



PHOTOGRAPH BY RUSSELL HOULSTON

# Finding Paradise

FINE ARTIST TRENTON GREGORY COMMISSIONED  
TO PAINT MASSIVE MURAL

**T**ucked away in the heart of downtown Walnut Creek is a boutique senior living environment that feels more like a five-star resort than a retirement community for 55+ year-olds. From chef driven menus featuring farm-to-table cuisine and an on-site movie theater, to 24-hour concierge service, daily exercise classes and walking tours, residents living at the Heritage Downtown enjoy an independent lifestyle designed for their physical and spiritual health.

But perhaps the most meaningful focus is the mission to keep retirees active and engaged, most notably through empowering works of art. Fine artist Trenton Gregory, reputed for his original

residential and commercial works in a broad range of genres, collaborated with the Heritage Downtown team to design a mammoth mural on the wellness center walls. “While working on design ideas, the resident experience was our priority,” said Gregory. “We looked at photographs of the Seychelles Islands and Bali; distant places that inspire awe and lift the spirits out of day-to-day worries,” he explained, “I replicated that feeling of paradise onto the walls of the indoor/outdoor space, designing it as the ultimate destination.”

Property owner Hamilton Von Watts described the project, “the mural was created to mirror the energy of our active senior living residents that inspire Heritage Downtown every day, through their celebration of art, fitness, film, and

theater. The mural stands as a constant reminder to all our residents, that a healthy active community creates a healthy active life.”

Born on Catalina Island, Gregory’s artistic passion was influenced by his artist mother and his professional athlete father and their love of the natural world. His early love of illusionism and realism reveals itself in his current custom design work and fine art.

“One of the biggest things I hear from residents when they look at the new scenic backdrop, is that it brings back memories for them of exotic destinations they once travelled, it gives them a place to escape,” said Gregory –PK