Los Altos Art Club

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

November 2026 NEWSLETTER

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TBD

CLUB NEWS

Next Club Meeting

Monday, November 9, at 7 p.m.
Apricot Room
Click to join by Zoom

Bring one or two new works or works in progress to share while we socialize during the break

November Meeting Agenda

- Business: Venues, etc.
- Demonstrator: Leila Ghasempor, Watercolor



Leila Ghasempor is an interdisciplinary sustainable artist, community educator, curator, and founder of People Around Us, a multimedia platform dedicated to discovering artists, sharing their stories, and creating meaningful connections through interviews, curation, and community workshops.
She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BFA in Sculpture with a Minor in Art History. Her art practice, Our Weapon Is Love, explores sustainability, empathy, collective responsibility, and human connection through socially engaged art, performance, social sculpture, and art education.

Future Meeting Schedule

• December: Holiday Party (more info to come)

2027
• January: Amy Rattner, Acrylic, gold leaf, collage
• February: Debbie Anderson, Polymer clay
• March: Member sharing

Sign up for a Member Presentation in 2027

sign up here.

We need a member presenter for March 2027

A member presentation can be:

- A retrospective or your work
- Technique demonstration
- Virtual tour of your studio
- Anything you dream up!
- Email Rona at ronasuef@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions
- Call (no text) Rona at 650-858-0589, or sign up here.



October Meeting Report



A big **THANK YOU** to Wanda Lee, whose presentation was "**Dancing with pastel: a decade of lessons learned."** It was a wonderful, interactive overview of pastel painting. Here are some of her lessons:

- Underpainting is good, and you can underpaint with pastel (moistened), oil, or acrylic, allow it to dry, then begin the pastel painting
- You can mix pastel colors right on the painting
- Paper matters
- Start with a thumbnail sketch
- You can blend colors with anything, including your fingers, bits of foam, brushes or things you buy specifically designed for blending
- Fixative is not required and it can darken some colors
- When framing, you need a mat to keep the pastel away from the glass
- Start with darks: with pastel, it's easier to cover dark with light than vice versa
- The hardness of the pastel matters
- Pastel pencils are useful for details
- Gloves-in-a-bottle is a lotion that protects your hands from the dust
- Recommended books:
  - Mastering Pastel by Alain Picard (great portraits)
  - Pastel Pointers by Richard McKinley
  - Painting the Landscape in Pastel by Albert Pandel and Anita Louise West
  - Painting Brilliant Skies and Water in Pastel by Liz Haywood Sullivan (a lot of detail)



Well worth watching the video: https://youtu.be/xPJ2TWORSzw Note that Isao was away, and the fill-in videographer (Ellen) is not as skilled. The video is blurry, but the audio is great!

Dues . . . are Due

Please send your dues of $40 for an individual membership or $50 for a family membership. Checks should be made payable to the Los Altos Art Club and sent to this address:

LAAC
475 Knoll Dr
Los Altos, CA 94024



Past Demo Recordings

Did you miss a demo? Watch recordings of the demos from the last four years by clicking the links the Resources tab on the club website: Artists | Los Altos Art Club | Los Altos
Note: all links are on YouTube – search for **losaltosartclubdemo.**

Refreshments: Signup Link



Congratulations to all of us: Refreshment signups are full through 2026! To check which dates you've volunteered for and to see who is signed up with you, click LAAC Refreshment Signup.

Questions, email Carol at carolrivers@pacbell.net

Venues

We need venue sign-ups for the January-February period at several venues, including Pompeii and the Pancake House. Here is the link to sign up for all our current venues: LAAC Venue sign up - Google Sheets

Reminder: Always use labels, posted next to each artwork, using blue tape. Click here for labels or pick them up at a LAAC meeting.

Update on Pompeii # and Sizes
Five large works:

- Space 1 (main wall): 18" wide × 15" high with frame
- Spaces 2 and 3 (main wall): approximately 21" wide × 17½" high including the frame
- Annex: two additional pieces in the smaller area of the restaurant, using artwork in the same general size range as the first three spaces.

Thanks to **Robin Bantz** for this information!

PLEASE VISIT VENUES BEFORE HANGING so that you know what to expect and can plan your exhibit accordingly. Reminders and more information about hanging at venues are included in **Appendix A** at the end of this newsletter.

Click this link to see which venues have openings through the end of the year, what size each venue wants, and more. 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.

Grant Community Center is a great starter venue if you aren't feeling confident about hanging your work. The Grant Senior Center staff and visitors really appreciate our changing exhibits. The hanging system is one of the best and is very flexible. January-February is available.



Tracy Wu at State Street Market
With six of the twelve paintings she has on display

MEMBER ART NEWS

Send in pics of your venue hangings
Once you've hung your artwork, take a few pictures and send them to ellen.barker@pacbell – I'll include them in the next month's newsletter.

