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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**June's First Friday opens six new shows at the Ocean City Center for the Arts,
including Clay Guild and student exhibits**

OCEAN CITY, MD — May 27, 2022 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to six new art shows opening on First Friday, June 3, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. Admission is free with complimentary beverages sponsored by PKS Investments.

The Thaler Gallery hosts a pair of artists whose work is singular in the art world. Kim Klabe of Rehoboth Beach, De. uses wine and beer pours in her paintings. The artist pours wine or dark beer on watercolor paper, lets the liquid dry, looks to see what shapes appear, then defines those shapes with markers and colored pencil, leaving some of the stain untouched. "I love the way the wine and beer move across the textured paper - their color, the way they puddle and leave shimmery sugars behind," Klabe said. "I love how wine and beer can bring people together for laughs and conversation. It's an unusual medium, and that's pretty cool in and of itself." Klabe is a graduate of the Antonelli Institute of Art and Photography in York, Pa. and the University of Delaware.

Jack Knight of Long Neck, De. had a dual career in the arts and the railroad industry, working for Conrail and Amtrak for 32 years before retiring in 2009. His experience in engineering is reflected in his artwork, geometric constructions of various shapes and levels painted with bold, graphic colors. Originally from Canada, Knight received a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the Graduate School of Art & Architecture at the State University of New York

at Buffalo. Knight was an adjunct art instructor with Empire State College and Niagara County Community College in New York as well as at Rutgers-Camden Campus, Burlington, Camden and Gloucester County Colleges in South Jersey. He has exhibited in more than 100 shows, including 15 solo exhibits.

A group show entitled “Stages of Life” fills the walls of the Sisson Galleria in June. The all-media exhibit honors the voyage of life, featuring artwork inspired by youth, adulthood, and elder years.

Jose Ramirez of Secretary, Md. shows his work in the Spotlight Gallery in June. Originally from Guatemala, he graduated from art school in 2009 and began exhibiting at age 21 before moving to the United States in 2012. Both a studio and plein air painter, Ramirez is a member of the Plein Air Painters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Working Artists Forum. “If a viewer stops for a moment to see and understand the motive or reason why I have painted it and somehow connects with a work of art that I have created, then I can say that I have achieved a successful piece,” Ramirez said.

Studio E features fun and functional ceramics created by the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore. Founded in 2005, the Clay Guild serves the southern part of the Eastern Shore with members in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. Work shown includes hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind ceramics made by local potters.

The Clay Guild will also be installing a collaborative public art piece on display in the Arts Center courtyard during June. The ceramic totem, created by members of the Clay Guild and the community, combines various elements inspired by the Eastern Shore.

Kathy Huegel of South Bethany Beach, De. displays her jewelry made of painted papers in the Artisan Showcase. After college Huegel worked in the commercial art field in Washington, D.C. then return to the Eastern Shore working as an illustrator, sign painter, mural painter, and portrait artist on the Ocean City Boardwalk. She also worked as an art teacher in the Wicomico County schools for 17 years. “I find inspiration from people on the beach and other places that catch my eye,” Huegel said.

A weekend pop-up exhibit features artwork 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. The show is one-weekend only, June 3-5.

On First Friday, the Art League will also announce its 2022 scholarship winners, continuing its support of local students who are seeking higher education in the arts. Since the Art League first began granting scholarships in 1991, they have awarded 69 scholarships to date.

Art shows at the Art League's satellite galleries continue through June. Susan Koster and Brandon Martin display their striking photographs at the Coffee Beanery on 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Mary Bode Byrd's show of colorful paintings continues in the Princess Royale lobby, 9100 Coastal Hwy.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs, and community art projects. Funding is provided in part 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: Photos attached of featured artists Kim Klabe and Jack Knight.

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