

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Phoenix + Scottsdale

Elisa Leonelli · Wednesday, April 30th, 2025

While visiting a friend, who had recently moved from Los Angeles to Scottsdale, Arizona, I explored some of the highlights of the [Phoenix](#) Metropolitan area.



Our priority was the [Desert Botanical Garden](#) with its Orchid Fever exhibit and the different types of cacti.



We were not disappointed, the orchids felt crowded in the indoor space, but the outdoor views of the majestic saguaros against the sky and the mountains were spectacular.



Saguaro cacti

I saw a great specimen of Organ Pipe cactus.



Organ Pipe cactus

I discovered the Toothpick cactus that I had not seen before, in my previous travels to Baja California, Joshua Tree and Tucson.



Toothpick cactus

My passion for street murals was satisfied by a walk on the Roosevelt Row Arts District, with works by [Tato Caraveo](#) and others.



Mural by Tato Caraveo

Caraveo said:” My aesthetic is whimsical and colorful. I always envision how I can bring a wall or canvas to life by playing with perspective and depth to expand our reality.”



Roosevelt Row mural

Click on underlined words to read some of the articles I wrote and photographed on this subject:
[Mural Mile](#), [Murals by Rip Cronk](#), [Venice Murals](#), [Abbot Kinney Blvd.](#)



Papago Mountain

While driving around, I noticed Papago Mountain, that reminded me of the Red Rock formations I had admired in Sedona, also in Arizona. [Click here](#) for my article.



Knight Beetle by Vladimir Kush

In Old Town Scottsdale we noticed the impressive bronze sculptures by [Vladimir Kush](#).

Kush said about Route 66: “The dragonfly steering a motorbike is a metaphor of someone flying through the vast surrounding space and bursting the bounds of the mundane.”



Route 66 by Vladimir Kush

As lifetime foodies we sampled some of the local restaurants. I cannot fail to mention [Los Sombreros](#), and its outstanding Oaxacan dishes. It felt like being back in that Mexican city. [Read article](#) I wrote about my last visit to Oaxaca for the film festival.



Arizona mural. Rebel Lounge

Traveling invariably expands your perspective on humanity and fills your heart with joy in these troubled times for the world.

Look for my upcoming article about Taliesin West in Scottsdale.

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