

**CONTACT:**

Rina Thaler

The Art League of Ocean City

Ocean City Center for the Arts

[rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:rthaler@artleagueofoceancity.org)

410-524-9433

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June's First Friday opens seven new shows at the Ocean City Center for the Arts  
with free public reception on June 7**

**OCEAN CITY, MD — May 31, 2024** — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to attend the opening night party of seven new art shows on First Friday, June 7, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside. Admission is free with complimentary beverages and live music by Party Shaker Billy Zee.

Saltare in Elementis Dance Collective will give special dance performances entitled “Intertidal” and “Global Water Dances” to kick off the Dance on the Shore Festival. Guests can meet the dancers and learn about the upcoming Festival activities.

The Thaler Gallery hosts an exhibition of paintings of beach landscapes, both real and imagined, by Michelle Marshall of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware entitled “Where the Sand Meets the Sea: Contemporary Beachscapes.” “I always begin with a specific place in mind, working both from photos and direct observation, but my philosophy and technique embrace the belief that the painting will evolve synergistically in its own unique way. My work is impressionistic but seeks to evoke a genuine sense of place.”

A group show entitled “Skate/Surf” fills the walls of the Sisson Galleria in June. The all-media group show explores surf and skate culture, inspired by the people, language, fashion, and lifestyle. Exhibit judge is Kathleen Hayes, an artist, photographer, silkscreen printer, mermaid-parader, surfer, and

skateboarder from Long Island, New York, who will judge the show and award cash prizes to the winners.

Studio E features the annual Clay-a-Palooza show, displaying fun and functional ceramics created by the Clay Guild of the Eastern Shore. Founded in 2005, the Clay Guild serves the southern part of the Eastern Shore with members in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. Work shown includes hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind ceramics made by local potters. A Clay Guild marketplace will also be open during First Friday featuring vendors offering their original clay creations.

The Spotlight Gallery showcases the paintings, collages, and assemblages of Jack Knight of Long Neck, Delaware in an exhibition entitled “Various Visuals.” Knight received his MFA in painting from SUNY at Buffalo, New York, has received numerous awards and has exhibited in over 200 exhibits in cities across the East Coast and Canada, including 20 solo shows.

Joan Danoff is featured in the Artisan Showcase in June. The Washington, D.C.-based artist is a metalsmith and enamelist who creates modern, affordable sterling silver and copper jewelry.

The Staircase Gallery opens a new show that will be on display through the end of the year entitled “Different Imagination,” graphite and ink drawings by Elizabeth Grey of Salisbury, Maryland, who currently attends Wor-Wic Community College, pursuing her bachelor's degree in the arts. “I'll try to take any blank piece of paper and turn it into a piece that can help viewers escape from the world we live in by using my emotions to express an imaginary world as an alternate reality,” she said.

A weekend pop-up exhibit features artwork by Worcester County middle and high school students for the Lower Shore Addiction Awareness Visual Arts Competition. Sponsored by the United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore, the show places an emphasis on hope and maintaining recovery. The show is one-weekend only, June 7-9, 2024.

In conjunction with this show, the Art League's "Stigma Highlighted: Portraits of Recovery" exhibition will hang during the weekend featuring twelve portraits created by twelve local artists of individuals in recovery from the counties of Worcester, Wicomico, Talbot, and Somerset. The exhibit challenges misconceptions and negativity towards individuals battling addiction and has traveled to local schools, Wor-Wic Community College, Salisbury University, and most recently to the National Institute of Drug Abuse in Baltimore, Maryland. Worcester Goes Purple, an awareness project to engage the community in preventing substance abuse and promote healthy life choices, will staff a table on First Friday.

The Art League will also announce its 2024 scholarship winners, continuing its support of local students who are seeking a higher education in the arts. Since the Art League first began granting scholarships in 1991, the nonprofit has awarded 83 scholarships to date.

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

*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.*

###

EDITORS: Photo attached of Michelle Marshall

Elaine Bean  
Art League of Ocean City  
Marketing & Publicity Director

[elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:elaine@artleagueofoceancity.org)

443-944-3398 mobile