We are here to support each other! Send your news to ellen.barker@pacbell.net

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.

Kara Eberle

Kara has work at two galleries:

- **Sausalito Center** for the Arts Open 2026, a juried art show that runs through December 6 (details and opening hours at www.sausalitocenterforthearts.org).
- **Pacific Art League's** anniversary exhibition, which will run from November 6 to January 12 (details and opening hours at www.pacificartleague.org). ***Opening Reception is Friday, November 6th (5:30 - 8:00 PM)***

Christine Oliver



Christine is the current president of Aegis Gallery of Fine Art is hosting an art show with Hakone Gardens. The show, *Finding Beauty in Nature,* runs from November 3 to

30 at the Lower House at Hakone. Participating artists include Christine Oliver, Elvira Rascov, Edward Rooks, Bhawna Seth, Majella Pinto and Michelle Tidwell.
• **Address:** 21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga
• **Charitable contribution:** 25% of art-sale proceeds will support remodeling the koi pond
• **Hours:** M-F 10 am – 4pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am – 4 pm
• **Entry Fees:** $15 (ages 18-64), $12 (age 65+), $10 (ages 5-17), age 4 and younger are free

Wanda Lee

Wanda is participating in the **Mountain View Holiday Bazaar** on Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. It's at the Mountain View Senior Center - 266 Escuela Avenue. In addition to pastel and watercolor paintings, she will have many note cards of her work as well as small benches and footstools that she hand upholstered using traditional techniques.

Rona Foster



Classes

Techniques with Acrylic and Mixed Media Collage
Saturday, November 7, at Redwood City Parks & Rec.
Details and registration: click here.

More workshops coming up in 2027, plus custom, one-on-one and small group classes at her studio. Check Rona's web site for more information.



Holiday Studio Art Show and Sale
Acrylic Paintings, Pottery, Cards, and Collaged Gift Boxes
Shop Local at Rona's Studio
Saturday, December 5, 1:30—4:30 p.m.
3858Timlott Court, Palo Alto
650-387-4123

Other Shows

Rona Foster has an exhibit of her paintings up at the **Sunnyvale library**, 655 W. Olive Ave. through Dec. 9., and two paintings as part of the **Silicon Valley Visual Arts** exhibit "Transitions of Light; an Autumn Showcase, at Maker Nexus, 1330 Orleans Dr., Sunnyvale.

Rona is participating in the **Mountain View Holiday Bazaar** on Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. It's at the Mountain View Senior Center - 266 Escuela Avenue.

Julia Kahan

Julia's upcoming events



Mirada Art Gallery

Art on display from October 15 – November 11
and December 10 – January 4
Gallery Hours: Thursday – Monday, 11 am – 5 pm
Location: Mirada Art, 355 Main St.,
Half Moon Bay, CA



Los Altos Downtown Holiday Market

December 10
4 pm – 8 pm
Location:
State Street Market
Los Altos, CA

LOCAL ART SCENE

Los Altos Community Center

The latest exhibition in the long corridor of the downtown community center explores the theme of this vibrant, saturated red, seen in the fall foliage of Los Altos' Pistache trees (the ones that line downtown streets and are now in full colorSorry about the reflections!





Above: Elena Krasnoperova,
Red Rebels

Left: Emi Ueno, *Bubbly*



Right: Tracy Wu,
Carrying Red

Community Center Beginning and Intermediate Painting Classes Click here for details. Full disclosure, this website is hard to navigate.

The Activity Guide is easier to read, but without links to register: Activity Guide | Los Altos, CA. Pick up a paper copy at the main desk.

Los Altos Library

Main Library Art Wall – November Show: Los Altos Art Club

Many thanks to Julia for arranging this event! We're showing in the lobby of the main library for the month of November. Stop in and take a look. For everyone showing, remember that pickup is Monday, November 30, at 9 a.m. We need to be out before the library opens at 10. Here are a few shots of the hanging event. The final result is wonderful.





Watercolor workshop for adults
Friday, November 16, 7:00–8:30 pm
All supplies will be provided. Registration is not necessary.
Seating is first-come, first-serve, and no seat saving.

Future dates, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.:
December 21

Sunday Crafternoons
Sunday, November 15, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the Orchard Room
Relaxed crafting on the 3rd Sunday of every month. All ages.
Supplies are provided for you to explore a surprise art activity.

Mark your calendars for future dates for Crafternoons:

December 20	January 17
February 21	March 21
April 18	May 16

Handcrafted Yarn & Fabric Winter Birds Craft

Thursday, November 12, 6:30pm–8:30pm

Join community educator and sustainable artist Leila Ghasempor to bring the charm of winter wildlife into your home. Participants will learn how to create adorable, tactile winter songbirds using yarn and fabric.

