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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“THE THINGS I CARRY,” ART BY A WOUNDED WARRIOR,  
IS FEATURED SHOW AT FIRST FRIDAY OPENING AT ARTS CENTER**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Oct. 18, 2015* — Highly-personal work by U.S. Marine and wounded warrior Joe Merritt is featured during the First Friday opening at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on Nov. 6.

Also in the galleries is the annual all-media juried show by members of The Art League of Ocean City.

The public is invited to the free event from 5 to 7 p.m. to meet the artists and enjoy hors d’oeuvres.

Merritt of Denton, Md. is an active duty Marine currently stationed at Quantico, Va. who uses art to work through post combat depression after a deployment to Afghanistan. A self-taught artist, his paintings and works use traditional canvas, acrylic and spray paints, handmade paper, military uniforms and found objects as a means of artistic expression.

"As a combat veteran, the process and storytelling of creating has been the saving factor in the reintegration after a deployment to Afghanistan," Merritt said.

"The work in this show — "The Things I Carry" — is a mixture of literal objects and visual metaphors for the things I carry on a daily basis, creating a dialogue of who I am as a combined self portrait. The work is a product of paintings created in the last year that focus on struggles with post combat reintegration and sobriety."

Merritt has shown and sold his art at the Work House Art Center, The Torpedo Factory, DC Artworks and in various charities and art exhibits in the northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. area. He has also published poetry and prose in various veteran anthologies.

The Spotlight Artist for November is painter Marina Borovok, who was born in the former Soviet Union and holds a Ph.D. in biology and an M.S. in education from Johns Hopkins University. She currently teaches art classes in Delaware.

Fred Peterson, who combines photography, digital manipulation and painting, displays his artwork in Studio E.

November's Artist in Residence is jeweler Fay Kempton, who works in fused glass.

The members' show will be on display at the Arts Center until Dec. 26. The wounded warrior and other shows are through Nov. 28.

More information is available at [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org) or by calling 410-524-9433.

The Art League of Ocean City is 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.

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PHOTO ATTACHED - CAPTION:

U.S. Marine Joe Merritt, who uses art to work through post combat depression, will have a show at the Ocean City Center for the Arts beginning Nov. 6.