



# Los Altos Art Club

www.losaltosartclub.com  
475 Knoll Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024

January 2025 NEWSLETTER

Next Board Meeting: TBD

## CLUB NEWS

### LAAC BOARD

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*Aileen Trant*

Vice President

*Carol Rivers*

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*Ellen Barker*

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### COMMITTEES

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*Rona Foster*

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*Leslie Grimm*

Refreshments

*Wanda Lee*

*Lauren Schwartz*

Membership

*Isao Nojima*

Exhibit Venues

*Julia Kahan*

Art Show Coordinator

*Aileen Trant*

Panels

*Rona Foster*

Publicity

*TBD*

### Next Club Meeting

Monday, January 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Apricot Room at the Los Altos Community Center

To join by Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8849806751?pwd=oPN1b5TOCDBOhkC8yUR2H90KG6upHj.1>

Note: January meeting will start at 7:30 instead of 7 p.m.

### 2025 Meeting Schedule

- January: Member presentation, [sign up here](#)
- February: Demonstrator Jamilla Rufaro, making simple books [Jamiliarufaro.com](http://Jamiliarufaro.com)
- March: Demonstrator Ria Sharma, Soft Pastels
- April: Member presentation, sign up [here](#)
- May: Demonstrator TBD
- June: Demonstrator TBD
- July: Potluck, everyone shares art
- August – Summer break, no meeting
- September
- October
- November
- December – Holiday Dinner

[Sign up for a member presentation for any future meeting at this link.](#)

## December Meeting Report

Annual Holiday Party

## Past Demo Recordings

Did you miss a demo? Or want to go back and see how a particular artist achieved a certain effect? You can watch recordings of the 2023 and 2024 demos at the links below.

Note: Isao has shifted these to YouTube, and you can also find them there by searching for **losaltosartclubdemo**.

### 2024

11/04/2024 - Michelle McCune, Wildlife Painting in Oils  
[https://youtu.be/HulbrpGOG\\_8?si=fFkuA\\_NZr9HOLIt5](https://youtu.be/HulbrpGOG_8?si=fFkuA_NZr9HOLIt5)

10/08/2024 – Dotty Calabrese, Weaver  
[https://youtu.be/kAWn4sa\\_o\\_g](https://youtu.be/kAWn4sa_o_g)

5/13/2024 – Lonnie Zarem, Encaustic wax  
<https://youtu.be/hgCHZdK6m5w>

4/8/2024 – Ria Krishnan, Oil painting  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkZBiGjqg6E>

3/11/2024 – Eric Greenhut, Watercolor (Member Presentations)  
<https://youtu.be/Qtir1uNdJJ>

2/12/2024 – Rafael DeSoto, Watercolor  
<https://youtu.be/yoRRtKraB6w>

1/8/2024 – Richard Becker, Acrylic Landscape  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVoQFR8HzXY>

### 2023

10/2/2023 – Rajashree Dokras Painting on silk.  
<https://youtu.be/K819PzWVaI8>

6/10/23 Loic Maltais Portrait from live model  
<https://youtu.be/gv7ot00tOJ8>

4/10/23 Vineha Bat Shenoy - Pyransky art on eggshells and other things  
<https://youtu.be/kp5MZbADcl0>

3/13/23 Denise Howard – colored pencil and graphite

<https://youtu.be/JRhch78srEA>

**2/13/23 Lisa Bauermeister – Fine Art Gourds**

<https://youtu.be/Onrx2U1QjMc>

**1/9/2023 Karin Taber**

**Abstract sea and landscape**

<https://youtu.be/HsQDLsxufkc>

**Earlier**

**9/9/19 Stacey Nussbaum – colorful, textural California landscapes done in pastel.**

<https://youtu.be/gukC-2DmMrA>

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## **Refreshments: Signup Link**

The 2025 schedule is available for signups. To sign up or to check which dates you've volunteered for and see who is signed up with you, click [LAAC Refreshment Signup](#).

Questions, email Carol at [carolrivers@pacbell.net](mailto:carolrivers@pacbell.net)

## **Venues**

**We have Openings!**

[Click this link](#) to see which venues have openings, what size each venue wants, and other information. To sign up to exhibit, just type your name in the appropriate box; no need to save. You will get an email reminder when it's time to arrange the hanging. You can also sign up in person at LAAC meetings.

### **Guidelines for signing up at all venues**

- An artist cannot sign up for the same venue two times consecutively.
- An artist cannot sign up for more than one venue during a time period
- Exceptions will be made if we have empty slots on the schedule within a few days of the art exchange date – contact Julia.

