

## ARTISTS INSPIRED BY PROVENCE

## CAROLYNE KAUSER-ABBOTT

## INSPIRE

## How Dora Maar Continues to Influence the Art Scene in Ménerbes



Perched above the Luberon Valley, **Ménerbes** deserves its classification as one of the 172 prettiest villages in France. With old stone facades, pedestrian-friendly streets, tempting boutiques, and lively cafés, Ménerbes exudes Provençal charm. Ménerbes is also home to a thriving art scene, including an artist residency program inspired by Dora Maar's career. Her creative legacy continues with an exhibit of some of her work, "Dora Maar, Secrets d'atelier," until November 30th.



### Ménerbes Brief Art History

**Minerva** was the Roman name for a place with human settlement since the Paleolithic age. One of the most important goddesses Minerva (Pallas Athena in Greek), was associated with wisdom and justice, a patron of the arts and handicrafts. Helped by Peter Mayle's hugely successful novel ***A Year in Provence***, Ménerbes leapt onto many people's must-see list of Luberon Villages. However, well before (and after) Mr. Mayle, the town was home to several

### Travel in Provence



### 3 Comfortable Studio Apartn



La Maison de Beaumont studios have a kitchenettes and comfortable living and sleeping areas. In addition, each one is furnished with decorative, practical pieces

Vauduse

Studio

[VIEW THIS LISTING >](#)

### French Products We Love



### Download the Seasonal Menu

creative types, including [Nicolas de Stael](#), Pablo Picasso, and Dora Maar, one of Picasso's romantic partners and an artist/photographer in her own right.



Today, the Nancy B. Negley Association manages programs at the historic Dora Maar House and Hôtel de Tingry. Both facilities provide space for mid-career artists to advance their creative pursuits while in Provence. Thank you to the team at La Mob for some of the following information on the history, programming, and current exhibit.

### Who Was Dora Maar?

Henriette Theodora Markovitch (Dora was her nickname) was born in 1907 in Paris and then spent her childhood in Argentina. Her father, Joseph Markovitch, was a Croatian architect commissioned for many projects in Buenos Aires. In 1920 Dora moved back to France with her mother, and in 1923 Paris to study at Union Centrale des Arts décoratifs and later at École technique de photographie et de cinématographie. After her studies, Dora opened her first photography studio with Pierre Kéfer. Her father encouraged her to use a public pseudonym, Dora Maar.



As a photographer, Dora worked in portraiture, still lifes, advertising, fashion, and street photography. One of the few women in the Paris Surrealist group, thanks to her friend, Paul Éluard, it is her photo montages that were her “signature.” In the mid-1930s, she met Pablo Picasso at a café in Paris, and there was an immediate fusion between the two intense personalities. Dora was known as his muse and companion. However, she did teach him a lot of new darkroom techniques. She also pushed him to be more vocal in his political opinions, resulting in his masterpiece Guernica, which she documented. In return, Picasso encouraged Dora to work more on painting and drawing during their ten (10+) years together.



### Please Join Our Newsletter:

We deliver temptation from Provence twice a month. Sign-up to enjoy our articles on food, wine, shopping, accommodation and travel tips.

You can unsubscribe anytime. For more details, please review our [Privacy Policy](#).

[Subscribe Here](#)

### Have a Property to Rent? We Can Help.

Whether you have a self-catering rental property, are running a B&B (chambres d'hôte) or are managing a boutique hotel getting in front of the right audience is challenging. It's easy to get started!

[LEARN MORE](#)



DAVID SCOTT ALLEN

PROVENCAL RECIPES

SALAD

TASTE

Tags: Aubergine , Eggplant , Heirloom Tomatoes , Salads , Summer Recipes

### Smoky Eggplant and Tomato Salad a Farmers Market Find

July 11, 2023

One of my favourite things is going to the farmers market on Sunday morning with the menu set for the week and my shopping list in hand. There is a sense of purpose, of complete control. That is until I see the beautiful baby eggplants next to the perfectly ripe ...

[READ MORE >](#)



At the end of their relationship, Picasso found the Maison General Baron Robert in Ménerbes for Dora and gave her a painting to purchase the house. She owned the house until she died in 1997. Dora continued to paint and create works for the rest of her life, although, after the breakup with Picasso, she began isolating herself, becoming more interested in her Catholic faith. When the residency program opened in 2006, the home was renamed the Dora Maar House or Maison Dora Maar.



