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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASTEL MASTER STAN SPERLAK, THE ANNUAL CORPORATE PARTNER AND
THE MANGA/ANIME SHOWS OPEN ON FIRST FRIDAY
AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

OCEAN CITY, MD — *April 2, 2019* —The public is invited to the free First Friday opening reception at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. on April 5 from 5-7 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Stan Sperlak fills the Thaler Gallery with his dramatic landscape paintings of the sea, marshes and sky. He studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and currently maintains a 37-acre teaching studio where marsh, farm, and forest meet on the Crow Creek in Goshen, New Jersey. Sperlak is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America and the Maryland Pastel Society, and has served on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association.

To honor the corporate partners of the Art League of Ocean City, a juried show — where the artwork is judged and limited to the best submitted — will be on display in the Galleria. The Best in Show winner will be featured on a limited edition print presented next year to the Art League's corporate partners. The Art League receives support from more than 50 local businesses that have signed up to be corporate partners.

“Our corporate partnerships are vital to keeping the Ocean City Center for the Arts up and running, and this is our way, once a year, to thank them for their support,” Rina Thaler, executive director, said.

Student artwork done in the contemporary Manga and Anime styles will be on display during the opening on First Friday and through the weekend. Anime is a style of [animation](#) originating in Japan characterized by stark colorful graphics depicting vibrant characters in action-filled plots often with fantastic or futuristic themes. The Art League developed this show to promote creativity among students outside formal art programs and to increase community awareness of Anime as an art form.

Students in middle, high school, and higher education in Worcester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Sussex counties submitted entries judged by Brad Hudson, professor at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Cash prizes sponsored by Art League President John Sisson will be awarded.

Pat Fecko of Millville, De., who paints watercolors inspired by nature’s colors and shapes, and encaustic artist Renee Nelson of southern Maryland, who often works with wax and mixed media, jointly occupy Studio E in April.

Kate Hammen of Ellicott City, Md., who considers Ocean City her second home, is April’s Artisan. Her hand-crafted jewelry uses patterns she finds in nature, and all of her creations are one-of-a-kind.

All shows will be on display at the Arts Center until April 27.

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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