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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public is invited to watch “Artists Paint OC” and come to the Wet Paint Sale during the 12th annual plein air event August 9-13

OCEAN CITY, MD — July 23, 2017 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to view art being created outdoors during the 12th annual plein air event — “Artists Paint OC” — August 9-13. The public is also invited to view and collect the art during the Wet Paint Sale on Saturday, Aug. 12 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

“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 spectators gather to see the artists create a painting as they watch.

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

The artists compete for more than \$2,000 in cash prizes, including new themed awards this year sponsored by local businesses: best maritime painting sponsored by TowboatUS, best use of light sponsored by Royal Plus Electric, and best Ocean City lifestyle painting sponsored by Jolly Roger Amusements.

The annual event brings in 50 plein air painters and features many popular regional artists as well as painters from around the country.

Artist Dennis Young of New Castle, De. has been painting in plein air events around the area since 2009, but always likes coming back to Ocean City.

“I come to Artists Paint Ocean City because it's a fun and friendly show and because I much enjoy the Boardwalk,” Young said. “I've been painting in OC for several years, and I always do at least one painting on the boards. The scene vibrating with people and activity finds its way onto my canvas. Topping it off, I do enjoy pausing to talk with so many friendly people who stop by to look.”

This is the third year painter Charles David Viera of Flemington, NJ, has painted in Ocean City.

“I love Ocean City, and, as an artist, painting it helps me to engage it in a more intimate and personal way,” Viera said. “From the honky-tonk feel of the Boardwalk and the excitement of the waves crashing on the oceanside to the serenity of the bayside, OC is a microcosm of life as we know it.”

Artists will paint from Wednesday through Saturday at picturesque spots around the resort. The Art League's Facebook page will list some locations.

On Saturday, August 12, the artists will bring their best work to the Ocean City Center for the Arts to be judged and to participate in the Wet Paint Sale that evening. The Wet Paint Sale from 6-8 p.m. is free and open to the public 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 13 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday morning's Quick Draw Contest wraps up the event. Artists will gather in downtown Ocean City and paint against the clock from 9-11 a.m. At 11 a.m. they return to the boardwalk at South Division Street where their work will be judged and winners announced. The public may purchase the art off-the-easel until 1 p.m. The Ocean City Development Corp. sponsors the Quick Draw Contest and awards \$500 in cash prizes.

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.”

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.

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EDITORS: Photo attached

CAPTION: Artist Dennis Young of New Castle won first place during 2016's Quick Draw Contest on the Boardwalk.

