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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FREE FIRST FRIDAY OPENING ON NOV. 3
FEATURES SPECIAL “EASTERN SHORE HERITAGE” SHOW
AND FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKATE BOWL
MURAL**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Oct. 27, 2023* — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to their First Friday opening reception at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside on Nov. 3, 2023, 5-7 p.m. The event is free and open to all.

The Sisson Galleria will host an all-media group show entitled “Eastern Shore Heritage,” celebrating the stories, traditions, and heritage of the Eastern Shore. This special exhibit is financed through the Beach to Bay Heritage Area, a nonprofit 501c3 organization and a certified Maryland Heritage Area through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, whose purpose is to preserve, protect and promote the historical, cultural and natural heritage of Maryland's Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

Judges for the exhibit are Joanne Guilfoil of Selbyville De, author/illustrator and painter; Raye-valion Gillette of Snow Hill, Md., Curator and Folklife Program Director at Salisbury University; and George Sass of St. Michaels, Md., photographer.

The evening will feature live music by saxophone player Stephen Harvey, special refreshments, and displays from other cultural organizations in the community including Beach to Bay Heritage Area,

Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, Delmarva Discovery Museum, and Germantown School.

The Ocean City Development Corp. (OCDC) will present a first look at proposed mural designs for the Ocean Bowl Skate Park Mural and invites the public to give their feedback. Artists Marc Emond of Stinky Beach Studio, Jeff Huntington of JAHRU Studio, and Cita Sadeli, aka MISS CHELOVE, were commissioned from a pool of 60 applicants to design mural proposals, and their designs will be on display for public comment. This project is presented by the OCDC in conjunction with the Town of Ocean City's Recreation & Parks Department and is supported by grant funding through the Maryland State Arts Council. The OCDC is sponsoring complimentary hors d'oeuvres for the First Friday reception.

The Thaler Gallery will feature work by the Delaware Watercolor Society. In 2004, a small group of artists joined together bound by their love of the watercolor medium. The group grew into the Delaware Watercolor Society, an organization with members from all walks of life. The Society's mission focuses on exploring, creating, and sharing the wonders of watercolor and other water-media with new, emerging, and professional artists.

Studio E will feature the artwork of Helen Smith of Ocean Pines, Md. and Natalie Falk of Frankford, De. Smith received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Catholic University and studied Administration at Bowie State University while working as the arts supervisor for Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. "Although my work is representational, I strive to create a unique composition that draws the viewer into my thoughts through the use of color," Smith said, who will be showing her acrylic paintings.

Falk majored in studio art at the University of Maryland, then started a graphic design company. After retiring she returned to fine art, working primarily in colored pencil. "I am focusing on colored pencil because I enjoy the precision it affords."

Marla Robertson and Bill “The Dude” Todd, co-workers and DJs on Ocean 98 radio, share the Spotlight Gallery in November. Robertson is the morning show producer for Bulldog and the Rude Awakening Show and radio host of Middays with Marla. A self-taught artist who started sketching in high school, she first picked up a paintbrush in 2015. “I paint with acrylics and learn as I go,” she said.

Todd was born and raised in Ocean City and DJs as “The Dude” on The Rude Awakening Show. Besides doing visual art, Todd is a musician who plays guitar in local groups Funk Shue and No Right Way. “Art has always been important to me,” he said. “Art is absolute freedom when it’s done right. Whether it’s through music or visual arts, I just love that feeling.”

Kate Hammen of Ellicott City, Md. is the artisan for November. Hammen makes jewelry in her home workshop using a variety of tools found around the house. She uses patterns from things found in nature that she can preserve and turn into wearable art including seashells for their texture as well as herbs from her garden. All of her pieces are handmade and one-of-a-kind.

The Staircase Gallery show of “There’s Lines & There’s Shapes” by Laura Kelley and L. Morgan Kelley continues. Offsite exhibitions also continue at the Art League’s satellite galleries in North Ocean City. The main lobby gallery at the Princess Royale Oceanfront, 9110 Coastal Hwy. continues an exhibit of photographs by Carol Ward. The Coffee Beanery on 94th St. continues a show of abstract paintings by Amanda Lind.

Refreshments at the Arts Center are sponsored by PKS Investments. Arts Center shows will be on display through Nov. 25; satellite shows, until Dec. 31. More information is available at OCart.org or 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 Nancy Smith, exhibiting artists in November, attached.

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