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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FIRST FRIDAY AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
SHOWCASES CLAY, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND PENCIL  
PLUS THE LOWER SHORE ADDICTION AWARENESS ART COMPETITION**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *May 31, 2019* — The public is invited to the free First Friday opening reception at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94<sup>th</sup> St. on June 7 from 5-7 p.m. with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

Artists from the Colored Pencil Society of America fill the Thaler Gallery in June. Thirty-three drawings from 17 members of the Metro Washington Chapter that covers Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. will exhibit their best work, showing the potential and different techniques of colored pencil as an artform.

During the First Friday reception, on display will be artwork from the Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Arts Competition, the exclusive showing of this work in Worcester County, presented by the United Way. An annual event, the competition is open to middle and high school students in Worcester, Dorchester, Somerset, and Wicomico counties. The competition is an opportunity for Lower Shore students to explore the theme of addiction awareness, exercise their creativity, and have their art displayed to the wider community. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

The Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore occupies Studio E in June in concert with the Clay-a-Palooza event at the Arts Center on June 22 –

23. First Friday goers will see a preview of the event where they can watch clay artists in action and participate in free activities.

The Guild of the Eastern Shore was founded in 2005 and serves clay artists on the southern part of the Eastern Shore.

A photography group show, juried by Don Lehman, will hang all month in the Galleria.

Eight local students who won \$1,000 college scholarships from the charitable endowment established by the Art League and the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund administered by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore will also be honored during the First Friday event.

Ellen Lawler of Salisbury is the Spotlight Artist for June. A resident of the Eastern Shore for 30 years, Lawler frequents the Shore's diverse habitats to make field sketches and take photos for her watercolor paintings. She strives to capture the essence of the subject and present it to the viewer in an engaging way.

Bonnie Preziosi of Berlin is June's artisan. A graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art, she makes jewelry and free-form crochet inspired by nature and incorporated into her work in an organic presentation.

All shows will be on display at the Arts Center until June 29.

More information is available at [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://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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