Reminder about Sales

- For each sale through a club venue, please send 10% to LAAC, c/o Isao Nojima (treasurer), 475 Knoll Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024

Support our venues!

### Tags at Venues

- [Click this link](#) to open a pdf and print the official tags (print them on card stock if you can, otherwise printer paper is fine). You can fill them in by hand or electronically.
- Artwork must display the official LAAC tag next to each artwork
- Prices should be included if the piece is for sale (otherwise, put “not for sale” on the tag)
- Make sure your contact information is legible and correct
- Printed tags can also be picked at our club meetings

### LAAC Membership

[Click here for the current roster of club members.](#) You can view but not edit the sheet. If you can't access the sheet or need to update data, contact Isao at [isao.nojima@gmail.com](mailto:isao.nojima@gmail.com).

## MEMBER ART NEWS

We are here to support each other! Send your news to [ellen.barker@pacbell.net](mailto:ellen.barker@pacbell.net)

### Gerda Cristal

Gerda has donated this work by Hal Brady to the Los Altos Community Center, and it is now hanging in the Apricot Room. Hal Brady founded the Los Altos Art Club in 1945 and died in 1985. For a larger version of this article, scroll to the end of this newsletter.



Thank you, Gerda, for reminding us of all Hal Brady did for our community and for sharing this painting for us and future generations.

## May Xu, Wanda Lee, Charlotte Montgomery, Vivian Levitt

Four club members have paintings in the "Life in Los Altos" show at the Los Altos Community Center. The show is on exhibit through March 2025.



Light and Space  
by May Xu



Los Altos Art Sculptures  
by Charlotte Montgomery



On Orange Avenue  
by Wanda Lee



DeMartini Orchard  
by Vivian Levitt

## Rona Foster

Rona offers custom, one-on-one and small group classes at her studio, as well as teaching at various local venues. Contact her to discuss. Call (no text) her at 650-858-0589 or use the contact form on her [website](#): [Contact — Rona Foster](#)

Her next scheduled class is **MANDALA ART**, on Saturday, Feb. 1, 1:30-4:30 University Art, 2550 El Camino Real, Redwood City.



## LOCAL ART NEWS

### Los Altos Library

**Mayuri Desai's "Counted Cross-Stitch"** art exhibition will be on display at the Los Altos Library for the month of January. A reception open to the public will be held on January 2 from 5 to 6:30pm.



## January Art Workshops for Adults

[Watercolor Workshop for Adults](#)

Friday, January 10, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

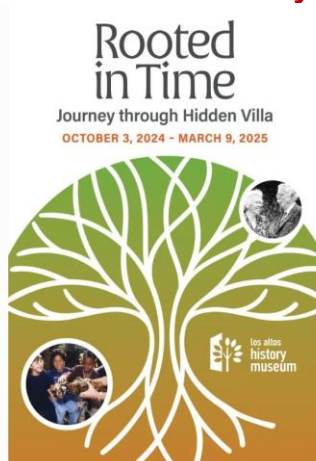
Note: this page also shows all the dates for 2025

For future events, [click here](#).

The library has all sorts of online resources including these online art classes. Enjoy at your leisure.

[Creativebug: Art & Craft Classes](#) | [Santa Clara County Library District](#)

## Los Altos History Museum



### Rooted in Time

#### Journey through Hidden Villa

Oct 3, 2024–Mar 9, 2025

*Main Gallery*

Explore the rich history of Hidden Villa, tracing its roots from its earliest inhabitants to its historic landmarks, and the people who brought it to life. A century later, Frank and Josephine Duvneck left a lasting legacy on this land. Their spirit and ambitious mission continue through the ongoing work of the Hidden Villa Trust.

## Arts Los Altos



[Click here for events and news.](#)

## Walking Tours

Every first Friday at 5 p.m. Meet at Mandahlia sculpture at 169 State Street (across from the State Street Market). And get a free copy of the new and improved Art Map. Walking tours last about one hour, and then you can enjoy the First Friday Festivities, with lively bands on most corners downtown.

To sign up and for more information about Arts Los Altos, visit [www.ArtsLosAltos.org](http://www.ArtsLosAltos.org). From this link, you can also download and print a map of all the downtown art or download the app to take the tour on your own.

## FabMo



1240 Birchwood Drive, Suite 2 Sunnyvale

Next shopping dates: January 9-10-11 and 23-24-25.

Check out the [FabMo Facebook page](#) to see what special focus items might be available this month. Your purchases and generous donations are the source of funding to allow Fabmo to continue offering this service.