Los Altos History Museum

The Spirit of ’76
Reflecting on America's 250th
Through November 8

In honor of America’s 250th anniversary, this exhibition invites visitors to reflect on foundational texts and their relevance today, while exploring local histories of civic engagement and community building. More info here: The Spirit of '76 - Exhibits - Los Altos History Museum

Mountain View Senior Center Holiday Bazaar



See unique handmade creations from more than 40 vendors, including jewelry, art, knitwear, and more! Enjoy a festive day filled with live local entertainment, a DIY craft station, a raffle, and plenty of holiday cheer.

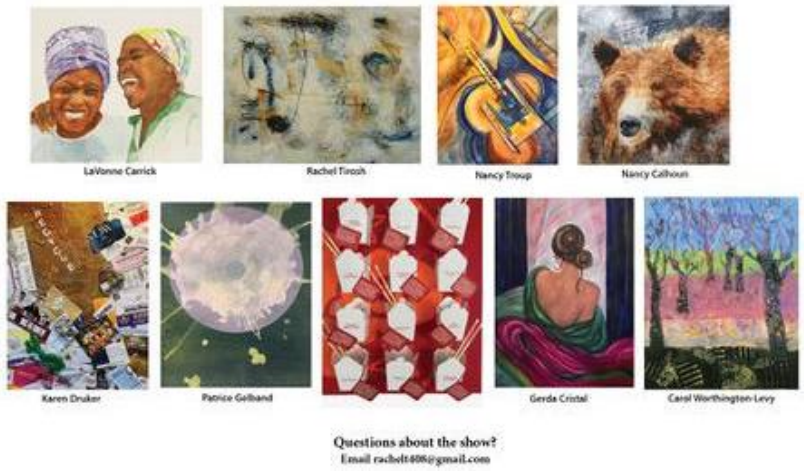
Wanda Lee will be exhibiting and selling at this event.

Rona Foster will be selling pottery, greeting cards, and miscellaneous items

Los Altos Hills Town Hall

Anything Goes! A group show through March. The exhibit features diverse artworks from the members of the **Artists Beyond the Obvious** group and will go through March 2027.

Club member **Nancy Troup** is exhibiting in the show.

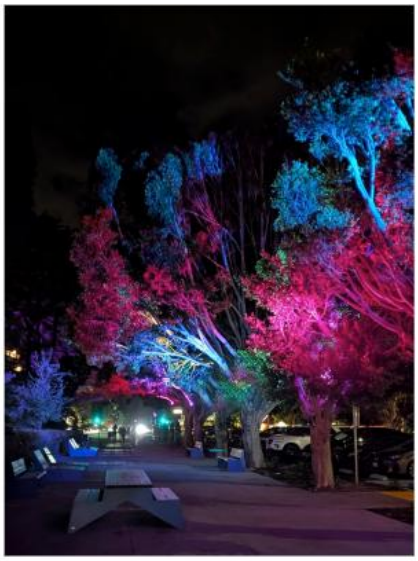


Arts Los Altos

Arts LOS ALTOS | A member of /INTERSECTION FOR THE ARTS

First Friday walking tours with a real human start at 6 p.m. every first Friday, meeting at the Mandahlia sculpture (169 State Street at Third) and lasting about an hour. For a private group tour, email your preferred dates/times to tours@artslosaltos.org





Fall is here and winter is approaching with long dark nights. Arts Los Altos is proud to bring new, colored lights to downtown Los Altos on State Street, between Second and Third. The cool colors of winter will project into the trees at night bringing light and joy to all who visit downtown. These colors will change with each season. Keep a lookout for this public art project using projection lighting. The creative artists are Phil Spitler and Victoria Heilweil who designed the “Waveform Benches” at Village Park.



Mountain View Makers Market Downtown



Here is an opportunity for local artists and makers to showcase and sell their work in a community-centered setting on Castro Street. There's no application fee or booth fee.
https://econdev.mountainview.gov/downtown/makers-market-2026

Mountain View Holiday Bazaar



LAAC members Rona Foster and Wanda Lee are participating.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mountain View Senior Center - 266 Escuela Avenue
Start your holiday shopping with unique handmade creations from more than 40 vendors, including jewelry, art, knitwear, and more! Enjoy a festive day filled with live local entertainment, a DIY craft station, a raffle, and plenty of holiday cheer.
Please note that most vendors accept cash only.

FabMo
FABRIC & MORE

FabMo
1240 Birchwood Drive, Suite 2 Sunnyvale

Workshops
Interested in teaching a workshop at FabMo? Send us your proposal.
If you have future workshop ideas or are interested in joining the FabMo Workshops Committee, send an e-mail.