## The Nancy Brown Negley Connection

In 1997, **Nancy Brown Negley** purchased the house to create an artist's residency program (for writers, academics and artists). Nancy Brown Negley was born in 1927 in Houston, Texas and died in Houston in July 2022. She was an artist, visionary and philanthropist. The eldest daughter of George R. Brown, she grew up in Houston, Texas. Nancy inherited from her father and her uncle Herman Brown their vision and daring to build and create. However, her passion for historic preservation and the arts was inherited from her mother, Alice Brown.



Nancy's practice as a painter gave her empathy for other artists she supported individually and through institutions. Throughout her life, Nancy helped many creative individuals at crucial moments in their careers. When she could no longer travel to France, she wanted to cement her life's mission to nurture the creative spirit. Nancy donated her own home Hôtel de Tingry and the Dora Maar House to a non-profit foundation (Fondation Mémimée) which continues her life's work.



How Dora Maar Continues to Influence the Art Scene in Ménerbes  
July 10, 2023



Celebrating Contemporary Ceramics in Biot Terre de Provence Market  
July 7, 2023



Photo Show in Les Baux de Provence this Year  
July 6, 2023



5 Favourite Luberon Restaurants in Provence with a View  
July 4, 2023





---

## Artist Residency Program

As of 2020, the Nancy B. Negley Artist Residency Program at the Dora Maar Cultural Center operates in Ménerbes. When Mrs. Negley opened the residency program, she asked the Museum of Fine Arts Houston to direct it with the Brown Foundation.

Since 2007, the Dora Maar House has welcomed mid-career artists, writers, and humanities professionals to the Nancy Brown Negley Artist Residency Program in Southern France. The Program is open from March through November of each year, with the application cycle open the previous year. Applications are through a Slideroom account on the website's "how to apply" page. Each selected Fellow gets a one-to-two-month residency, a stipend, and a travel award. While in Ménerbes, the expectation is that they focus on a specific project while living at the Dora Maar House and enjoying the beautiful village along with its international and artistic community.



### What is La Mob?

La Mob, the welcome center and gallery located on the ground floor of the Dora Maar House, opened in June of 2021. The mission of La Mob is to celebrate the creative life of artists in residence, and Dora Maar, as our first one, our beloved ghost, with her journeys on mobylette and in the pages of her notebooks, laid down the pathway for the many artists who follow in her footsteps. Each year we put on 2-3 exhibitions promoting our alumni, Dora Maar and artists of Ménerbes who had a connection with Dora and the house (last year, the summer exhibition included works by Dora Maar, Nicolas de Stael, Joe Downing and Jane Eakin). We also work with local artists and artisans on exclusive items for the boutique side of La Mob.



### What is Hôtel de Tingry?

In the 17th century, Joseph Balthazard des Laurents constructed a private mansion in Ménerbes. Later, one of his descendants married the Prince of Tingry, after whom the home, Hôtel de Tingry, is named. Nancy Brown Negley purchased Hôtel de Tingry and used it as her residence for 13 years before donating the property to the Fondation Mériemée.





Created in 2008, the Fondation M rim e (formerly the Foundation for Historic Monuments) safeguards and preserves public and private historical monuments and their environments. In 2018 H tel de Tingry was recognized as a non-profit organization, becoming at the same time the only French foundation entirely dedicated to protecting historical monuments. At the beginning of 2020, Mrs. Negley created the Nancy Brown Negley Association under the protection of the Fondation M rim e. She gifted the Merimee Foundation the H tel de Tingry (a listed historical monument) and the Dora Maar House.



The Fondation M rim e owns the two buildings, while the Dora Maar Cultural Center occupies them and runs the programs.





## Practical Information

### **Dora Maar House ([website](#))**

58 rue du Portail Neuf,  
84560 Ménerbes

[Click here](#) for details on applications for the residency program.

### **Dora Maar, Secrets d'atelier:**

From June 17th through November 30th, 2023, La Mob will present "Dora Maar, Secrets d'atelier." A collection of drawings, studies, small paintings, and poems opens a new window into the inner life of Dora Maar: her parents, her friends, her cat, her obsession with alarm clocks, Picasso, and her relationship with faith. A myriad of private moments of life were explored and sketched in her diaries. This collection will be seen for the first time under the curation of CreativeTech, using various technologies to highlight the works. "Dora Maar, Secrets d'atelier" invites viewers into Dora Maar's inner struggle, the two faces of Janus, her withdrawal and her openness to the world, and the journey between the different periods of her life.

