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'The Fisherman' makes big splash in West Commons Park

By Vera Kochan



Art in Public Spaces Committee Chairperson Teresa Onoda stands beneath "The Fisherman" sculpture at Moraga's West Commons Park. Photo Vera Kochan

came back from Europe 20 years ago, inspired by the Impressionist paintings I saw there. I wanted to paint beauty and mostly landscapes. I got sidetracked from oil painting in 2006, when I went to Burning Man Festival and started doing sculptures. This sculpture was from my fourth time at Burning Man Festival."

"The Fisherman" has blue eyes and is primarily white holding a silver fish. Both pieces total approximately 150 pounds; the head is about 3 feet tall, and the hand is approximately 9 feet tall.

Passersby are left to ponder over several possible scenarios such as: Did the fisherman get pulled into the "water" by the fish; did the fisherman give up using his pole and decide to jump in the "water" after his prey; or did his boat overturn inadvertently making him a fisherman? Of course, it's entirely possible that "The Fisherman" is a metaphor far deeper than the "water" he is swimming in. In any case, he clearly catches his prize.

"This park is the perfect canvas for exhibiting art in public spaces," Onoda stated. "It helps to create a visual experience almost like an outdoor art museum."

For more information contact Art in Public Spaces at: tonoda@moraga.ca.us.

Reach the reporter at: vera@lamorindaweekly.com

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