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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW EXHIBITS CELEBRATING EARTH MONTH OPEN FIRST FRIDAY
AT
OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND SATELLITE GALLERIES**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *March 28, 2024* — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to the First Friday art openings on April 5 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside and two nearby satellite galleries. Admission is free.

An Earth Day themed marketplace will greet guests on First Friday at the Arts Center featuring local vendors selling all-natural products and plants, including Bluebird Farms, Baybees Honey, Marshall Creek Farm, and Lawrence Leaf. Ocho Rios Jerk and Tings will be providing complimentary appetizers.

The Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center hosts “Earth Studies,” featuring work by Maggie Delaney Grabow, Marley Massey, and Nancy Richards West. This exhibit highlights the beauty of nature and the importance of protecting the planet. Through their unique styles and viewpoints, the artists explore the environment around us: land and ocean, flora and fauna, sun and moon.

Grabow of Columbia, Md. works in embroidery, pyrography, and painting, paying homage to the intricacies of the little things - native insects and their host plants - reminders of the beauty and grace in nature.

Massey of Philadelphia, Pa. works in painting, papermaking, rock pigment, and wild clay. The artist’s multidisciplinary practice is rooted in the witnessing and documenting of elemental activity, cyclical processes, fleeting time, and unearthing the reciprocal relationship between humans and the earth.

West is an oil painter from Chincoteague, Va., and her art highlights the ocean’s

power and beauty as the heart of the planet, providing oxygen, absorbing carbon emissions, mediating temperature, driving weather, and providing food and jobs.

The Corporate Partner Juried Group Show, an annual exhibition to honor the corporate partners of the Art League, will be on display in The Galleria at the Arts Center. The Art League receives support from more than 50 local businesses that have pledged to be corporate partners. “Our corporate partnerships are vital to keeping the Ocean City Center for the Arts up and running, and this is our way, once a year, to thank them for their support,” Rina Thaler, executive director, said. Mehves Lelic, professor in the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and director of their Mosely Gallery, juried the show and selected the winners, who will receive cash prizes.

The Spotlight Gallery hosts University of Maryland Eastern Shore professors Collin Byrd, Elvin Hernandez, and Brad Hudson and celebrates Manga and Anime styles of animation originating in Japan, characterized by stark, colorful graphics depicting fantastic or futuristic themes. The student portion of the show will open on First Friday and continue through the weekend, Apr. 5-7.

The Art League developed this exhibit to promote creativity among students outside formal art programs and to increase community awareness of the Manga and Anime art form. Students in middle, high school, and higher education submitted entries judged by Byrd, Hernandez, and Hudson. Art League President John Sisson and Ocean City Comic Con are donating prizes to the winners.

Byrd of Salisbury, Md. is professor of Graphic Illustration and Animation at UMES and currently developing the animation concentration for the Arts program. His proficiencies include 2D animation, sequential art, and 3D sculpting and printing. Byrd is constantly experimenting with the limits of artistic digital creation tools.

Hernandez of Salisbury, Md., who is originally from Puerto Rico, earned his MFA in Sequential Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and his EdD in Higher Education from Argosy University. He is a long-time educator and practicing freelance artist in the field of comics and commercial art, working for Toys R Us, DC Entertainment, Marvel, FX, and Cartoon Network.

Hudson of Mardela Springs, Md. has been an artist/instructor at UMES for more than 20 years and publishes his own comics under the moniker of Coldstream Studios, developing characters such as Rocket Girl and Dark Crusader. He

produces work for, among others, Topps Trading Cards, including StarWars, The Walking Dead, Mars Attacks, and more.

Studio E's artists for April are Angela Pierce and Carol Gentes with a show entitled "Nature As We See It." Pierce of Selbyville, De. is an oil painter and retired art educator. Her paintings are interpretations of the photographs she takes of local landscapes, marshes, waterways, plants, and flowers. Her technique and style are inspired by the Old Masters, the Impressionists, and today's contemporary artists.

Gentes of Selbyville, De. uses nature, birds, and animals as recurring themes. As a muralist, her paintings can be seen on walls, furniture, rain barrels, sidewalks, and rock. In the studio, she combines detail with texture and abstract realism. Her photographs are the subjects of many of her paintings and products.

Barbara Buford of Nassau, De. is the artisan for April featuring mixed media created using vintage and recycled material. With over 50 years of experience as an artist and arts educator, Buford believes that art heals, and everyone should have the opportunity to create.

The Princess Royale satellite gallery, 9100 Coastal Hwy., hosts the artwork of Jennifer Carter of Bethany Beach, De. Carter is the Art League's Robinson Fellow for 2024. In all media, her art reveals wonder and beauty. Watercolor and oil paintings, photo explorations and beach portraits, and graphic design creations express her love of light, color, and life.

The Coffee Beanery satellite gallery at 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. displays the collages and paintings of Gail Wynn ofPittsville, Md. The artist believes making collages is like solving a puzzle. "I enjoy painting my papers, playing with mark making, using vintage books and old sheet music, tearing, layering, and manipulating the papers to form something cohesive ... like solving a puzzle." Wynn also designs and creates greeting cards.

The Arts Center shows will be on display through April 27; the satellite galleries, through June 29. 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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