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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ocean City Center for the Arts opens new exhibits
on First Friday, July 1, with free public reception**

OCEAN CITY, MD — June 26, 2022 — For the 22nd year, the Art League of Ocean City celebrates a former board member with the Beverly Bassford Memorial Juried Art Show, this year filling both the Thaler Gallery and the Sisson Galleria at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. The public is invited to the free opening reception on First Friday, July 1, from 5-7 p.m. at the Arts Center, 502 94th St. bayside.

PKS Investments sponsors the beverages, and hors d'oeuvres are also complimentary.

After Bassford's death in 1999, her family honored her love of art by establishing a prize in her name that grew into the annual show, with continued sponsorship by the family. Aric Snee, the Art League's Robinson Fellow for Community Engagement, juried the show and selected the winners, who will be awarded cash prizes during the reception on First Friday.

Nancy Rider of Selbyville, De. occupies Studio E in July. Born in Nebraska, marriage brought Rider to Maryland and a teaching post at Towson University, and retirement, to the Eastern Shore. A painter who works in watercolors, pastels, and acrylics, color is her foremost influence, along with inspiration from her surroundings including the Boardwalk and the sea and sky.

The photographs of Jeanne Anderton of Hebron, Md. are exhibited in the Spotlight Gallery in July. Anderton's exhibit ties in with the community art

mural project recently installed on the fences of the tennis courts next door to the Arts Center. The artist collects discarded items and natural elements on the beach, arranges them on solar photo paper, exposes them to the sun, and produces cyanotype photograms. These images were the inspiration for the tennis court mural.

The Staircase Gallery, a new exhibit space, opens at the Arts Center during July. Two young artists – Francisco Madera of Lincoln, De. and Ian Postley of Bishopville, Md. - teamed to paint a floor-to-ceiling mural on the blank walls of the staircase landing. Postley is an illustrator and the 2022 Art League Fellow for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Madera, a DACA recipient who graduated from the Delaware College of Art and Design in 2016, will also be displaying his current artwork in varying media expressing the ongoing narrative of one's existentialism.

Lisa Scarbath of Ellicott City, Md. is July's artisan. A resident artist at the Howard County Center for the Arts, Scarbath creates wall art, décor, furniture, and custom pet portraits. She uses found objects such as watch parts, jewelry, toy pieces, charms, and other small bits to make mosaic bouquets or embellish 3D creatures such as blue crabs.

Ash'iz Cuffee, the Art League's 2021 Fellow for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, will lead a free pop-up gardening event in the courtyard of the Arts Center on First Friday from 4-6 p.m. "Gardening Can Save Tha World" is a campaign dedicated to offering a source of food, selfcare, and love through gardening. The public is invited to plant their own fruit and vegetable seeds to take home.

Art shows at the Art League's satellite galleries are all new for July, and will continue through September 2022. Beth Deeley of Ocean City, Md. displays her macrame and weavings at the Coffee Beanery, on the corner of 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Deeley boldly combines color and nature in her pieces.

Maggii Sarfaty of Easton, Md. displays her paintings in the lobby of the Princess Royale at 9100 Coastal Hwy. Trained at the Maryland Institute

College of Art, Sarfaty is an impressionist, plein air painter working in oil and watercolor, who captures the coastal beauty of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Exhibits at the Arts Center run through July 30, 2022. Satellite exhibits run through Sept. 2022.

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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EDITOR: Photo attached.

CAPTION: Lisa Scarbath is the artisan in residence at the Ocean City Center for the Arts in July, opening on First Friday, July 1, with a free public reception.

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