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**FREE FIRST FRIDAY ART OPENINGS ARE SEPT. 3 AT
THE OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SATELLITE GALLERIES**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Aug. 27, 2021* — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to a trio of free in-person First Friday art openings on Sept. 3 from 5-7 p.m. The Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside opens four new shows, with openings also taking place at the Princess Royale Oceanfront and Coffee Beanery.

The Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center exhibits the collective works of the Artists Exchange of Delaware, seven professional artists from Delmarva who share a contemporary focus. Exhibiting artists are Constance Costigan, Laura Hickman, Michael Krausz, Nina Mickelsen, Eileen Olson, Steve Rogers, and G.W. Thompson. The exchange is a forum for sharing ideas and critiques through a camaraderie that makes for interesting elements of interdependency and collaboration.

The “Artists Paint OC” plein air exhibit and wet paint sale continues in The Galleria at the Arts Center through Sept. 25.

Eileen Olson of Bethany Beach, who is also exhibiting as part of the Artists Exchange show, is featuring her abstract paintings in a solo exhibition in Studio E at the Arts Center in September. Olson, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y. and Northern Virginia, spent a 30-year career as a registered nurse and nurtured her talent with classes at The Brooklyn Museum and The Corcoran School of Art.

Painter Jim Schaefer of Ambler, Pa. occupies the Spotlight Gallery at the Arts Center in September. Schaefer holds a BA in architecture and an MFA in fine arts from the University of Pennsylvania. His work is about water - the reflections of a windswept pond, the turbulence of ocean waves, the calm infinity of the ocean’s depths. Not surprisingly, his favorite medium is watercolor.

Joan Danoff of Washington, D.C. brings her creative jewelry making to the Artisan Showcase at the Arts Center in September. Danoff personally handcrafts unique, modern, copper and sterling silver jewelry and offers her work extensively at craft shows throughout the East Coast region.

The First Friday receptions continue at two points in North Ocean City. The main lobby gallery at the Princess Royale Oceanfront, 9100 Coastal Hwy. continues an exhibit entitled "Memories of Ocean City Vacation" by painter Leo Kahl of Ocean View, De.

A second satellite gallery on 94th St., located less than a block from the Arts Center at the Coffee Beanery, opens a show of Ocean City artist Bilbo. Bilbo, who attended Baltimore Junior College and the Maryland Institute of Art, is an ink painter, using Zen art at its highest expression with a thoughtful use of empty space and brush strokes.

Refreshments at the Arts Center are sponsored by PKS Investments. All shows will be on display until Sept. 25. 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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