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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Art League of Ocean City announces new
artists-in-residence at Ocean City Center for the Arts**

OCEAN CITY, MD — Jan. 19, 2021 — Ten artists working in a variety of media are now occupying the resident artist studios at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. with two new artists opening their studios in January.

“Since the Art League opened the doors of the Arts Center in 2013, it has been part of our vision to be a cultural center for the community,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “Providing studio space to ten artists gives them a beautiful and inspiring place to create artwork and exhibit what they create. Visitors get to personally know the artists and come away with an overview of the breadth of their work.”

Two new artists-in-residence occupy Studio A, donated by the Calvin B. Taylor Bank and Insurance Management Group. Marian Bickerstaff of Ocean Pines, Md. paints in oils that convey a sense of place, light, and luminosity. She also experiments with acrylics, mixed media, surface treatments, and digital photography. Bickerstaff serves on the Art League’s board of directors as past president. After retiring from a 37-year banking executive career in Pennsylvania, she set a goal to devote more time to art and joined the Art League for classes and workshops to experiment with various media.

Clay artist Dot Truitt of Salisbury, Md. shares Studio A with Bickerstaff. Influenced by childhood coloring books, Esther Williams bathing caps, and the acrobats of Cirque du Soleil, she makes whimsical objects for the home, many

shaped like animals. Her pottery work includes fan pulls, finials for lamp shades, bottle stoppers, and bells. Truitt, who fires her work in her own kiln, uses high-fire stoneware clay and low-fire glazes to get a wide range of colors.

Two painters share Studio B, sponsored as a memorial to artist Toni Howard. Gerilyn Gaskill of Georgetown, De., who says art consumes her every waking moment, has a passion for capturing the beauty of the Delaware coastline and Delmarva landscapes in watercolor, oil, and acrylics. A member of several local arts organizations, she is also a regular instructor at the Art League of Ocean City, the Rehoboth Art League, and community group paint nights. Gerilyn also volunteers a great deal of her time educating youth in the arts.

Sharing Studio B is painter Gail Zinar of Lewes, De. who says she lives life through her art. Trained at the Corcoran School of Art, she has worked as a cartoonist, a visual artist for the government, a book illustrator and author, an adjunct art instructor for Catonsville Community College, and a private instructor of demos and workshops. She is a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society, the Washington Watercolor Association, the Delaware Watercolor Society, and the Maryland Pastel Society.

Three artists working in different media share Studio C, donated by Junis Adkins. Mitzi Ash of Berlin, Md. is a visual artist recognized for her large-scale, organic paintings that suggest the natural world. Using luxurious white silk and color-rich dyes, Mitzi invites us to marvel at the beauty of flowers, leaves, and trees through her use of shape, form, and color, capturing at once their simplicity and complexity. She is a member of the Worcester County Arts Council, the Art League of Ocean City, the Rehoboth Art League, and Silk Painters International.

Glass artist Jeffrey Auxer, who blows his own glass in his studio in Berlin, Md., incorporates Venetian glass techniques and handmade tools to produce unique, one-of-a-kind works of art that blend functionality with practical use. His bowls, chandeliers, ornaments, plates, and other hand-blown objects blend vibrant colors and contemporary shapes

Peter Gibson of Ocean Pines, Md. uses fused glass to create vibrantly-colored jewelry and decorative works of art. Retired from the National Ocean Service, Gibson uses his own kiln to work with his iridescent fused glass, and in 2017, began teaching fused classes at the Arts Center. He continues his love for glass, working in both fused and stained glass.

Three artists also share Studio D, donated by the family and friends of Shirley Hall. Ocean City native and Parsonsburg resident David Simpson holds degrees from Salisbury University in philosophy and fine arts as well as a masters in the Art of Teaching from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. The subjects of his oil paintings are focused on the human figure, landscapes, and seascapes. Simpson teaches classes in drawing and painting at the Art League.

Robert Johnson and Sarah Halcott of Amused Studios in Salisbury, Md. use clay as their medium and create a colorful eclectic mix of functional and decorative pottery. Robert Johnson is the Art Center's pottery studio manager and teaches both wheel and thrown pottery. Inspired by Southwestern Native Americans who use a micaceous clay body in their pottery, Johnson's work focuses on throwing classical shapes and altering them with various techniques and finishes.

Joseph Scukanec of Snow Hill, Md. developed a passion for photography during his career in the U.S. Navy as a way to record and share his experiences as he traveled throughout the world. He enjoys photographing local events, still life, landscape, nature, and close-ups. Using both macro, landscape and digitally-composited photos, his goal is to lead the viewer beyond the photograph into a visual journey through an artistic impression.

Studio E, donated by the Katherine Ellen Brown Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, is reserved for monthly exhibits by Art League member and guest artists.

The artists' studios are open daily during regular Arts Center hours. For inquiries about becoming an artist-in-residence, artists may contact gallery manager Katie Brown at katie@artleagueofoceancity.org.

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

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EDITORS: Images of artists are attached with their art. IDs are in file names.

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Remains of Sunset
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Photography - Terry, My Love
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