizations and on artists. You can benefit both just by doing what most of us want to do anyway—get out of the house, get some fresh air, walk in the sunshine, rejoin society and witness some beautiful artistic creations.

The Rotary Club of Los Altos is hosting its 46th annual Fine Art in the Park event and fundraiser and it is just right around the corner, happening the second weekend in August. Fine Art in the Park is one of the most prestigious outdoor art events in the state and it's in our own backyard. This year, the event will feature more than one hundred artists who couldn't be more eager to get back to what they do best—create. Artists will be showing oils, watercolors, sculptures, textiles, jewelry, glass,

woodwork, photography and ceramics at Lincoln Park in downtown Los Altos this year.

## A Gift to the Community

Fine Art in the Park is the Rotary Club's annual fundraiser and one of the most fun, says Carol Dabb, Artist Chairperson of the event. "We look forward to it every year as a fundraiser; a gift to the community and an opportunity to support the arts and the artists." Carol has been a professional art consultant for over 30 years. She curates the artists for the show, making it many of the artists' favorite shows in which to participate.

The Rotary Club of Los Altos was started in 1949 and encourages membership from all genders and professional fields. The club has about 170 members. Los Altos Rotary Club is a leader in fund-raising with Fine Art in the Park, it funds a wide variety of local and international projects. Overall, the club raises about \$250,000 annually. Those monies are used for projects such as local scholarships and youth programs, aid to domestic

violence victims, betterment of the community, support of Veterans at Foothill College, services for the handicapped and 30 different international projects including mini-loan programs in Asia, birthing centers in Africa and sustainable farming centers in Peru (see [rotaryartshow.com/about](http://rotaryartshow.com/about) for an extended list). 100% of Rotary profits from art sales, the Fine Wine and Craft Beer Tent, and the Rotary Chef Chu's Chinese Chicken Salad booth go to charity. The Rotary Foundation has an A+ rating with Charity Navigator. This year the show's Director is Sandy Mingia, Los Altos Hills resident. This is her 8th show as a Rotary member; having served before in a variety of different roles. She says, "Fine Art in the Park is not only a place to find art that touches your heart and meet the actual artists who create it, but the event is a gift to the community, a means of financially supporting the arts and artists, and a fundraiser that is....fun!"

### An Artist's Perspective

I spoke with several artists who will be featured at Fine Art in the Park to gain some perspective on what they have faced in the past year and their views of what is to come. Here are the responses of one of the artists who will be attending Fine Art in the Park, Deborah Haeffele of Santa Rosa.

GA: Are you looking forward to Fine Art in the Park?

DH: I started doing Fine Art in the Park in 1997. Yes, I am looking forward to doing it again this year. It has always been an excellent venue for reconnecting with friends, former clients and forming relationships with new collectors.

GA: Have you been deprived of showing your work during quarantine?

DH: Yes, all of my shows were canceled. Many galleries were not adding new artists since sales were slow for their existing artists. Sales were slow for the galleries as well. Some galleries did not survive.

GA: Did your sales suffer during the quarantine?

DH: All the artists I know suffered financial loss. It had a big impact.

GA: Did the quarantine deprive you of the feedback/energy that comes with showing your work?

Les Halles Wineshop. Painting by Deborah Haeffele.



DH: Absolutely. Getting response to my new work helps me determine if I am meeting the preferences of my collectors, creating what they enjoy.

GA: Did you keep creating during quarantine?

DH: Quarantine had a dampening effect on my drive for a while. However, it allowed me to rethink my creative direction and focus on what I really love to paint.

GA: Is Fine Art in the Park a good opportunity for you to resume showings/sales?

DH: A great opportunity. I cannot wait to see collectors and friends who come to the show. It feels a little bit like coming home, even though I live now in Santa Rosa.

As a charitable organization, Rotary facilitates fundraisers around the world. This past year has been a challenge since the majority of large fundraisers are in-person events. While there has been ongoing core support throughout these difficult times, the Rotary Club relies on the community at large. Community members have always been very generous, enabling Rotary to support multiple important causes. But as we re-enter the phase of being able to resume in-person events, we want to encourage families to come out, enjoy a day in the park and support the artists.

### Event Information

Under the redwoods in Lincoln Park in downtown Los Altos there will be jazz, blues, and rock and roll music daily on the main stage, good food, fine wine and craft beers as well as face painting and balloons for the kids. Fine Art in the Park will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 14th & 15th from 10am to 5:30 pm at Lincoln Park in Los Altos, near Foothill Expressway in downtown Los Altos. Free parking and shuttles will be provided from Los Altos High School, Bullis Charter School and Los Altos Hills Town Hall. Come out and meet and support the artists. Come out to support a worthy cause. Come out and get some fresh air, warm sunlight and see what the artists have been working on for the past year.



La Maison Rose 2. Painting by Deborah Haeffele.