

CONTACT:

Rina Thaler

Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

410-524-9433

rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ANNUAL “ARTISTS PAINT OC FESTIVAL” ART SALES AND
PARTIES
ARE AUG. 12-13 AT OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Aug. 3, 2023* — The Art League of Ocean City’s annual outdoor painting festival, “Artists Paint OC,” is happening Aug. 9-13 in the resort, giving the public the opportunity to select from hundreds of just-created original landscape paintings of iconic coastal scenes.

The “Artists Paint OC” event is an annual art competition now in its 18th year. For five days, 50 artists compete for the top prizes of cash and prestige as they spread out across the area to paint famous vistas. These “plein air” artists are professionals; many are award winners in multiple competitions.

There are two opportunities to buy the original art. The public is invited to the “Wet Paint Sales” on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 5-7 p.m. and on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 1-3 p.m. Both sales are held at the waterfront Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside, and both are free to attend. Every painting is one-of-a-kind and ready to hang.

“If you’re looking for a permanent and unique memory of your time in Ocean City, this is an opportunity to find a treasure no one else but you will have,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “This event only happens once a year, and our Arts Center is the only place you’ll find literally hundreds of original paintings to choose from.”

The “Wet Paint Sales” at the Arts Center are a chance to mix and mingle with the artists, and enjoy light refreshments, live music, and a cash bar. The juror for this year’s Artists Paint OC event is Laura Era, owner of Easton’s Troika Gallery and an award-winning painter herself. Era will jury the artwork and award the cash prizes to the winning artists. She has donated a custom-painted portrait for a raffle to benefit the nonprofit Art League. Raffle tickets are available at the Arts Center anytime as well as during the Wet Paint Sales.

A new addition to this year’s festival is the “Kids Paint OC” plein air competition. Youth ages 6 to 17 painted outdoors during the month of July, and their art will be on exhibit at the Arts Center on Sunday, Aug. 13, from 12-3 p.m. Judges Tamara Mills, David Simpson, and Sarah Hancock will select the winners and award \$500 in cash prizes sponsored by the Worcester County Arts Council.

The easiest time and place to watch the artists paint is on the Boardwalk on Sunday morning, when they’re concentrated in the immediate area near South Division St. The artists will be wearing grey shirts and have handouts available. In two hours, from 9-11 a.m., the artists race to complete a painting of an iconic Boardwalk scene, frame it, and run it to the Arts Center on 94th St. Era will judge the paintings, with cash prizes awarded by the Ocean City Development Corp. The art goes up for sale to the public at 1 p.m., while the paint is still wet.

The Artists Paint OC Festival awards \$6,500 in cash prizes to the plein air artists, with sponsorships coming from Emily and Paul Schwab, Peter Glenville Foundation, Laura Jenkins, Blue Water Development, Mapleton Farm/Michelle and Charles Nichols, Shore United Bank, Barbara Frankfort-Kollander Patrick, Maryland’s Coast, Ocean City Tourism, White Marlin Open, and the OCDC, as well as Trond Pool Construction, Emmy and Ed Challenger, Royal Plus Electric, Thrasher’s French Fries, Reese Cropper III, Atlantic Hotel, and the Ocean City Hotel Motel Restaurant Assn.

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.

###

EDITORS: Photos attached from the 2022 Quick Paint on the Boardwalk. IDs and hometowns are in file names. Thank you.

Elaine Bean
Art League of Ocean City
Publicity & Marketing Director
elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org
cell 443-944-3398











