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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Artist Brian Robertson headlines free First Friday opening
on Feb. 7 at Ocean City Center for the Arts**

OCEAN CITY, MD — Jan. 29, 2020 — Five new art shows open on First Friday, Feb. 7 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. The public is invited to the free reception to meet the artists and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Ocean Downs Casino and PKS Investments.

Brian Robertson of Parsonsburg occupies the Thaler Gallery in February with a show entitled "Public." Born in 1980 in Baltimore, he moved to Ocean City with his family in 1987 and graduated from Salisbury University in 2002 with a concentration in graphic design and illustration. His paintings can be described as nostalgic, iconic, and minimalist, resulting in bold imagery that can be identified from a distance. The subject matter of each painting provokes thought and relies on the viewer to sift through the possible themes and complete the story.

A group show themed "Light & Shadow" will fill The Galleria in February, exhibiting work in all media by members of the Art League of Ocean City.

Lola Panco of Fenwick Island, De. displays her paintings in Studio E. Born in Minsk, Belarus in 1989, Panco is a contemporary figurative realist painter working mainly in oils and pastels. She also creates

drawings in the Russian dry brush technique. Panco's work has been published in the *Washington Post* and *Metropolitan Magazine* and is in the permanent collection of Salisbury University.

Joanne Guilfoil of Selbyville is February's Spotlight artist. Raised in New York and Maryland, she trained as a painter and art teacher in Lexington, Kentucky. Guilfoil retired as Professor Emeritus from Eastern Kentucky University in 2009 after 20 years of service. She moved to Selbyville in 2014 and teaches painting and exhibits her work in Ocean City while devoting her time to large and small writing projects about things, people, and places on the Shore.

Jewelry maker Kathy Huegel of South Bethany Beach is the artisan in residence for February. After 25 years of teaching art in Wicomico County, Huegel retired and enjoys working in a mixed media approach as she responds to the environment around her. Her earrings are constructed of hand-painted paper for an artistic and fashionable touch.

Admission is always free to the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th Street, 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.

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.

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EDITORS: Photo attached of Brian Roberston

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