### **Helpful articles:**

[Dora Maar: capturing the dream.](#)

[More information on Dora Maar.](#)

[Seven Things to Know: Dora Maar.](#)

[Dora Maar's Surrealist Photography Eclipses Her Reputation as a Modernist Muse.](#)

[Read more about Les Plus Beaux Villages.](#)

*Image credits: All the photos were provided by and published with the permission of the Nancy Brown Negley Association.*

### Please Join Our Newsletter:

We deliver temptation from Provence twice a month. Sign-up to enjoy our articles on food, wine, shopping, accommodation and travel tips.

You can unsubscribe anytime. For more details, please review our [Privacy Policy](#).

[Subscribe Here](#)

Please share this with friends and family.



[Privacy & Cookies Policy](#)



PREVIOUS POST

Celebrating Contemporary  
Ceramics in Biot Terre de  
Provence Market

NEXT POST

Smoky Eggplant and  
Tomato Salad a Farmers  
Market Find

Related Posts

KEITH VAN SICKLE

RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

TASTE

5 Favourite Luberon Restaurants  
in Provence with a View

CAROLINE LONGSTAFFE

EXPLORE

LOCALS TRAVEL TIPS

Summer in Provence is When to  
See Lavender Fields

ARTISTS INSPIRED BY PROVENCE

GUEST POST   INSPIRE


Art in Forcalquier Celebrating 10  
years of Les Ateliers Ouverts

CAROLYNE KAUSER-ABBOTT

EXPLORE

VILLAGES TOWNS AND CITIES

Top 9 Luberon Villages to Visit  
in Provence







### Carolyne Kauser-Abbott

With her camera and laptop close at hand, Carolyne has traded in her business suits for the world of freelance writing and blogging. Her first airplane ride at six months of age was her introduction to the exciting world of travel.

While in Provence, Carolyne can be found hiking with friends, riding the hills around the Alpilles or tackling Mont Ventoux. Her attachment to the region resonates in [Perfectly Provence](#) this digital magazine that she launched in 2014. This website is an opportunity to explore the best of the Mediterranean lifestyle (food & wine, places to stay, expat stories, books on the region, travel tips, real estate tips and more), through our contributors' articles.

Carolyne writes a food and travel blog [Ginger and Nutmeg](#). Carolyne's freelance articles can be found in [Global Living Magazine](#), [Avenue Magazine](#) and [City Palate](#) ([Published Travel Articles](#)).



No Comment

Leave a reply

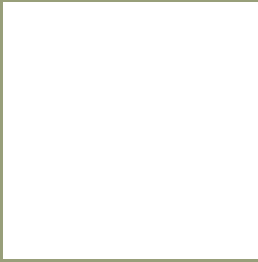
Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

The reCAPTCHA verification period has expired. Please reload the page.

SUBMIT COMMENT

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)





**Perfectly Provence** is an essential online resource, a digital magazine for locals and visitors alike, with content collected from the region's top regional writers. Focused exclusively on Provence, **Perfectly Provence** includes targeted regional content for both tourists and for those who have chosen the area for their permanent home.

Please Join Our Newsletter:

We deliver temptation from Provence twice a month. Sign-up to enjoy our articles on food, wine, shopping, accommodation and travel tips.

You can unsubscribe anytime. For more details, please review our [Privacy Policy](#).

[Subscribe Here](#)

Our Provence Marketplace



Shop our collection of handcrafted and limited production French products. We feature beautiful items for home décor, accessories, beauty products, and gifts. These companies focus on traditional designs and promoting artisanal culture. In addition, our partners are environmentally conscious and work only with top-quality materials. If you are interested in collaborating please get in touch via our contact form.

[Visit the Marketplace](#)

Points of Interest

- Aix en Provence
- Alpilles
- Appetizer
- Artists
- Authors
- Avignon
- Books
- Books on Provence
- Chicken
- Christmas
- Cooking
- Classes
- cycling
- Côte d'Azur
- Desserts
- Expat
- Living
- Festivals
- French Riviera
- Guided Tours
- History
- Lavender
- Living in Provence
- Luberon
- Markets
- Marseille
- Museums
- Nice
- Provence
- Real Estate
- Recipes
- Restaurant
- Reviews
- Restaurants
- Rosé
- Salads
- Seafood
- Recipes
- Shopping
- St Remy de
- Provence
- Things to do
- Tomatoes
- Travel
- Tips
- Uzes
- Vaucluse
- Villages
- Wine
- Wines
- Wines of Provence



About Perfectly Provence

- About Perfectly Provence
- Write for Perfectly Provence
- Work with Perfectly Provence
- Holiday Rentals in France
- List Your Holiday Rental on Perfectly Provence
- Privacy Policy
- Disclosure Statement
- View Sitemap

Our Contributors

