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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JUNE'S FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENING AT THE
OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS FEATURES
ALTERNATIVE MEDIA**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *May 28, 2017* — The First Friday opening at the Ocean City Center for the Arts features artwork produced in nontraditional media, including silkscreen printing, window screen painting, and body art. The public is invited to the free opening reception on June 2 from 5 – 7 p.m.

The Galleria will feature “The Art of Ink,” showing the works of tattoo artist Matthew Amey, anatomy artist Jess Cross, and silkscreen printer Brian Robertson through July 1.

Amey, an Eastern Shore native with a BFA from the University of Delaware, has been tattooing since 1991, and is part owner of Independent Tattoo and Ancient Art Tattoo in Delaware. He continually experiments with new concepts, materials and techniques, whether working on skin, paper or canvas or with glass and sculptural media.

Cross, a contemporary realist painter and printmaker, received her BFA in painting from Salisbury University and her MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Her work focuses on the anatomy of the human body using a variety of media including

etchings, paintings, serigraphy, and fused layers of glass. Cross currently teaches at SU.

Robertson is a graphic artist and printmaker residing in Parsonsburg. Born in Baltimore and raised in Ocean City, he attended Stephen Decatur High School and Salisbury University. He currently is creative director at a local Ocean City marketing agency and is also owner and operator of The Berlin Printery, a small letterpress and printmaking studio.

The Thaler Gallery will host the Art Center's annual photography and digital media group show, running through June 24.

Painter Stewart Emmerich occupies Studio E in June. A native of suburban Baltimore, he graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with an undergraduate degree in graphic design and painting and, later, a masters degree in arts education. He continues teaching elementary school art in the Baltimore area, and is a member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society.

John Iampieri is the Spotlight Artist for June. He continues the long Baltimore tradition of hand painting window screens, a 104-year-old folk art, and is a member of the Baltimore Painted Screen Society. He is also a roster member with MSAC and Young Audiences of Maryland, and teaches in schools throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware.

Artisan Dot Truitt, who moved to the Eastern Shore at age 22, is showcased through June. She uses high-fire stoneware clay to make objects for the home including lampshades, fan pulls, bottle stoppers and bells. She is a member of the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore.

During the opening reception, the Art League of Ocean City will present five scholarships to Worcester County students who will be pursuing a degree in the arts. The scholarships are funded in part by the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore.

To coincide with the scholarships, two murals will be on display during First Friday on the tennis court fence next to the Arts Center. Created by students of Darlene Idoni, French teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, with help from former SDHS student and scholarship winner Ian Postley, and funding by the Art League, the murals will move back to SDHS for permanent display after the opening.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street 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.

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

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EDITORS: Photos attached.
CAPTIONS:

Painter Stewart Emmerich will show his Maryland-themed paintings in Studio E during June at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

Tattoo artist Matthew Amey will display his body art during June at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

Two murals created by students of Stephen Decatur High School will be on display outside the Ocean City Center for the Arts during the First Friday opening reception.