Sewing Embroidered Owl Sachets
9 am to 2:30 pm Sunday, November 8, $75
In this class, you will learn how to create an owl appliqué using fabric scraps from FabMo, and use easy-to-learn hand-stitching and embroidery techniques to make your owl as realistic or fantastical as you want, then sew it onto a fragrant sachet or small pillow filled with dried botanicals, such as lavender petals and pine needles, which you will be able to assemble yourself. Perfect for holiday decorating or gift giving.

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.

- **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 is not required, and it's free.
- See what ArtVenturers have been creating here: ArtVenturers.

A constantly changing selection of their work is displayed in the Adult 50+ Center at Hillview. The latest collection is a tribute to renowned Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama**, who died in August at age 97. Stop in for coffee and take a look.

Open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



CSMA Art Galleries

Call for Art

The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) invites local artists to submit works for ***Luminosity Amid Chaos,*** a new exhibition exploring beauty and hope emerging within turbulent environments. The exhibition will run from December 4, 2026, through January 30, 2027, in CSMA's Mohr and Sobrato Galleries.

The world is chaotic - politically, socially, personally - and, within that noise, human resilience, compassion, and tenderness continue to shine. This exhibition seeks to highlight those "fireflies"- the small signals of light that persist and inspire through the hardest times. Click Call for Art for more information and details for your submission.

Exhibition Dates: December 4, 2026 - January 30, 2027
Exhibition Location: CSMA, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, CA
Submission due: November 9, 2026
Reception Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026, 3:00-5:00pm

Local Galleries

GALLERY HOUSE
CONTEMPORARY FINE ART

826 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025
Wednesday - Sunday 11am to 5pm

Check the gallery website for new works and events.



At right, *Listening to the Shoreline 2026,* Ink and Watercolors on paper by LAAC member Eimei Onaga

Gallery House Sale and Reception



Pacific Art League

105th Anniversary Exhibition & Fundraiser
Group Exhibition
November 6 - January 12
LAAC **Anil Sawe** is in the show!
Opening Reception is Friday, November 6th (5:30 - 8:00 p.m.)



VIEWpoints GALLERY

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



“Natural Wonders” by Amy Rattner
Show Dates: November 4-29, 2026
Artist Reception: Friday, November 6, 5-8 pm
Meet the Artist Days: Sunday, November 15 and 22, 11am-5pm

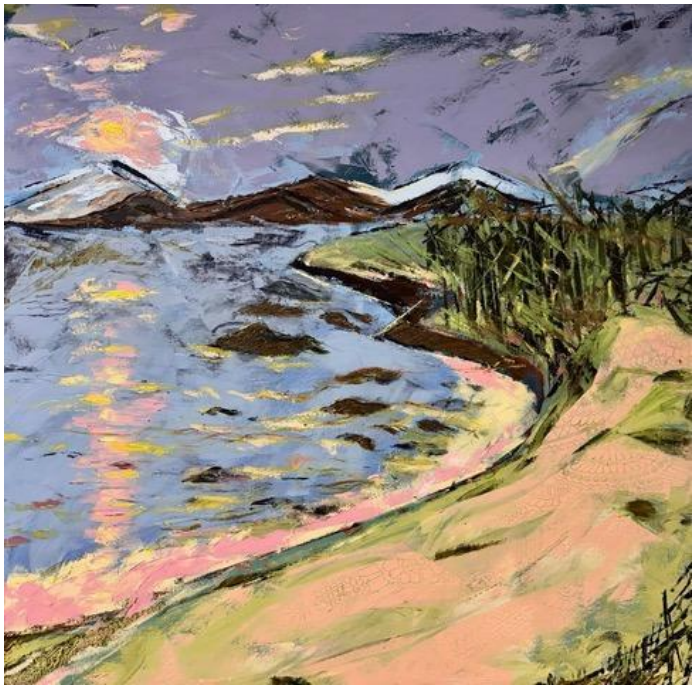
Upcoming show:
December - Sylvie Levesque

gallery 9
Los Altos

Gallery 9 Los Altos • 143 Main Street, Los Altos • gallery9losaltos.com
Tuesday - Saturday 11 – 5, Sunday 12 – 5

Ragini Prasad – What the Land Remembers
November 3 –29
Opening Reception: First Friday, November 4, 5 – 8 pm

The show brings together two traditions: the intricate line work and symbolic patterning of Mithila (Madhubani) art from India, and the landscape painting of California. "Every landscape holds layers of memory: the ones it keeps and the ones we bring to it. Carving through the wax is how I find them. The patterns I grew up with in Mithila art become a way of mapping the places I live now."



Recommended by Our Members

Opportunities to get your artwork out there

Click here to see local and national shows and competitions.

A Last Click for November



Please send newsletter comments, complaints, and contributions to ellen.barker@pacbell.net

APPENDIX

Venue Reminders

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 at a time
- 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.

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
- Include prices 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