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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE BEST OF 2017 PLUS THE ANNUAL ARTISAN FAIR
FILL THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS THIS
WEEKEND**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Nov. 29, 2017* — The galleries at the Ocean City Center for the Arts are filled for the holidays this weekend, with the opening art reception on First Friday, Dec. 1 and the annual Artisan Fair on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2.

Friday's opening reception features "The Best of 2017," original artwork by artists who received "best of" awards in shows during 2017: first, second or third place or honorable mention. 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 - 7 p.m. to meet the artists and enjoy complementary hors d'oeuvres.

The Artisan Fair begins during the First Friday reception, and continues on Saturday from 11-4 p.m. In addition to the work of more than a dozen artists, the fair will also feature live music, book signings, kids' crafts, and baked goods for sale. Admission to the artisan fair is free. The work for sale includes jewelry, glass art, pottery, ceramics, fiber art, shell art, and more.

A "Small Works" show fills Studio E with original art in all media under 12 inches, at corresponding small prices.

The Spotlight Artist for December is potter Mary Back, who has studios on Virginia's Eastern Shore and in Florida. Back received her degree from the University of Maryland and, before retirement, was Director of the U.S. Treasury Dept. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Boston Museum of Fine Art.

December's Artist in Residence is jewelry designer Laura Ellison, who creates bold contemporary designs using mixed metals and resin. Inspired by nature, her pieces are colorful, textured and organic.

All shows will be on display at the Arts Center until Dec. 30.

More information is available at www.artleagueofocancity.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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