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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**“Last Friday” Virtual Happy Hour on July 31 will  
celebrate closing  
of Art League’s “100 Pieces of heART” Benefit Art  
Auction**

**OCEAN CITY, MD — July 23, 2020** — The Art League of Ocean City’s “100 Pieces of heART” Benefit Art Auction closes at midnight on Friday, July 31, and the nonprofit is celebrating with a free virtual “Last Friday” happy hour from 5-6 p.m. on Facebook Live and Zoom. The public as well as Art League members and artists are welcome to join in.

“We miss our monthly First Friday openings at the Ocean City Center for the Arts,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “This Last Friday party lets everyone who loves art get together and mingle, even if we have to do it at a distance. And it celebrates the closing night of our online art auction that has been a great success so far. We’re just thrilled at the support the community has shown us.”

The online auction can be accessed at [www.biddingowl.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity](http://www.biddingowl.com/ArtLeagueOfOceanCity).

Since the auction went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 140 original pieces of art donated by generous artists have been viewed and bid on by art lovers from near and far. Many works will sell at below market value. July 31 at midnight will be the final chance to place a virtual bid.

The Last Friday virtual happy hour will have a party atmosphere complete with a live emcee, cocktail ideas, music, discussions with artists who have pieces in the auction, and chances to win prizes. Guests may join by going to the Art League's Facebook page or to Zoom meeting ID 821 6213 7135, passcode = heart.

Works available in the auction include paintings by nationally-known artists Kevin Fitzgerald, Janet Rogers, Sterling Edwards, Willie Crockett, Bernard Dellario, Alison Menke, and Marie Natale. Works by locally-known artists including Virginia Pappas, Laura Jenkins, Kevin Fleming, Kathy Gibson, Leslie Belloso, Petra Bernstein, and Peggy Warfield are available for bidding. Bidders will also discover everything from a stained glass window by Pete Gibson to a hand-painted silk scarf by Mitzi Ash to jewelry by Cathy Angus and Dee Dobson to a mosaic by Lisa Scarbath.

“Many of the works in this auction would typically sell for hundreds, even thousands of dollars, so this is a great opportunity to get a beautiful piece of art at a great price. Purchases also support the Art League of Ocean City so that we can continue to engage and impact our community through art,” Thaler continued.

*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.*

More information is available at 410-524-9433 or [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org).

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