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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diversity of art from the Mid-Atlantic region is showcased during March with opening reception on First Friday at Ocean City Center for the Arts

OCEAN CITY, MD — Feb. 26, 2017 — The Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. spotlights the diversity of artists from the Mid-Atlantic region in a month of shows featuring both professional and emerging artists. The public is invited to the free opening reception on First Friday, March 3, from 5-7 p.m.

Touch of Italy will serve refreshments benefiting the Empty Bowl Project.

The Delaware Watercolor Society fills the walls of the Thaler Gallery for March. Even though Delaware is their headquarters, the Society brings together more than 100 members from throughout the Mid-Atlantic, including new, emerging, and professional artists from Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Anne Crown-Cyr, the Society's founding member, will juror the March show at the Arts Center, selecting the best pieces for exhibit.

The First Friday event will also open the annual Shirley Hall Memorial Art Show, showcasing the artwork of middle and high school students from public and private schools in Worcester County. The student art will be on display for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, March 4-5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For over 20 years, the Art League of Ocean City has presented the youth art show in cooperation with Worcester County Schools. The purpose of the event is to promote creativity and allow local youth to present their artwork in a professional gallery setting. The student artwork on display will include original drawings, paintings and photography. Judges will award cash prizes.

The art show is named in memory of Shirley Hall, a former Art League board member, who was instrumental in originally developing and presenting the show. The judges of the show are Hall's daughters, Betsy Hall-Harrison and Barbara Shade.

An all-media group show by members of the Art League of Ocean City entitled "Text," which will incorporate words with art, will hang in the Galleria during March. UMES art professor, Brad Hudson, will judge the show.

Pastel artist Barbara Kern Bush shows her paintings in Studio E during March. A signature member of the Pastel Society of America, Bush maintains studios in both Saltsburg, Pa. and Naples, Fl. and considers the human form her specialty.

Emerging artist Ian Postley of Ocean City is in the Spotlight Gallery in March. An accomplished illustrator and designer, Postley graduated from Stephen Decatur High School and the Delaware College of Art and Design.

Jeweler Nicole Maskell of Selbyville, De. is featured in the Artisan Showcase. A graduate of the University of Baltimore, the owner and designer of Sweetie Beads LLC incorporates a plethora of themed materials into her creative designs.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street is the home of the Art League of Ocean City, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the visual arts in the Ocean City area through education, exhibits, scholarships, programs and community art events.

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.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

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EDITORS: PHOTO ATTACHED of Ian Postley, Spotlight Artist for March

