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**FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENINGS ARE JUNE 4
AT THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND BEYOND**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *May 28, 2021* — In-person First Friday art openings take place at three venues on June 4 from 5-7 p.m. The Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside hosts the main event, with art shows also taking place at the Princess Royale and Coffee Beanery. The public is invited to attend free of charge, and refreshments will be served.

The Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center hosts artist Nina Mickelsen of Lewes, De., a contemporary artist working in acrylic silk screening as well as mixed media. Mickelsen came to art later life after a long, international business career in Europe and the United States. Her work has been called progressive and characterized by the *Washington Post* as “Latter-Day Pop-Art.” As a Finland native, her artistic roots are in Scandinavian clean and colorful design. Equally comfortable working with realistic, graphic shapes as she is with abstract, slightly sculptural work, she is inspired by nature, coastal and contemporary design.

The Galleria will feature a group show entitled, “Rare Earth,” judged by Susan Holt, Mosely Gallery Director at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. This all-media group show shines a light on the ecological problems occurring today, the actions being taken to protect the planet, and why the environment is worth conserving and celebrating. Holt will award cash prizes to the winners.

The Spotlight Gallery hosts works by Worcester County middle and high school students for the Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Arts Competition sponsored by the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore. The show places an emphasis on hope and maintaining recovery.

Marge Bradach of Gargatha, Va. is the artisan in residence during June, creating jewelry made from stones, sea glass, and driftwood embellished with semiprecious stones, wire, and clay. Her expressive jewelry combines earth, wind, and fire to form a visual adornment meant to inspire the wearer.

June is Clay Month at the Art League with two unique exhibits. Studio E features works by members of the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore: Nicki Jacobs, Ernie Satchell, Florence Kasden, Riley Green, Sarah Halcott, Robert Johnson, Marie Cavallaro, Lisa DeRicco, Mary Michele Davis, Charlene Willner, and Karen Bearman. The Clay Guild was founded in 2005 and serves the southern part of the Eastern Shore, with members in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia.

The online ceramics group show features contemporary ceramic artists from across the region and beyond. David Smith, Associate Professor of Ceramics at Salisbury University, judged the show and awarded prizes in both the functional and non-functional categories. The exhibit is posted at www.ArtLeagueofOceanCity.org/online-exhibits/.

The First Friday receptions continue to branch out to other points in North Ocean City. The new main lobby gallery at the Princess Royale Oceanfront, 9100 Coastal Hwy., opens an exhibit of abstract oil and acrylic paintings by Jack Knight of Long Neck, De. In his career, Knight has had more than 100 exhibits including 15 solo exhibits, and his large colorful works are in major public and private collections.

A second satellite gallery on 94th St. is located less than a block from the Arts Center at the Coffee Beanery and features the work of Rebecca Morgan. Morgan is an illustrator and painter from the Eastern Shore who works between Maryland and Barcelona, Spain and is influenced by

both cultures. She creates brightly-colored images to energize and uplift the viewer.

Refreshments at the Arts Center are sponsored by PKS Investments. All shows will be on display until June 26. More information is available at 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. Funding for this event is in part provided by the Worcester County Arts Council, Maryland State Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts, organizations dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

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EDITORS: Photo of Nina Mickelsen attached from her June 2018 show at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

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