**Volunteer** for fun and a sneak preview for new material as it arrives.

[More information and signups for many different tasks here.](#)

## ArtVentures

ArtVentures is a drop-in open studio with an ever-changing set of artists, many of whom are LAAC members. Artists meet in person to work on their own projects and to encourage, critique, and commiserate with each other. A constantly changing selection of their

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work is displayed in the Senior Center at Hillview. Everyone (over age 50) is welcome AND IT'S FREE!

Stop in the Senior Center for coffee and take a look at the latest ArtVentures group project, *Face Time*, shown at right.



- **Join Us in Person:** Drop in any Wednesday, any time between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the Apricot room of the Los Altos Community Center. Registration not required, and it's free.
- See what ArtVenturers have been creating by clicking [here](#).

## Local Galleries



### Gallery House

826 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Menlo Park  
Hours: Wednesday through Sunday  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### Artist Talks

Check [Gallery House website](#)



### **Pacific Art League**

See the [PAL website](#) for a wide range of indoor, outdoor, and online classes and talks.



#### 103rd Anniversary Exhibit

Forest & Ramona Gallery  
Through January 14th 2025



# VIEWPOINTS GALLERY

315 State St., Los Altos  
(650) 941-5789  
Gallery hours: Wed-Sun 11am-5pm

## January Group Exhibition: "Purple Passion"

Show Dates: January 2 – February 2

Reception: Friday, January 3, 5 – 8 p.m.

"Purple Passion" features works by all fifteen of the gallery's artists. Each piece includes shades of purple, a color that has a variety of meanings. Traditionally, purple has been associated with wealth, royalty and luxury as well as loyalty and bravery. More recently, research has found that purple is known to promote creativity and has a calming effect. This annual group show reveals fifteen different artistic interpretations and highlights each artist's style and strengths. From abstractions to florals, landscapes to wildlife, this exhibition reveals the versatility and complexity of the color purple.



"Purple Mountain Majesty" by Kaaren Marcquez, 11x14" watercolor

gallery9  
Los Altos

Gallery 9 Los Altos • 143 Main Street, Los Altos • [gallery9losaltos.com](http://gallery9losaltos.com)

TRI CONG  
DANG

*State of Mind*

Jan 2 – 27, 2025



Artists's Reception: First Friday – Jan 3rd– 5-8 pm

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 - 5, Sunday, 12 – 5

## Recommended by Our Members

### Zoya Scholis

#### Workshops

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

**Jan. 11th**, 10-2:30 Franz Kline, working Black and White

**Feb. 7th**, 10-2:30 Diebenkorn, The Ocean Park Series

**March 15th**, 10-2:30, Loosening-up with Palette Knife Painting



### University Art

[Classes and Workshops](#)



[The Colored Pencil Exercise That Changed My Life by Kirsty Partridge](#)

**January Insight from [Cheap Joe's Art Stuff Blog](#)**

[Fun and Inexpensive ways to Frame Art](#)



## Online Juried Shows

Want more opportunities to get your artwork out there?  
Take a look at the Artists Network [list of upcoming competitions](#).

[Click here](#) to see other local and national shows and competitions.

## One Last Click for January

Twenty-six crazy art  
ideas that are so  
satisfying

[Bing Videos](#)



**Please send newsletter comments, complaints, and contributions to**  
[ellen.barker@pacbell.net](mailto:ellen.barker@pacbell.net)



# Los Altos was art club founder's canvas

By Marjorie Kellogg-Van Rheeden

The wiry little man who was the Los Altos Art Club's president and mentor for 31 years, then chairman of the board for life, will be sorely missed at the club's 38th annual art show in the Rancho Shopping Center on Aug. 9, 10 and 11.

Harold Brady, one of six founders of the club 40 years ago, died quietly and without fanfare on May 20 of this year.

In his honor proceeds from the Rancho Show will go to the club's "Hal Brady Memorial Scholarship Fund," to be awarded to one or more art students at Foothill Community College each year.

Mr. Brady, born on a farm in Boston, halfway between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, would have been 88 this October. As a youth, "Hal," as he was known, did not feel cut out for farm work.

At 14, he went to Cleveland to learn men's tailoring, working as a cutter at the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Eventually, he became a clothes designer.

His real passion, however, was the theater. On the side he studied dancing, soft shoe and tap. One day he decided to cut a different cloth and took off for New York.

In reminiscing with a Los Altos friend, he once said, "That was before unions, so actors did everything — constructed scenery, designed and made costumes."

At least there were agents, and Mr. Brady's agent found work for him as a dancer in "Honey Girl," which had a long run on Broadway.

His first acting job was in "Spanish Love," in which William Powell (not yet a star) also played.

