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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FEBRUARY FIRST FRIDAY AT OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR
THE ARTS**

FEATURES 5 NEW ART EXHIBITS

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Jan. 26, 2024* — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to a free art opening and reception on First Friday, Feb. 2, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 502 94th St. bayside. Complimentary refreshments will be offered.

David Scott Smith of Salisbury, Md., the Art League's Orem and Harriet Robinson Fellow for Contemporary Art and Community Engagement, will show his ceramics in the Thaler Gallery during February. Smith received his MFA from Louisiana State University, has been teaching at the college level since 2005, and is currently Associate Professor in the Art Department at Salisbury University. Primarily a sculptor and a mold-maker, he explores how translucent porcelain and light depict form and surface and re-contextualize familiar objects, like snake skin or crab claws.

An all-media group show titled "Perspective" fills the walls of the Sisson Galleria in February where artists used one-, two-, three-point, bird's-eye-or worm's-eye perspective to create an illusion of depth. Brooke Rogers, art professor at Salisbury University, is the show's judge and will award cash prizes.

Studio E at the Arts Center exhibits "Six Views of Yellowstone in Winter," works by six Eastern Shore of Maryland photographers,

captured when the group spent ten days at America's first national park in Feb. 2022. The photographers include Janet Kerr of Trappe, William McDonnell of Cambridge, Mark Nelson of Easton, Joseph Soares of Trappe, Randy Welch of Easton, and Wayne Zussman of Grasonville.

Kennie Jones of Salisbury, Md. shows his photographs - a visual journey into African-American barbershops on Maryland's Eastern Shore - in the Spotlight Gallery to celebrate and coincide with Black History Month. A graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, he is an instructor in Wicomico County's Visual & Performing Arts Program and teaches photography at Parkside High School. "I named this 'The Black Congress,' because, like the United States Congress, the barbershop is the place where ideas are discussed, and decisions and directions are determined by the constituents of the barbershop," he said.

The artisan for February is Alison Schweiger who started making baskets from pine needles after she moved to Ocean Pines six years ago from Baltimore. A retired floral designer and member of the American Institute of Floral Designers who currently works at the Inland Bays Garden Center in Frankford, De., her baskets are stitched together with no glue used in the process.

The Staircase Gallery opens a new show by painter Itzel Aguilar of Georgetown, De. Hand woven yarn from Mexico, industrial and organic material, and a bright acrylic palette are some of the elements she creates to transform her emotions onto canvas. "The illustrative faces that appear in my paintings are a reflection of myself; implications of fear, anxiety, and grief that often dance in my mind as I try to escape to find my authentic self and heal my inner child," she said.

The Art League's satellite galleries continue new art shows during February. Ruth Ann Kaufman shows her artwork in the lobby of the Princess Royale Hotel at 9110 Coastal Hwy. Madeline Patsel is the artist-in-residence at the Coffee Beanery at 94th St. and Coastal Hwy.

Arts Center exhibits run through Feb. 24. Satellite gallery exhibits continue through Mar. 30.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th St. is open daily until 4 p.m., and admission is always free. More information is available at OCart.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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