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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DELAWARE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY PLUS EMERGING ARTISTS
OPEN SHOWS ON FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 1, AT OC CENTER FOR THE ARTS

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Feb. 25, 2019* —The public is invited to the free First Friday opening reception at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. on March 1 from 5-7 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

The Delaware Watercolor Society displays the work of their members in a group show in the Thaler Gallery in March. A nonprofit organization headquartered in Rehoboth Beach, the Society has a membership of more than 80 artists from Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Virginia, many of whom are award-winning and well-known throughout the art community.

“Come Together” is the theme of the Art League group show in the Galleria, featuring works depicting people from different walks of life, each a key part of our shared humanity. Angela Herbert-Hodges is the exhibit judge.

The First Friday event will also open the annual Shirley Hall Memorial Youth Art Show, showcasing the artwork of middle and high school students from public and private schools in Worcester County. The student art also will be on display for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, March 2-3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For over 20 years, the Art League of Ocean City has presented the youth art show in cooperation with Worcester County schools. The purpose of the event is to promote creativity and allow local youth to present their artwork in a professional gallery setting. The student artwork on display will include original drawings, paintings, and photography.

The art show is named in memory of Shirley Hall, a former Art League board member, who was instrumental in originally developing and presenting the show. Hall's daughters, Betsy Hall-Harrison and Barbara Shade, are the show's judges, and Hall's son, Greg Hall of Towboat US, is the sponsor of the cash prizes.

Ian Postley of Bishopville occupies Studio E in February. A working freelance illustrator and graphic designer, he attended Stephen Decatur High School and the Delaware College of Art & Design and was a 2013 Art League scholarship winner. Postley's illustrations have graced the program covers of the Ocean City Film Festival for the last three years. Postley strives in his personal artwork to honestly express his "fears of a dream worth living, a puzzle left undone, and struggles hushed."

B.L. Strang-Moya is a professional filmmaker from Worcester Co. and a graduate of Stephen Decatur High School and Towson University. Photographic stills captured from his films are on display in the Spotlight Gallery in March. The artistic director of the Ocean City Film Festival, Strang-Moya tells true and unique stories of the Lower Eastern Shore through his films that include *Joe KroArt's World Center* and *The Sign*. He currently lives and works in Annapolis.

Kathy Huegel is March's artisan-in-residence. After 25 years of teaching art to middle school students in Wicomico County, Huegel now lives in South Bethany Beach where she "responds to the environment around

me.” Working in mixed media, she creates fashionable earrings of hand-painted paper.

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

On Saturday, March 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. 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.

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