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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY'S HEART-FILLED SHOWS AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPEN FIRST FRIDAY, FEB. 1 AND INCLUDE A STUDIO OPEN HOUSE

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Jan. 27, 2019* — The galleries at the Ocean City Center for the Arts are filled for February this weekend with a “have a heART” theme. The public is invited to the opening reception on First Friday, Feb. 1 from 5-7 p.m. with complimentary hors d’oeuvres.

February is “have a heART” month at the Arts Center. This annual fundraising drive funds the good works the nonprofit Art League of Ocean City does throughout the local community. With every donation, the donor has an opportunity to create a personal heart and display it in the Spotlight Gallery as part of February’s “have a heART” exhibit. Donations are tax deductible.

The Art Center’s artists-in-residence will be in their studios during First Friday to talk about their art and share information on upcoming classes. On hand will be Pete Gibson, glass; Tinsel Hughes, sculpture and oil painting; David Simpson, drawing; and Joe Skucanec, photographer.

Friday’s opening reception showcases the work of two young women who are excelling in their craft, Megan Burak and Halie Torris. Burak of Berlin is a graduate of Salisbury University with a major in art. Torris of Ocean City is an artist, graphic designer,

and entrepreneur. Both pour their emotions into their work, creating narratives within their paintings.

“Not Your Mother’s Still Life” is the theme of the Art League group show in the Galleria, featuring new interpretations of a classic theme.

Kevin Harris occupies Studio E in February. A native of Chestertown, he received a graphic arts degree from the Visual Arts Institute in Baltimore. Harris’ work, incorporating latex paint on glass, shows the struggles of African American culture and the artist’s own struggle with addiction.

February’s Artisan in Residence is jewelry designer Dee Shannon-Dobson of Ocean City, who has been creating jewelry and sculpture for more than 25 years. She studied with famed metalsmith Paul Ernst, who worked on the Statue of Liberty and earned a fine arts degree from Arizona State University. Shannon-Dobson’s work combines the influences of Native American and nautical themes.

All shows will be on display at the Arts Center until Feb. 23.

On Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m., Art League docent Cassie Wait will give a free gallery tour, discussing the art on the walls and answering questions. Admission is free.

More information is available at www.artleagueofoceancity.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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