The shows were not always successful, and closings meant lean times. Mr. Brady once said, "I remember walking the streets of New York on a New Year's Eve with only 10 cents in my pocket."

Eventually he landed the job as stage manager for "Desert Song." About then he decided to take a serious look at his life. "I realized I was selling my youth and wondered what I would do as I got older," he said.

So, during the Depression years, Mr. Brady returned to Cleveland where he sold furniture and attended the Cleveland Art Institute.

He also did interior decorating, executing murals for restaurants, night clubs and commercial buildings, and he participated in the renovation of the old Peninsula Episcopal Church.

Mr. Brady was drafted in World



"Hal" Brady donated this oil painting of Los Altos' redwood grove to the city of Los Altos.

War II. Stationed at Ford Ord, Calif., he served as a cook. Years later, his apple pies were a favorite at Los Altos Art Club potlucks.

In 1944, he visited his sister and only sibling, Irene Ehrke, in Los Altos and decided to make it his permanent home.

During the next two decades of community involvement, Hal Brady proved over and over that his small stature contained a big heart.

Following the art precept of working all areas of a canvas while painting, he applied the same principle to the cultural development of Los Altos.

With a stroke of his magic brush, the Los Altos Art Club (LAAC) was formed in 1945. Long before wine and art festivals became popular, the club held art shows. Mr. Brady had confessed, "They didn't take hold until the Rancho area developer, Chris Wilder, and merchants lent their support in 1955. Thousands have come each year since to view and to buy."

Touching another area of the art world, in the early '50s Brady launched a little theater group, Foothill Players. Old-timers may recall musicals staged in the Roarin' Gulch Opera House, a remodeled barn at the Pink Horse Ranch, or in the Los Altos Scout Hall on First Street, both vanished landmarks.

Mr. Brady next focused on

literary growth. He and a small group formed the Friends of the Library, a continuing service in the community.

He convinced LAAC members in 1954 to participate in a civic project to redecorate the library, located then where Safeway now stands.

"Civic Duty and Civic Responsibility" were by-words with Hal Brady. They were used over and over to recruit volunteer workers.

Some 135 helpers assisted Brady when he undertook the Christmas decorations for store fronts in 1951.

Plywood projects with nursery rhyme themes turned downtown Los Altos into a fairy tale village, which was commended by Sunset Magazine.

Early in the '50s, Mr. Brady co-founded a Community Concert Series which presented music at the Mountain View High School, Los Altos Union Church and, after it was built, at Foothill College.

About that time, the Father's Frolics, an all-male comedy extravaganza in which community leaders portrayed chorus girls, began annual performances. It was organized as a fund-raiser to provide Los Altos with the city's first public swimming pool.

They raised \$53,000 for the pool, which was built at Covington Junior High School. Mr. Brady was involved in the art direction, of course. And he was just warming up.

Los Altos, Mr. Brady focused on more projects for LAAC.

He arranged art exhibits to decorate the walls of banks, stores and other buildings in Los Altos.

A program was established to enable promising high school students to exhibit their work at public receptions and shows.

Enthusiasm was generated for elderly artists to display arts and crafts at the Garden House Senior Citizens Center.

A major accomplishment of the LAAC was its 1976 Bicentennial Exhibit. Mr. Brady required entrants to research their themes and accompany their works with short essays on their historical significance.

The resulting "Images of our Country," a 50-piece juried show complete with a guidebook of photos and descriptions of the entries, opened at the Foothill College Library in Los Altos Hills.

Under his leadership, LAAC members have continuously exhibited at the El Camino Hospital, bringing pleasure amusement and solace to patients and visitors.

The street banners that are brought out each holiday season in downtown Los Altos are reminders that Hal Brady was encouraging Art Club members to "do their civic duty."

When the decent program was initiated for the public schools, Brady saw to it that LAAC artists volunteered their talents.

Mr. Brady was the perennial judge of school and community art shows for children, adults, city beautification, and holiday decorations.

His monthly critiques of LAAC members' artwork became a tradition. He never wearied of encouraging people to "paint, improve and exhibit."

For relaxation, Mr. Brady frequently spent evenings at Mac's Tea Room or The Echo where he often sang at the piano bar. "On a Clear Day," was one of his favorite songs.

A couple of years ago, Hal Brady donated his oil painting of the Los Altos redwood grove to the city Hall, where it hangs.

The Los Altos Art Club named its meeting room at the Hillview Center for Mr. Brady, who was instrumental in finding and refurbishing their quarters.

With the many reminders of the generosity of this Renaissance man who gave so much of himself in order to bring the joy of the arts to young, old, sick and well members of the community, Hal Brady will be missed but not forgotten.

Marjorie Kellogg