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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**August's First Friday opening at Ocean City Center for the Arts
features premiere collaboration of generations of Fitzgerald artists**

OCEAN CITY, MD — July 26, 2024 — The Art League of Ocean City invites the public to four new art shows opening on First Friday, August 2, 2024, 5-7 p.m., at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, 94th St. bayside. Admission is free with beverages sponsored by PKS Investments and special refreshments and music sponsored by Surf House Properties.

The Thaler Gallery hosts “Lasting Legacies,” a collaboration between father and son painters Kevin Fitzgerald and Evan Fitzgerald featuring a tribute to the previous generations of artists in the family. The exhibit is the first time the pair, who share a working studio in Newark, Maryland, has exhibited together, and also the first time they have painted on the same canvas.

“An exhibit like this is so important to our arts community and shows what extraordinary talent we have on the Eastern Shore,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “The artwork is of a very high caliber, a testament to the training generations of Fitzgerald artists have received at prestigious institutions as well as to their unique visions.”

Artistic talent runs deep in the Fitzgerald clan. John R. Fitzgerald started the family's journey at the Maryland Institute College of Art, graduating in 1910, and Kevin Fitzgerald and Evan Fitzgerald later followed him there. Mother and grandmother, Frances Jeanette Fitzgerald, attended the Corcoran School of Art and Design.

At first glance, the work of father and son appears very different, yet they are similar in aim. Both painters are concerned with exploring the earliest phases of humans' reactions to the world around them – the first emotional reactions felt in a dawning landscape; the earliest awareness of adornment in the creation of personae.

The annual Beverly Bassford Memorial Juried Group Show continues on the walls of the Sisson Galleria through August 15.

Studio E features John Carter of Hampstead, Maryland and his photos under the theme “From Oceans to Appalachia.” Carter said, “A great photograph is less about something I created; not something I could take credit for, but rather a ‘gift’ that had been laid out in front of me ... I find myself straying away from the straight photograph and embarking on a journey to embellish the quintessential essence of a scene with painterly effects.”

A show honoring the memory of master plein air painter Raymond Ewing hangs in the Spotlight Gallery during August. Ewing was a prolific artist and teacher who passed away in December 2023 at his home in Lewes, Delaware. He was an annual painter in the Art League's Artists Paint OC Festival and specialized in capturing the intricacies of light on canvas. Several of his works will be on exhibit during August.

Susan Donohoe of Lewes, Delaware offers her jewelry in the Artisan Showcase in August. Her handcrafted collection focuses on nature in its varied states of beauty and features coastal colors. “I am always surprised and intrigued by the intricate simplicity of beauty found in natural gemstones, which has quickly become my favorite medium,” she said.

The artwork of Elizabeth Grey continues showing in the Staircase Gallery. Art shows at the Art League's satellite galleries continue in August. Joel Trotta exhibits his work at the Coffee Beanery on 94th St. and Coastal Hwy. Siobhan Duggan shows her artwork in the Princess Royale lobby, 9100 Coastal Hwy.

Exhibits at the Arts Center run through August 31, with the exception of the Beverly Bassford Show that ends on August 15. 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 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 Kevin and Evan Fitzgerald.

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