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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW EXHIBITS OPEN DURING FREE FIRST FRIDAY RECEPTION
AT OCEAN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *April 25, 2024* — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to the First Friday art openings on May 3 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94th St. bayside. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Ms. Wheelchair Maryland, Dominique Sessa of Salisbury, Maryland, will be on hand to present her campaign for Ms. Wheelchair America. Clare's Nutty Concoctions will offer their specialties, and Nelly's Echo will perform live music. PKS Investments sponsors the complimentary refreshments.

The Thaler Gallery opens a new show, "Spring Fling," by the Working Artists Forum. Launched in 1979, the Forum has more than 100 members today who exhibit widely, win awards, teach classes and workshops, and actively participate in area arts events. In this show, 21 artist members from across Maryland and Delaware will exhibit their work, created in oil, watercolor, pastel, cold wax/oil, and clay monoprint. The artists are Anne McLaughlin, Barbara Harr Watson, Barbara Kern Bush, Betty Huang, Carla Huber, Carol McClees, Donna Finley, Doris Glover, Ed Lewandowski, Georgette Toews, Joan Cranor, Kathy Gibson, Ken Clark, Lynne Davis, Margaret Sarfaty, Maryellyn Lyncott, Pat Lang, Patty Mowell, Rhonda Ford, Shirley Hales, and Stacey Sass.

The Sisson Galleria opens a juried photography show entitled "Texture." The photographers focused on the element of texture to visually describe how something physically feels to add depth, detail, and interest to their photographs. Exhibit juror Jennifer Carter, the Art League of Ocean City's 2024 Robinson Fellow, will select the winners, who will receive cash prizes from the Art League.

Studio E hosts an art show by seven artists with disabilities from the Salvation Army of Delaware's Developmental Disabilities Program with artwork and greeting cards for sale.

Karen Lembo of Salisbury, Maryland occupies the Spotlight Gallery in May. Lembo works primarily in acrylic and mixed media, but also mixes things up and writes about her work. "My current work blends realism with ambiguity, creating layers of texts and textures through mixed media that evoke memories, dreams, and my own spiritual journey," she said "My work is often inspired by a fleeting moment so intriguing, I want to capture it, personalize it, and share it with others."

Marisa Longo of Ocean City displays her creations in the Artisan Showcase in May. Longo's jewelry and sculpture is inspired by Assateague Island National Seashore and her interpretation of nature's effect on nature.

An online-only exhibit, "Aquarium," hits the Art League website and the monitors at the Arts Center with a group show featuring artists from across the region. The images dive into the topic of water, including seascapes and marine life. Ricky Sears of Kensington, Maryland will judge the entries and award cash prizes to the winners.

The Princess Royale satellite gallery, 9100 Coastal Hwy., continues to host the artwork of Jennifer Carter of Bethany Beach, De. The Coffee Beanery satellite gallery at 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. continues to display the collages and paintings of Gail Wynn of Pittsville, Md.

The Arts Center shows will be on display through May 31; 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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SIDEBAR:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY ANNOUNCES ART SHOW
BY ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES OF SALVATION ARMY**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *Apr. 25, 2024* — The motto of the Salvation Army is “doing the most good” and meeting human needs without discrimination. A new art show opening on First Friday, May 3, 2024, 5-7 p.m. at the Ocean City Center for Arts displays that mission in action. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend.

The new “Creative heARTs” exhibit, sponsored by the Art League of Ocean City and filling Studio E at the Arts Center during the month of May, features artists of The Salvation Army Delaware’s Developmental Disabilities Program, a program started in 2007 by program Director Christy Cugno and art teacher and mentor Barbara Buford. The show will feature artwork by seven artists with disabilities, including acrylic painting, sun prints, ink, and mixed media.

“Years ago, there was a woman at the Salvation Army who was very talented artistically,” Buford said. “Her dream was to see her art hanging in an art gallery. I told her we’d make it happen. Gallery 50 was the first show for this group of artists, and the woman sold her piece of art. We helped her fulfill her hopes and dreams. We basically started the art program for her, and then it just kept growing.”

Buford has been dedicated to serving the needs of others since college where she majored in Human Services. She was initially hired as a job coach for the Salvation Army, but her talents as an artist soon evolved to teaching art to the disabled. Once the program was set up, Buford said, “We took our folks all over and did art shows all over.”

“We’ve been preparing for this show at the Art League for more than eight months now,” she said. “Once a month, we’d have a lesson at the Arts Center to expose our artists with disabilities to a new environment and give them the opportunity to branch out.”

Creative heARTs artwork has been shown previously at the Ocean City Center for the Arts as well as at the Millsboro Art League Gallery, Delaware State University,

the Delaware Museum of Art, and at a variety of community events. A year-round display features their artwork at Pat's Pizza in Lewes, Delaware. The group's designs have been used by the Salvation Army for greeting cards, and framed works are planned for installation at several locations.

Sale of the original artwork on display in Studio E will go directly to the artist. The sale of the greeting cards will go back into the program to purchase the supplies needed for the artists to continue to grow their craft.

“The group of artists are empowered by their work, and the relationships developed with members of the local arts community has further inspired the group,” Cugno said. “The future looks bright for this group of talented people.”

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EDITORS: Photos attached of exhibiting artists. IDs are in file names.

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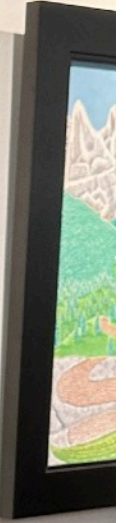












ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
HONORABLE MENTION

JUDGE'S NOTE
The lady, Lenbo, makes a beautiful work that brings a new kind of perspective to the building scene. Her work is as much as the work of one woman, as it is the work of many.

Gwangju Night Alley
Mixed Media
\$200
Karen Lenbo



