

CONTACT:

Rina Thaler

The Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org

410-524-9433

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**First Friday art opening at the Ocean City Center for the
Arts moves online May 1**

OCEAN CITY, MD — April 25, 2020 — The physical galleries of the Ocean City Center for the Arts are temporarily closed, but the monthly First Friday art opening and party continues. The public is welcome to attend the opening on May 1 starting at 5 p.m. on the Art League of Ocean City’s Facebook page and at www.ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org.

The theme of May’s show is “Farm to Table.” The exhibition will be featured on the Art League’s website and social media May 1-31, 2020.

“May’s exhibit will honor our local growers with scenes from the farm or food on the table,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “At a time when we’re all dining at home and feeling especially grateful to those providing our food, there’s no shortage of inspiration.”

Phil Cropper will judge the entries and award cash prizes to the winners. Cropper is a noted area chef, educator, and designer. He currently directs the culinary and pastry arts programs at Worcester Tech High School and is a manager at Fager’s Island. He is also the principal designer and owner of Phil Cropper Designs, a commercial interior design firm he opened in 2000. Cropper gives back to the community by serving as president of the Delmarva Cooks & Chefs Assn., president of The Friends of the Gwen Lehman Foundation, and board member of the

Worcester Co. Arts Council, Wor-Wic Community College/HMR and his church.

The cash prizes, funded in part by a grant from the Worcester Co. Arts Council, are \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, \$75 for third place, plus three honorable mentions. All award winners will be invited to participate in the year-end "Best of 2020" exhibit during the month of December.

The entries for the annual Manga & Anime Youth Art Show will also be exhibited online on First Friday. Brad Hudson, assistant professor at UMES, judged the entries and awarded cash prizes to the winners, who will be announced on First Friday.

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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Elaine Bean
Marketing & Communications Director
cell 443-944-3398



