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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE ART OF THE SENSES FILLS THE GALLERIES
OF THE OCEAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS DURING
MAY,
OPENING ON FIRST FRIDAY MAY 4**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *April 30, 2018* — The First Friday opening at the Ocean City Center for the Arts showcases the five senses, with the two main galleries showing art inspired by how the body sees, smells, tastes, hears, and feels. The public is invited to the free opening reception on May 4 from 5 – 7 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

The paintings of artist Debra Howard of Crisfield are on display in the Thaler Gallery with a show entitled “Fragrance.” Howard uses her gift of synesthesia — where one sense triggers another sense — for inspiration, attempting to visualize on canvas the invisible sense of smell.

“When I closed my eyes and inhaled the fragrance, I would see these beautiful colorful images,” she said. “I found if I

used layer upon layer of translucent and transparent colors and shapes, I could paint the images that the fragrance inspired.”

Howard will also present a free lecture at the Arts Center the following day, Saturday, May 5, from 5-7 p.m. She will discuss how the sense of smell is a powerful communicator, evoking memories, visions, and places in time.

Members of the Art League of Ocean City will also be displaying their work in a complementary group show, “Come to Your Senses,” in all media. Angela Herbert-Hodges, an artist and a Cordon Bleu chef, will judge the show.

Continuing the senses theme, May’s artisan-in-residence is jeweler and aromatherapist Joy Galicinao of Ocean City who melds her two passions into her designs. Galicinao will also be teaching a course on “Strengthening Your Immune Systems with Essential Oils” on June 7, 5:30-8 p.m. at the Arts Center. During May, John Iampieri of Bishopville turns Studio E in May into a working studio, using the art of traditional Baltimore screen painting for a local public art project. Iampieri will be creating artwork on the screens that will be installed at the tennis courts next door to the Arts Center. The public is invite to participate and view the work in progress.

The Spotlight Gallery hosts “Environmental Visions,” artworks by students in the Salisbury University Environmental Studies program. Compiled by SU teacher and

Art League member Charlie Ewers, the exhibit will present photo illustrations from two Environmental Studies courses: ENV 205 – Art Nature, Culture, that looks at environmental issues from the perspective of the humanities, and ENVR 460 – The Bay in Words and Pictures, a photojournalism course on Chesapeake-related topics. Twenty SU students contributed to the show.

Howard’s exhibition, as well as the other shows at the Arts Center, will be on display until May 26.

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:

Image attached of Debra Howard, in front of her painting,
“The Fragrance of Eucalyptus.”

SIDEBAR -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BALTIMORE SCREEN PAINTING IS A PUBLIC ART
PROJECT**

**DURING MAY AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR
THE ARTS**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *April 30, 2018* — Anyone familiar with the neighborhoods of East Baltimore has seen the hand-painted screens that once filled nearly every window and door of the long blocks of brick and formstone rowhouses. Painted screens are an authentic Baltimore urban folk art, created, displayed, and beloved there since 1913.

The art of Baltimore screen painting comes to Ocean City as part of a community art project that will, upon completion, decorate the town’s public tennis courts on 94th St. The theme

of the screen murals is “Our Eastern Shore Habitat,” and the public is invited to become part of this project.

Screen painter John Iampieri, formerly of Baltimore and now of Bishopville, is spearheading the project and is also the artist in residence for May at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. A member of the Baltimore Painted Screen Society, he is a roster member with MSAC and Young Audiences of Maryland, and a teacher in schools throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware.

During April, as part of the Art League of Ocean City’s community programs and to prepare for his residency, Iampieri reached out to local students for help in designing and painting the backgrounds of the screens. He also included curriculum about Eastern Shore habitat, the theme of the artwork. Students at Stephen Decatur Middle School and Worcester Prep and at the town’s Park & Rec Department’s after-school program at Northside Park participated in the project.

The screens will move to a working space in Studio E at the Arts Center during May, where the artist will invite the public to contribute to the paintings. The open painting sessions are scheduled for First Friday, May 4, from 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday, May 23, from 1-4 p.m.; Friday, May 25, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.;

and Tuesday, May 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Anyone who wishes to participate or watch the work is welcome to walk in.

In June, the painted mural screens will move next door from the Arts Center to the fences of the tennis courts for display throughout the summer season.

Iampieri will also hold a class on the art of Baltimore screen painting on Wednesday, May 23, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. This workshop is a fundraiser to help defray the costs of the mural project. Participants will design and create a small screen that they can take home. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$50 with \$40 going toward the mural project and \$10 for materials.

More information and class registration are available at 410-524-9433 or www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

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EDITORS: Photo attached.

CAPTION:

Screen painter John Iampieri (left) joins Art League of Ocean City staff member Debbi Dean-Colley (right) and students in the Ocean City Parks & Rec after school program at Northside Park for a screen painting session on April 13.

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