

CONTACT:
Rina Thaler
The Art League of Ocean City
Ocean City Center for the Arts
rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org
410-524-9433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Public is invited to watch “Artists Paint OC” during the resort’s
10th annual plein air event August 6-9**

OCEAN CITY, MD — July 18, 2015 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to view art being created on the spot during the 10th annual plein air event — “Artists Paint OC” — on August 6- 9 at picturesque locations around the resort. All events are free and open to the public.

“En plein air” is a French expression that means “in the open air,” used to describe the art of painting outdoors. Plein air events take place wherever the scenery is inspirational, artists congregate to paint it, and watchers gather to see the painters make art right before their eyes.

Baltimore Magazine recently listed “Artists Paint OC” in their “50 Reasons Why We Love Our Beach.”

The annual event brings in 50 plein air painters and features many popular regional artists as well as painters from as far away as California and Chicago.

Artists will paint all day on Thursday and Friday, August 6-7, from 9 a.m. until dark. A map showing approximately where the artists are painting will be posted at the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th St. bayside. Artists also may post their locations on the Facebook page, “Artists Paint OC,” and watchers are encouraged to friend the page to receive updates.

On Saturday, August 8, the artists will paint outside from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., then return to the Arts Center to prepare for judging and the Wet Paint Sale that evening. The artists will select one of their works to be entered into the gallery show judged by Laura Era of Easton’s Troika Gallery, and the Art League will award prizes.

The Wet Paint Sale from 6-8 p.m. is open to the public — in 2014 drawing a crowd of over 300 — and an opportunity to collect original artwork of local scenes at affordable prices. The Wet Paint Sale continues at the Arts Center on Sunday, August 9 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday morning’s Quick Draw Contest wraps up the event. Artists will gather in downtown Ocean City on the boardwalk at South Division Street and paint against the clock from 9-11 a.m. when their work will be judged and winners announced. The Ocean City Development Corp. sponsors the Quick Draw Contest.

The plein air artwork will be on exhibit at the Ocean City Center for the Arts through the end of August.

Ocean City mayor Rick Meehan believes many visitors are surprised to learn the resort has a vibrant and active arts community, and the annual plein air event reinforces that awareness.

“I cannot think of a more picturesque setting than the scenic views of Ocean City to inspire their creativity,” Meehan said. “I look forward to watching these events grow as our residents and visitors realize that art is alive in Ocean City.”

Emily Schwab, first vice-president of the Art League, has chaired the event for the past three years and watched it grow into a major event.

“Artistically, it’s a breathe of fresh air with the new talent it brings in,” she said.

More information about the event is available online at www.artleagueofoceancity.org or by calling the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 410-524-9433.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th St. is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects.

Financial support comes primarily through membership dues from individuals and corporate sponsors. Funding for exhibits is also provided by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

###

EDITORS: High-resolution image attached.

David Simpson of West Ocean City paints “en plein air” at the Ocean City commercial fishing harbor.