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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**July's First Friday at Ocean City Center for the Arts
is free and open to the public**

OCEAN CITY, MD — June 27, 2024 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to five new art shows opening on First Friday, July 5, 2024, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. Admission is free with complimentary beverages sponsored by Montgomery Financial. Jon Pheasant will provide live music. Clare Shockley of Clare's Nutty Concoctions will be giving out toffee samples.

The Thaler Gallery hosts an exhibition by Randy Hofman of Ocean Pines entitled "Tides of Life in OC." A native of Washington, D.C., Hofman felt called to the "dreamy and beautiful" allure of the ocean after attending the Pratt Institute where he studied advertising design and visual communication. Hofman is renowned for his art on the beach, where he carves sand into intricate sculptures. He is also a prolific painter, creating large scale acrylic paintings. "My paintings focus on the life that exists in the space between the land and the sea," Hofman said.

The annual Beverly Bassford Memorial Juried Group Show fills the walls of the Sisson Galleria in July. After Bassford's death in 1999, her family honored her love of art by establishing a prize in her name that grew into the annual show, with continued sponsorship by the family. Jinchul Kim, professor of art at Salisbury University, juried the show and selected the winners, along with Yumi Hogan, former First Lady of Maryland.

Studio E features painter Mason D'Aleo, who was born and raised in Ocean City and currently attends the Savannah College of Art and Design. "I've lived on the water my whole life; it is something I appreciate being close to or making art about," D'Aleo said. "I see beauty in everything; it's a priority to recreate concepts into lasting memories."

Painter Joanne Guilfoil is the Spotlight Gallery artist for July. A frequent teacher at the Art League, she is exhibiting two series: Pollinator and Pelagic Species. "Two species that help define our coastal environment and provide residents and guests endless pleasure are the pollinators and the pelagic fish, which visit for a brief exciting season," she said. Her paintings include depictions of white marlin, blue marlin, tuna, mahi mahi, bumblebees, hornets, butterflies and hummingbirds.

In conjunction with the Spotlight Gallery show, Jim Motsko, founder of the White Marlin Open, will be signing the new book, "The Making of the World's Largest Billfishing Tournament," co-written by his daughter Sasha Motsko, Sandy Phillips, and Guilfoil.

Jeweler Dee Dobson exhibits in the Artisan Showcase in July. She continues to use the traditional gold and silversmithing methods with metals of choice such as sterling and fine silver, varying carats of gold, and copper. "Precious and semiprecious stones are chosen to represent the brilliant colors of the southwest desert to the dazzling display of light on the oceans," Dobson said.

The artwork of Elizabeth Grey, "Different Impressions," continues showing in the Staircase Gallery.

Art shows at the Art League's satellite galleries are all new in July. Joel Trotta exhibits his work at the Coffee Beanery on 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. His years of experience in creating award-winning signs,

brochures, and displays for the State of Maryland led to his retirement on the Eastern Shore where he works as a freelance artist.

Siobhan Duggan opens a show of paintings in the Princess Royale lobby, 9100 Coastal Hwy. Duggan taught in New York City public schools before moving to Delaware with her family to enjoy the beach. Siobhan is currently a middle school art teacher in the Indian River School District. “The gorgeous color palette of pastels and their immediacy and directness constantly inspires and motivates me to create,” she said.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs, and community art projects. Funding is provided in part 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 attached of Randy Hofman

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